OKLAHOMA.

CHAPTER 1.—NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.

Introduction.—This chapter gives the population of Oklahoma, by counties and minor civil divisions, as enumerated at the Thirteenth Census, taken as of April 15, 1910, with comparative statements of population when possible and a statement and discussion for the state as a whole of the population living in urban and in rural territory. The statistics are given in detail in two general tables.

Table 1 (p. 440) shows the population of Oklahoma, distributed according to counties and minor civil divisions, at the census of 1910, in comparison with similar figures for 1907—in which year a special census of the state was taken by the United States Census Bureau—and, so far as possible, with those of 1900 and 1890. The arrangement of counties and of the primary divisions in each county is alphabetical, with the exception of a few counties in which the arrangement of the primary divisions is partly alphabetical and partly numerical. The changes in boundaries, name, or form of organization that have taken place since 1900 are indicated in the footnotes to the table. For changes between 1890 and 1900 reference must be made to the census report of 1900.

It is to a large extent impossible to give comparative figures for 1900 and 1890. This is chiefly caused by the fact that most of the counties have been organized since 1900 and by the fact that several counties have been redistricted since 1900. Comparative figures for 1907 are not given for a few counties which have been either organized or redistricted since that time.

Table 2 (p. 456) shows the cities and incorporated towns in Oklahoma, alphabetically arranged, with their population in 1910, 1907, and, when possible, in 1900 and 1890.

**Historical Note.**—The name Oklahoma is of Indian origin and signifies "Home or land of the red man."

The first white man to visit the area of the present state of Oklahoma was the Spanish explorer, De Soto, in 1541. All but the extreme western part of the region now constituting Oklahoma was originally a portion of the vast Louisiana country, which was ceded by France to Spain in 1762, retrospectively to France in 1800, and purchased by the United States in 1803. The section of Oklahoma included in the Louisiana Purchase belonged, successively, to the district of Louisiana (1804-5), the territory of Louisiana (1806-1812), and the territory of Missouri (1812-1819). The part north of 35° 30' continued in the territory of Missouri until 1834 and from 1834 to 1854 belonged to the Indian Country. The part south of 35° 30', upon the organization of Arkansas territory, in 1819, was included in that territory. In 1824 the western boundary of Arkansas was placed about 40 miles west of where it now stands, and in 1828 it was established at its present location; in each of these years the area west of the new line was retransferred to Missouri territory and from 1834 to 1854 was a part of the Indian Country.

In 1854, by the Kansas-Nebraska act, the area of the Indian Country, or Indian Territory, as it was afterwards known, was reduced to that of the present state of Oklahoma exclusive of the three western counties. The area now constituting these three counties was a part of the Spanish possessions till 1821, of Mexico from 1821 to 1836, and of Texas from 1836 to 1850. Thereafter it remained unorganized until 1890, when Oklahoma territory was formed, but it was included in Indian Territory in 1889. Indian Territory had no organized territorial government, as had other territories of the United States, but the Five Civilized Tribes had their own forms of local self-government.

By presidential proclamation of March 23, 1889, certain lands in the central part of Indian Territory, known as Oklahoma, were thrown open for settlement on April 22 of that year. No organized government was provided, however, until May 2, 1890, when Congress passed an act establishing the territory of Oklahoma. In September, 1893, the Cherokee Outlet, also called the Cherokee Strip, was made a part of Oklahoma. The new territory was then bounded on the north by Kansas and Colorado, on the west by New Mexico and Texas, and on the south in part by Texas. The remainder of its southern and all of its eastern boundary were formed by an irregular line extending from the intersection of the ninety-eighth meridian and the Red River on the south to that of the ninety-fourth meridian and the Kansas boundary on the north. Sections of Oklahoma were settled at various dates, and the population of the territory grew.

In June, 1906, Congress passed an act enabling certain counties as a state government and in November at present, became a state of the Union.