appoint a committee consisting of two persons of in-
telligence and sound judgment, members of their own
body or otherwise, who shall divide the county into
suitable school districts, and define and describe the
boundaries of each; *provided*, that no school district Proviso.
shall contain a greater area than four miles square,
unless a part of it be located in a mountainous or un-
populated region; in the formation of the school
districts, the committee shall take into consideration
the most suitable site for the school house, the general
features of the country, such as streams or other
waters, mountains, roads, railroads, villages, towns,
cities and especially the population, and shall make
each school district of such size and form as will best
accommodate the population within its bounds; the
committee shall make a full and clear description of
the boundaries of the school districts, accompanied
by a plat, and shall report the same to the school
commissioners, who shall thereupon give notice in
all the newspapers of the county at what time they
will meet to hear application for a change of bounda-
ries, which application shall be made in writing, and
within two months from the date of the first publi-
cation of such notice; when the applications shall
have been made and considered, the board of school
commissioners may then change the boundaries of
the school districts, and revise the description, or
they may, without application, make such change as
may be deemed important, or they may ratify and
confirm the report of the committee without altera-
tion; the description of the boundaries of the school
districts shall be recorded in the journal of the school
commissioners, or in a book kept for that purpose in
their office; in those counties where no newspaper is
published, the notice of application for change of
boundaries shall be published in the newspapers of
the adjoining county; whenever it may be necessary,
the board of school commissioners shall employ a
surveyor to aid the committee in dividing the
county; and they shall allow each member of the