SUMMARY

Kewaunee County is located on Lake Michigan in the eastern part of the State and comprises an area of 341 square miles of 218,240 acres.

The surface of the area varies from level to rough and the most pronounced feature is the Kettle Moraine, which begins near the center of Casco Township and extends southward. The bluffs along the lake range from 50 to 100 feet in elevation and the highest points in the county are over 150 feet above the lake level. With the exception of a small area in the northeastern part of the county, the drainage is into Lake Michigan, chiefly through the Kewaunee River and its tributaries.

The county was organized in 1856 and agricultural development began about that time. Kewaunee and Algoma are the chief towns. The area is traversed by the Kewaunee, Green Bay & Western Railroad and a branch line called the Ahnapee & Western.

There are 20 soil types in Kewaunee County, although a number of these are of small extent and of little importance.

The Superior clay loam, including the rolling phase, constitutes by far the most extensive and important soil in the county. It occurs as a belt along the lake shore and is also extensively found in the western part of the county. Where the surface is flat and the natural drainage deficient the soil has been mapped as typical Superior clay loam, but where the surface is sufficiently rolling to insure fair to good surface drainage the soil has been mapped as the rolling phase of the Superior clay loam.

The Superior loam, rolling phase, is an important type in the northern part of the county, where it is closely associated with the Superior clay loam, rolling phase. It is a good soil and most
of it is cultivated. General farming and dairying are the main agricultural pursuits.

Superior fine sandy loam, rolling phase, is of small extent, but most of the type is under cultivation and devoted to general farming. It is better adapted, however, to truck and small fruits.

The Miami loam is a widely developed type in the county and constitutes a fair general farming soil. The dairying industry should be extended over this type.

The Rodman gravelly loam resembles the Miami loam, except that it contains a large quantity of gravel, is underlain by stratified material, and frequently has bowlders upon the surface. It is not an extensive type and occurs in widely distributed areas. But little of the type is cultivated, and where timbered it should be kept in forest.

The Rodman gravelly sandy loam is of small extent. Very little of this soil has ever been cultivated and crop yields are low. Most of the type is non-agricultural, and in general it is best suited to grazing and forestry.

The Rodman gravel has practically no agricultural value and occupies only a few small areas. It would be useless to attempt its cultivation, and it should be kept in timber.

The Rodman sandy loam is not widely developed, but covers a larger area than the gravel or gravelly loam types. It is easy to cultivate and responds readily to fertilization and careful treatment. Most of the type is cultivated and fair yields are secured. The methods of farming should be improved.

The Rodman fine sand is of small extent and little importance. It could be improved by the addition of organic matter. The type is better suited to early truck crops than to general farming.

The Fox silt loam is a good general farming soil, and practically all of the type is under cultivation. The corn crop should receive greater attention, and alfalfa should be more extensively grown. Dairying constitutes the most promising industry. The type is somewhat deficient in organic matter.

The Fox sandy loam is of very limited extent and of minor importance from an agricultural standpoint. Most of it is under cultivation and devoted to general farming.

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Plainfield gravelly sandy loam and sand are also of limited extent and of little importance. The texture is rather coarse, the structure loose and open and a drouthy condition prevails during a part of each growing season. The agricultural value of both types is low.

The Poygan silt loam is a strong soil, yet this soil and the Poygan sand are so inextensive as to be of little agricultural importance.

The Genesee loam and fine sandy loam types comprise a small total area and occupy the bottom lands along the chief streams of the county. The former type affords good pasturage and little of it is cultivated, while the greater part of the latter is cultivated, good yields of the crops common to the region being secured.

The Clyde silt loam is fairly extensive and occupies low-lying areas where there has been an accumulation of vegetable matter, but not in sufficient quantities to form Muck or Peat. A small part of the type has been cleared and is used for pasture. It is naturally a rich soil, but needs drainage. If reclaimed, this would become a strong and valuable soil.

None of the Peat lands of Kewaunee County have been reclaimed, although they are comparatively extensive, and by careful drainage and proper cultivation could be made to produce profitable crops.

The type of agriculture followed at present consists of general farming, with dairying as the most extensively developed branch. There are 63 cheese factories and 10 creameries in the county and the output from these is gradually increasing. The dairy stock is mostly of mixed breeding, but is being improved by the use of pure-bred sires. The general farm crops grown consist of oats, barley, rye, hay, wheat, and corn, with smaller acreages of potatoes, sugar beets, peas, and a little flax. The growing of fruit and truck crops has not developed to any extent. The most common rotation followed consists of corn or peas, followed by oats, barley, rye, or wheat for one or two years. Clover and timothy are seeded with the grain, and hay is cut for one or two years. The fields may be pastured for a season. Fall plowing is quite common, especially on the heavy soils which are likely to be wet and backward in the spring. The Superior clay loam is
the most difficult to cultivate of the various types in the county. Many parts of the county are in need of tile drainage, and this is one of the most serious problems in the region. The most noxious weeds are quack grass and Canada thistle, and many farms are badly infested with these pests.

The average rainfall for this region is about 30 inches and the mean annual temperature 43° F. There is an average growing season of from about 145 to 150 days free from killing frost. The winters are long and severe and the summers cool and pleasant. The summer nights are usually cool, which retards the rapid growth of corn and makes it more difficult to mature than in some sections where the growing season is shorter but the nights warmer.