

FIGURE 6

FLATHEAD RESERVATION

reservation. In 1897 Arlee became school district No. 28.⁶²

In 1906 the western portion of the reservation was included in the newly created Sanders county. In 1910 school district No. 28 was reorganized to include all that portion of the reservation within the boundaries of Missoula county, an area over forty miles in length north and south and from 12 to 24 miles in width, approximately a third of the reservation area, and extending from the Flathead river to the crest of the Mission range.⁶³

Many new schools were established on the reservation between 1910 and 1912, especially in district No. 28. In July 1912 Charles S. Pierce of Washington, D. C., Superintendent of U. S. Indian schools for the Fifth District in the United States, made an inspection of the schools in the Arlee district and reported to the Missoula county superintendent:

" . . . that the organization and progress of the schools in the Arlee School District was far in advance of any other school system on new lands similar to those of the Flathead."⁶⁴

S. P. Logan became superintendent of school district No. 28 in January, 1913. He was an influential advocate of large school districts and consolidated schools.⁶⁵ In 1916 the Hillside, Fairview, Grandview and Mud Creek schools were consolidated to form the Round Butte school.⁶⁶

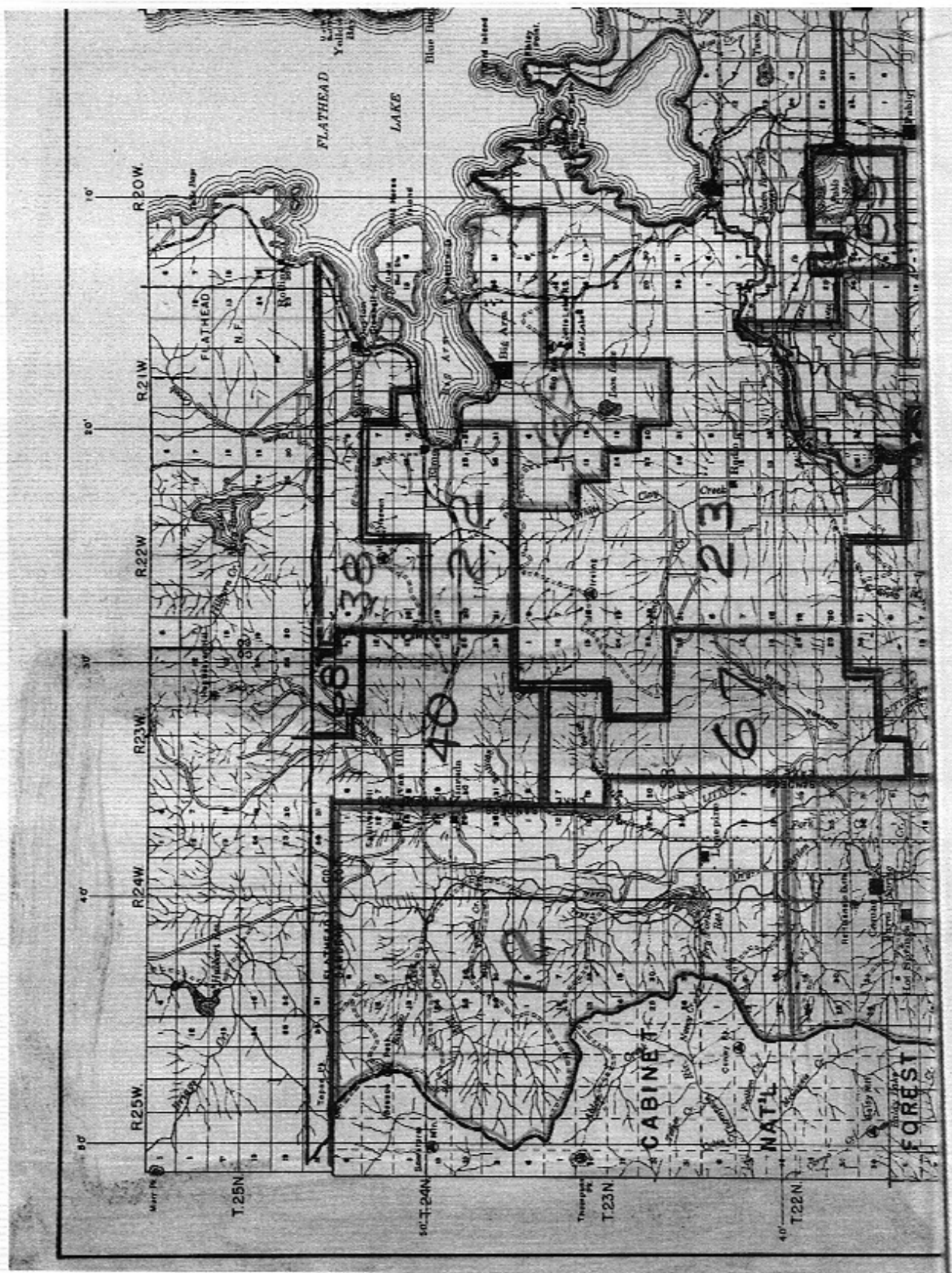
⁶²County Superintendent "Record," pp. 36, 150.

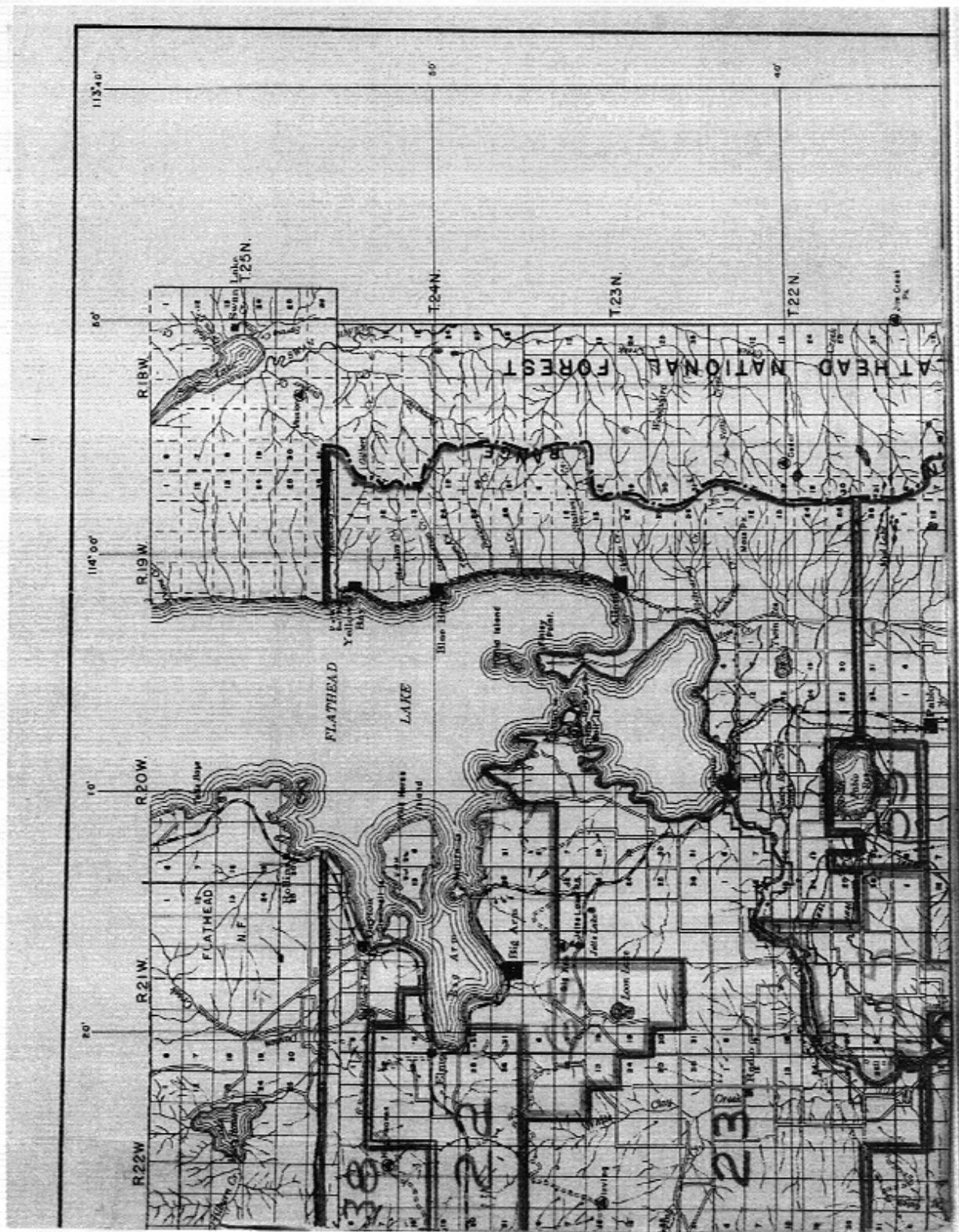
⁶³Ronan Pioneer, loc. cit.

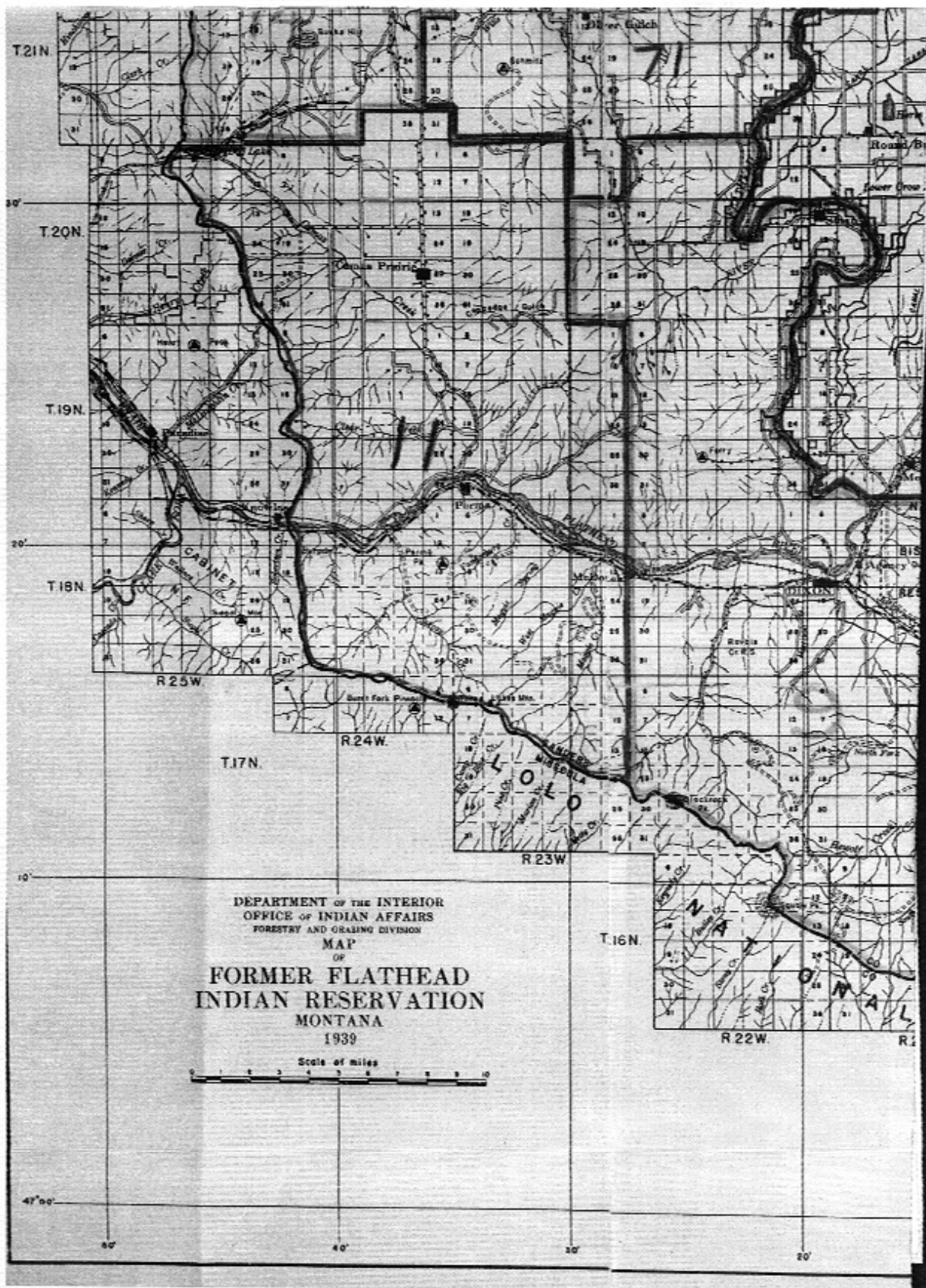
⁶⁴County Superintendent "Record," p. 161.

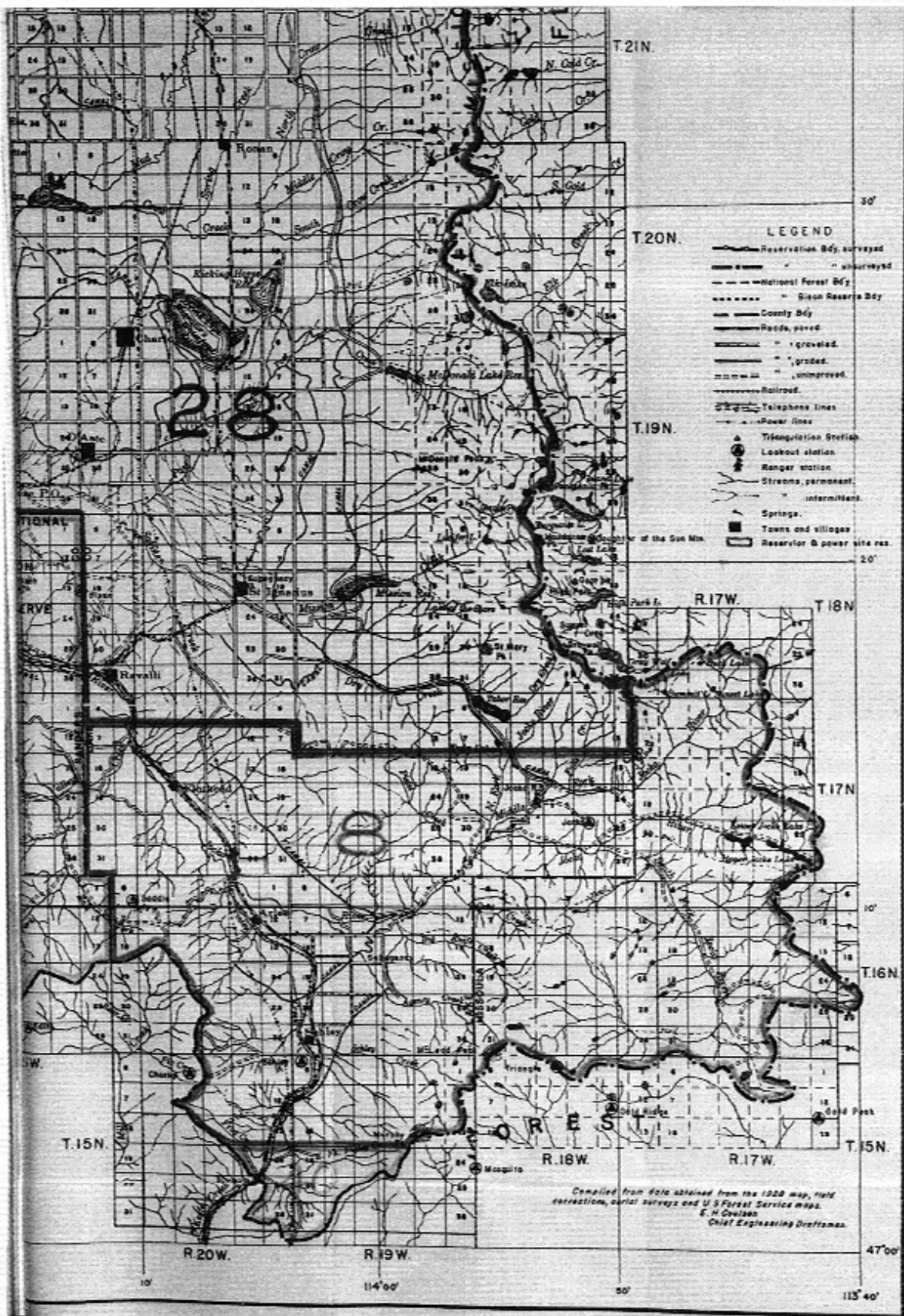
⁶⁵Logan, loc. cit.

⁶⁶County Superintendent "Record," pp. 36, 38.









T.21N.

T.20N.

T.19N.

R.17W.

T.17N.

T.16N.

T.15N.

R.18W.

R.17W.

R.20W.

R.19W.

LEGEND

- Reservation Bdy. surveyed
- unsurveyed
- - - National Forest Bdy.
- State Reserve Bdy.
- County Bdy.
- Roads, paved
- " gravelled.
- " graded.
- " unimproved.
- Railroad.
- Telephone lines
- Power lines
- ▲ Triangulation Station
- Lookout station
- Ranger station
- Streams, permanent
- " intermittent.
- Springs.
- Towns and villages
- Reservoir & power site res.

28

FOREST

Compiled from field obtained from the 1928 map, field corrections, aerial surveys and U.S. Forest Service maps.
E. H. Goulish
Chief Engineering Draftsman.

30'

20'

10'

47'00"

113° 40'

10'

114° 00'

50'

After Lake county was created district No. 28 was for several years a joint district with part in Missoula county and part in Lake county. In 1938 this district had eleven school plants, with high schools located at Arlee, Charlo, St. Ignatius and Ronan; two consolidated grade schools, employing four teachers each, located at Round Butte and Pablo; a two-teacher school at North Moiese; and one-teacher schools at Ridgeway, Hillside, D'Aste and Valley Creek. In 1938 the schools of district No. 28 were served by the largest bus transportation system furnished by any district in Montana.⁶⁷

Since that time district 28 has been divided, and the south end of the reservation has district No. 8 as a joint district with part in Lake and part in Missoula county.

In August, 1957, Walter McDonald, chairman of the tribal council, editorialized in the Char-Koosta:

Today many of the Reservations have not got the school programs that we have on the Flathead. On the Flathead Reservation there are seven public high schools and 13 grade schools, including the Ursuline Convent in St. Ignatius. In addition there is a school bus route from Evaro to Frenchtown.⁶⁸

Several of the school districts on the Flathead reservation no longer maintain schools within their district. For example, in Lake county districts No. 55 and 65 have no school; their students are transported to Polson in district No. 23. Lake county district No. 40 is a joint district with Flathead county, but children from there attend school at Hot Springs in Sanders county. Children from Lake county in

⁶⁷Ronan Pioneer, loc. cit.

⁶⁸Char-Koosta, Vol. 1, No. 10, August, 1957.

joint district No. 71 are transported to Hot Springs in Sanders county.⁶⁹

In recent years there has been some talk concerning further consolidation of schools in Lake county, but no great changes are contemplated for the immediate future.

Administrative problems. At the present time the most important administrative problem pertaining specifically to Indian education in the public schools on the reservation is the matter of finance. Most of the land owned by the tribe or held by individual Indians on the reservation is not subject to taxation. Sixty-eight per cent of the land in school district 28 is not taxed. To compensate for this tax exempt land the federal government reimburses the school district to a certain extent. The Johnson O'Malley Act and Public Laws 874 and 815 provide for this compensation. Public Law 815 has aided the school building program in Arlee, Elmo, Ronan, St. Ignatius and Dixon.⁷⁰

To qualify for federal reimbursement under the Johnson O'Malley Act the school district must have a minimum of five per cent Indian enrollment. To qualify as an Indian under this act a student must be enrolled in a tribe, must have one-fourth or more Indian blood and must reside on tax exempt Indian land. In a district receiving federal aid for its Indian students the eligible Indian students are referred to as federal impact Indian students. The amount of money received is determined by a

⁶⁹ Bartlett, loc. cit.

⁷⁰ Crump, loc. cit.; Morigeau, loc. cit.; Harriet Miller, Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Montana 1958 (Helena: State Department of Public Instruction, 1958), p. 8; Harriet Miller, Annual Report 1957-1958, Division of Indian Education, State Department of Public Instruction (Helena: State Department of Public Instruction, 1958), pp. 11-67.

complicated formula called impact and the amount per student is approximately the amount per pupil raised by taxation.

- Impact is the average of the following percentages: _____
- (a) Total ADA last year _____ Indian ADA last year _____
Per Cent Indian _____
- (b) Total acres in school district _____ Total Acres Tax
EXEMPT Indian land _____ Per Cent tax-exempt Indian
land _____⁷¹

The present impact formula has been in effect about four years. According to Superintendent Crump of Ronan this formula is very unfair to some districts, and will have the federal government out of the school business in about ten years if it is not changed.⁷² However, K. W. Bergan, State Director of Indian Education, says that:

The last Congress passed legislation which places Public Law 874 as a first source of education reimbursement due to impacts from tax-exempt Indian lands, and, for this year, the Johnson-O'Malley Act is supplementary. The program for next year has not been fully determined, but it is quite probable that the Johnson-O'Malley reimbursement will gradually decrease due to the priority of the P. L. 874 program.⁷³

Hot Springs and Dixon have transferred to the Public Law 874 program.

In order to maintain a minimum Indian enrollment of not less than five per cent the Polson school district sends a school bus to pick up about 18 Indian children at Elmo in district 22.⁷⁴

In 1957 the enrollment of federal impact Indian students on the Flathead reservation was only 318, but the total number of pupils

⁷¹Miller, Annual Report-1957-58, op. cit., p. 34.

⁷²Crump, loc. cit.

⁷³Letter from K. W. Bergan, dated March 25, 1959.

⁷⁴Bartlett, loc. cit.

attending public schools and having one-fourth or more Indian blood was 594.⁷⁵

According to school superintendents on the reservation the only part of the reservation where Indian pupil school attendance is still a problem is in the Elmo area where some families take their children along when they engage in migratory work, especially in the fall of the year. The indifferent attitude of the Elmo area Kootenai toward school attendance may be at least partially due to the fact that they are the least acculturated of the three tribes on the reservation.⁷⁶

Teachers and supervisors say that there is no discipline problem with the Indian children in the classroom. In fact, most of the teachers interviewed said that their Indian pupils behaved better than the others.

The federal government believes that the members of this reservation are so well integrated that the reservation should be terminated,⁷⁷ but this step has been opposed by the tribes. Tribal leaders would prefer a gradual transition from federal to local control.

⁷⁵ Harriet Miller, "Annual Report 1956-1957, Division of Indian Education," (Helena: State Department of Public Instruction, 1957), pp. 31-32; Annual School Census Report for 1957.

⁷⁶ Interview with Carling Malouf, March 10, 1959.

⁷⁷ Termination of Federal Supervision Over Certain Tribes of Indians Part 7, Flathead Indians, Montana (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1954), p. III, House Concurrent Resolution 108, 83 Congress 1st Session.