

LAKE COUNTY FARMS SHOW DROP IN VALUE

Reduction in Crop and Livestock Valuation Seen in Report for Year 1930

Lake county farms produced crops worth \$2,477,920 and livestock valued at \$2,501,500 during 1930, according to the annual Illinois crop and livestock summaries issued by the state and federal departments of agriculture.

The entire state showed a gross farm valuation of principal crops of \$301,297,000, while the total value of all livestock on Illinois farms at the end of 1930 was estimated at \$221,994,000.

The amounts disclose a decline in the value of both crops and livestock as compared to 1929. Crops, the report for the state showed, fell \$122,000,000 while livestock values were down \$62,000,000.

Depression Causes Decline

Valuations of Lake county crops and livestock followed the general tendencies of the statewide decline. The long drought which burned grains and wrought disaster to livestock and caused many farmers to ship their stock to market is blamed for the decreased valuation in both Lake county and the state as a whole.

Corn production value was the greatest in 1930, the report for the state disclosed, this crop accounting for 49 per cent of the total farm figure — \$147,745,000, tame hay was second with \$49,151,000, and oats third with \$44,388,000.

Cattle numbers increased from 2,067,000 to 1929 to 2,087,000 in the state while horses on farms were estimated at 790,000, as compared to 814,000 in 1929.

McLean county led all counties of the state both in amount of crop and livestock valuation. Its farm crop was estimated at \$7,859,880 and livestock at \$5,150,000.

Stratton Starts Drive to Enforce Automobile License Tax in State

With a million 1931 state automobile license plates issued and at least 300,000 autos on the streets and highways with the old 1930 plates on, Secretary of State William J. Stratton is making every effort to collect the \$3,000,000 outstanding. He needs the money to meet state payrolls for April.

Co-operation of police in Illinois municipalities is not expected to aid the secretary of state as much as in former years to collect delinquent fees. The imminence of elections in many cities, Chicago being an important example, will probably mean that no arrests will be made by city police until after the first week in April. With "hard times" prevalent, it is conceded to be a bad political gesture to press taxpayers for money just before they go to the polls to decide on their future government.

Secretary of State Stratton sets the last date for the safe appearance of 1930 plates at April 1. After that date 300 state highway police will have received instructions to arrest all delinquents.

Supervisors Take Time to Consider Request of Banks on Interest Rate

Banks affiliated with the Lake County Banker's association will not be given an answer before April on the request for the county to deposit its money in banks without asking the customary one and a half per cent interest payment.

The finance committee of the board of supervisors reported to the main

body at the concluding session of the March meeting that more time would be needed to study the demand which was made by Frank Read, of Lake Forest, president of the organization.

Read explained that the bankers in paying the interest were losing money on the account which bankers term "call money." The banks actually pay out 3 per cent in interest on the public money as the other one and a half per cent goes into the purchase of a surety bond to protect the deposit.

Bankers have urged the finance committee to rescind its decision forcing a surety bond and permit them to protect the deposits with government bonds.

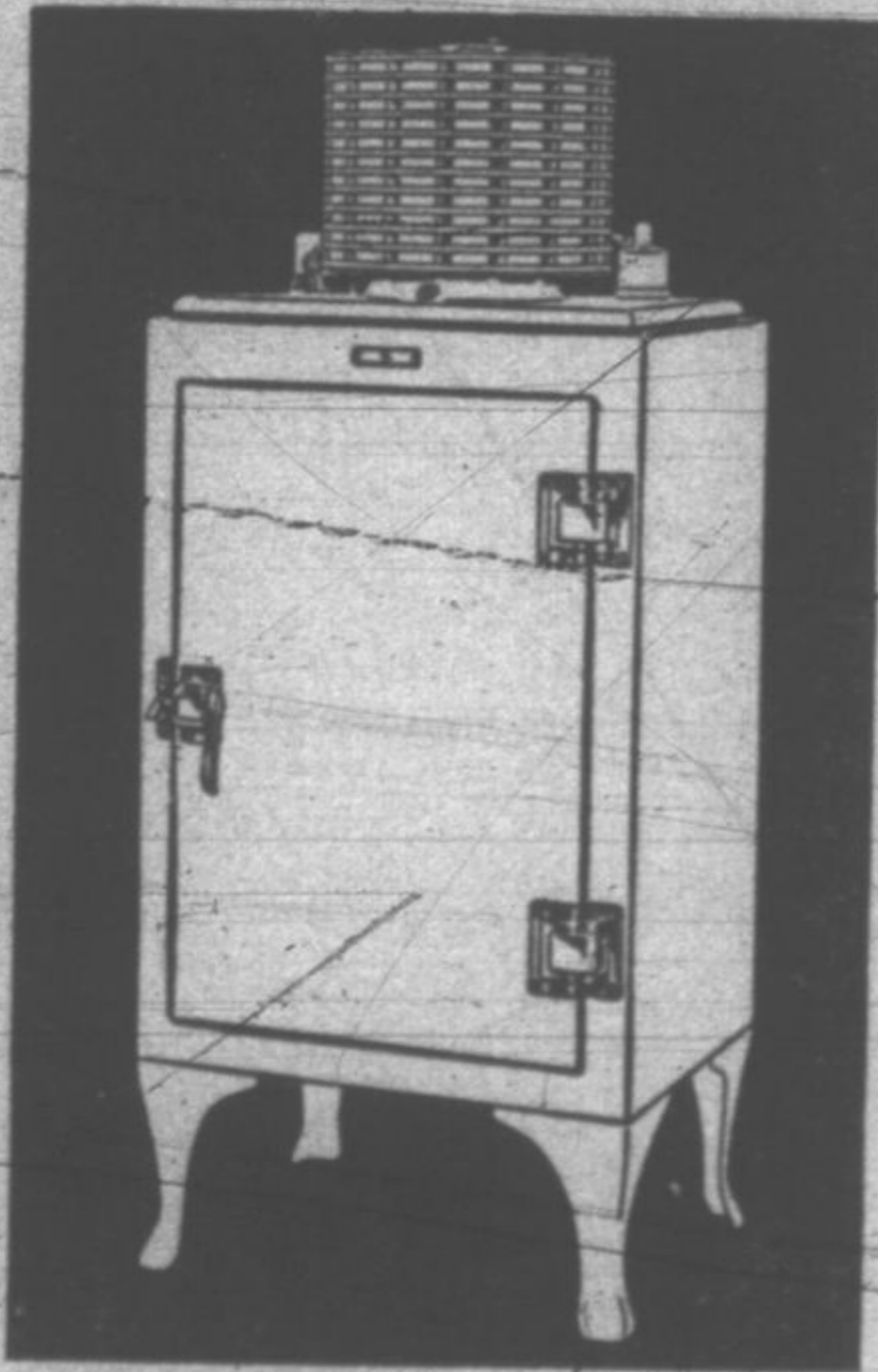
"Some banks will have good government bonds and others will come forward with bonds that they will argue are just as good. The county can't take a chance on having questionable surety to protect its money," Supervisor John D. Thomas, of Zion, declared.

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