Consolidation Factors Weighed

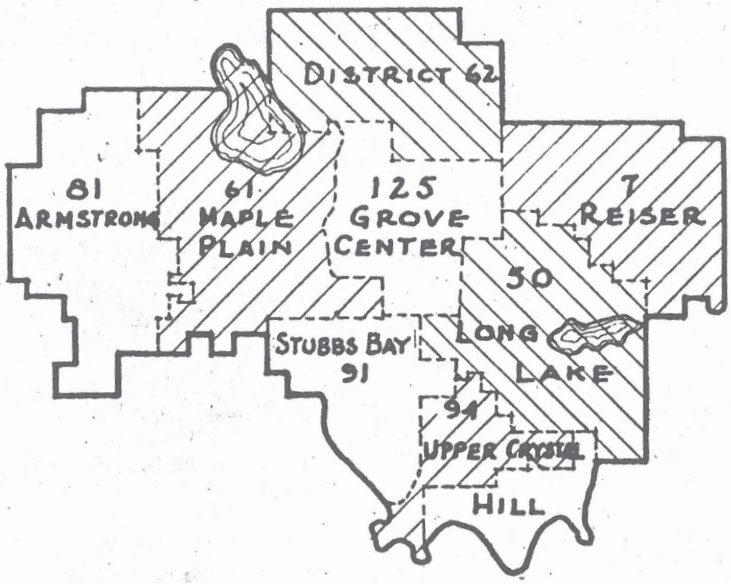
This is the second of two articles on proposed school district consolidations. It covers the western consolidation recommended by the nine-man Hennepin County School Survey committee, which would bring together the nine districts shown on the map.

The tax valuation of the western consolidation is $1,392,519. This gives it a valuation of $2538 for each pupil unit; this makes it one of the best-financed high school districts in Hennepin county. A district with high valuation per pupil can carry a higher school budget with a lower tax rate than other districts with less assessed valuation per pupil; this follows because each mill of tax brings in more money per pupil where there is more property-valuation per pupil.

The moneys-and-credits valuation is $5,823,164. This is added to the property-valuation for bond limit purposes. The total bonded debt limit to finance school building is $1,443,137. This is more than the area should use for school construction, but it indicates there is more than enough borrowing power to provide buildings for the enrollment.

Last year's enrollment in the recommended area, on a junior-senior high basis, was approximately:

WESTERN CONSOLIDATION
PROPOSED BY
THE HENNEPIN COUNTY SCHOOL SURVEY COMMITTEE



323 elementary pupils (grades 1 through 6).

252 junior-senior pupils (grades 7 through 12).

The territory has no high school now, and the districts plan to build a new junior-senior high after consolidation. Their elementary schools are crowded. The junior-senior high would relieve the elementary rooms by taking out the 7th and 8th graders. Hill district has undertaken a new elementary building which will provide additional grade room. It is believed that the district will be able to operate with the larger elementary buildings on a consolidated basis, closing the smallest existing grade buildings and transporting pupils by school bus.