CHAPTER 2.—COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

Introduction.—The first chapter having given the number of inhabitants of Oklahoma by counties and minor civil divisions, the decennial increase and the density of population, and the proportions urban and rural, the present chapter deals with the composition and characteristics of the population. The two chapters cover all the principal topics of the population census except occupations and ownership of homes.

Description of the tables.—The greater part of this chapter consists of five general tables, which present statistics of color, nativity, parentage, sex, citizenship, illiteracy, school attendance, and dwellings and families, as follows: Table I for the state and counties; Table II for the two cities of more than 25,000 inhabitants; Table III for cities of 10,000 to 25,000; Table IV for cities of 2,500 to 10,000; and Table V for wards of Oklahoma City, the only city of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

A series of summary tables (numbered 1 to 14) reproduces from the general tables the more important state and city totals, and presents also certain additional data relative to state of birth, age, and marital condition.

On account of the wide differences in characteristics among the different classes of the population, the statistics on each subject are shown according to race, and for the whites according to nativity and parentage. Classification according to nativity and parentage is scarcely necessary for the other races, since nearly all negroes and Indians are native born of native parentage, and nearly all Chinese and Japanese are either foreign born or of foreign parentage.

The white population is divided into four groups: (1) Native, native parentage—that is, having both parents born in the United States; (2) native, foreign parentage—having both parents born abroad; (3) native, mixed parentage—having one parent native and the other foreign born; (4) foreign born. As the second and third classes do not differ greatly in characteristics, they are combined in some of the tables; in a few cases all three native white classes are combined.

Since marked differences often exist between urban and rural communities with respect to the composition and characteristics of the population, the two classes are distinguished in connection with several of the subjects. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, includes that of all incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more, the remainder being classified as rural.

The census inquiry as to school attendance was merely as to whether the person enumerated had attended any kind of school at any time between September 1, 1909, and the date of enumeration, April 15, 1910.

The Census Bureau classifies as illiterate any person 10 years of age or over who is unable to write, regardless of ability to read.

Color and nativity (Table 1).—Of the total population of Oklahoma, 1,444,531, or 87.2 per cent, are whites; 137,612, or 8.3 per cent, are negroes; and 74,825, or 4.5 per cent, are Indians. The corresponding percentages in 1900 were 84.8, 7, and 8.2. In 62 of the 76 counties negroes constitute less than 12.5 per cent of the population, in 8 counties they constitute from 12.5 to 25 per cent, and in 6 the proportion exceeds one-fourth. (See map on page 465.)

Native whites of native parentage constitute 79.1 per cent of the total population of the state, and 90.7 per cent of the white population. Native whites of foreign or mixed parentage constitute only 5.7 per cent of the total population, and foreign-born whites 2.4 per cent.

Of the urban population, 76 per cent are native whites of native parentage; of the rural, 79.8 per cent. The corresponding proportions for native whites of foreign or mixed parentage are 7.5 and 5.2 per cent, respectively; for foreign-born whites, 3.6 and 2.1. The percentage of negroes is 11.6 in the urban population and 7.5 in the rural; of Indians, 1.4 and 5.3, respectively.

Sex (Table 2).—In the total population of the state there are 881,578 males and 775,577 females, or 113.7 males to 100 females. In 1900 the ratio was 115.3 to 100. Among the whites there are 114.7 males to 100 females; among the negroes, 109.5. Among native whites the ratio is 113.3 to 100, as compared with 178.1 to 100 for the foreign-born whites. Among Indians the ratio is 101.5 to 100. In the urban population there are 114.6 males to 100 females, and in the rural, 113.4.

State of birth (Tables 3 and 4).—Of the total native population—that is, population born in the United States—31.9 per cent were born in Oklahoma, and 68.1 per cent outside the state; of the native white population, 71.3 per cent were born outside the state; of the native negro, 66.6 per cent; and of the native Indian, 11.4 per cent. Persons born outside the state constitute a larger proportion of the native population in urban than in rural communities.

Foreign nationalities (Table 5).—Of the foreign-born white population of Oklahoma, persons born in Germany represent 25.2 per cent; Russia, 14.5; Austria, 9.7; England, 7.4; Canada, 7.1; Mexico, 6.6; Italy, 6.4; Ireland, 4.5; Scotland, 3; all other coun-