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-
tries, 15.8 per cent. Of the total white stock of foreign
origin, which includes persons born abroad and also
natives having one or both parents born abroad, Ger-
many contributed 31.2 per cent; Russia, 10.9; Eng-
land, 10.1; Ireland, 8.9; Canada, 7.4; Austria, 6.6;
Scotland, 3.4; Italy, 3; Mexico, 2.3; Sweden, 2.3.

Voting and militia ages (Table 6).—The total num-
ber of males 21 years of age and over is 447,266, re-
presenting 27 per cent of the population. Of such males,
88.4 per cent are whites, 8.2 per cent negroes, and 3.3
per cent Indians. Native whites represent 83.1 per
cent of the total number and foreign-born whites 5.3
per cent. Of the 23,551 foreign-born white males of
voting age, 12,074, or 51.3 per cent, are naturalized.
Males of militia age—18 to 44—number 357,933.

Age (Tables 7, 8, and 12).—Of the total population,
14.6 per cent are under 5 years of age, 24.3 per cent
from 5 to 14 years, inclusive, 20.1 per cent from 15 to
24, 26.6 per cent from 25 to 44, and 14.2 per cent 45
years of age and over. The foreign-born white popu-
lation comprises comparatively few children, only
4.7 per cent of this class being under 15 years of age,
while more than five-sixths (83.9 per cent) are 25
years of age and over. The negro population com-
prises a somewhat smaller proportion of children under
5 than the native white population of native parentage.

The urban population shows a smaller proportion of
children than the rural and a larger proportion of
persons in the prime of life. Migration to the city
explains this at least in part. Of the urban population,
34.1 per cent are from 25 to 44 years of age, in-
clusive, and of the rural population, 24.8 per cent.

School attendance (Table 9).—The total number of
persons of school age—that is, from 6 to 20 years,
inclusive—is 566,323, of whom 383,816, or 67.8 per
cent, attended school. In addition to these, 5,249
children under 6 and 5,136 persons 21 and over at-
ten school. For boys from 6 to 20 years, inclusive,
the percentage attending school was 68.1; for girls, 67.4.
For children from 6 to 14 years, inclusive, the per-
centage attending school was 81.3. The percentage
for children of this age among white whites of foreign
or mixed parentage was 85.5; among native whites of
native parentage, 82.2; among foreign-born whites,
75.8; among negroes, 76.5; and among Indians, 73.
(See Table I.) In urban communities the percentage
of children of that age attending school was 83.3, and
in rural, 81.

Illiteracy (Table 10).—There are 67,567 illiterates
in the state, representing 5.6 per cent of the total
population 10 years of age and over, as compared with
12.1 per cent in 1900. The percentage of illiteracy is
17.7 among negroes, 9.8 among foreign-born whites,
and 3.3 among native whites. It is 3.5 for native
whites of native parentage, and 1.3 for native whites of
foreign or mixed parentage.

For all classes combined, the percentage of illiteracy
is 2.6 in the urban population, and 6.5 in the rural.

The rural percentage exceeds the urban for each
class of the population, except the foreign-born whites,
most of whom they arrive in this country are past the school age. Among them the percentage of
illiteracy is practically the same in the urban as in the
rural population.

For persons from 10 to 20 years of age, inclusive,
whose literacy depends largely upon present school
facilities and school attendance, the percentage of
illiteracy is 3. (See Table I.)

Marital condition (Tables 11 and 13).—In the popu-
lation 15 years of age and over, 35.7 per cent of the
males are single and 21.9 per cent of the females. The
percentage married is 55.2 for males and 69.3 for
females; and the percentage widowed, 4.8 and 7.9,
respectively. The percentage of those reported as
divorced, 0.6, both for the males and the females, is
believed to be too small, because of the probability
that many divorced persons class themselves as single
or widowed.

That the percentage single is so much smaller for
women than for men is due partly to the excess of
males in the total population, and partly to the fact
that women marry younger. Thus 21.8 per cent of
the females from 15 to 19 years of age are married, as
compared with 1.8 per cent of the males, and 68.9 per
cent of the females from 20 to 24 years are married,
compared with 31.6 per cent of the males. In the next
age group, 25 to 34 years, the percentages are 75.7 and
75.4, respectively, the difference between the percent-
ages being less marked in the older age groups. That
there is a larger proportion of widows than of widowers
may indicate that men more often remarry than wo-
men, but, since husbands are generally older than their
wives, the marriage relationship is more often broken
by death of the husband than by death of the wife.

For the main elements of the population the per-
centages of married persons among those 15 years of
age and over are as follows: Foreign-born whites,
62.8 for males, 79.2 for females; native whites of native
parentage, 58.5 and 70, respectively; native whites of
foreign or mixed parentage, 55.1 and 66.6; negroes,
55.5 and 64; Indians, 55.4 and 63.7.

These percentages by no means indicate the relative
tendency of the several classes as regards marriage.
To determine that, the comparison should be made by
age periods since the proportion married in any class is
determined largely by the proportion who have
reached the marrying age. Similarly, the proportion
widowed depends largely on the proportion past middle
life. The percentage married, both for males and for
females, is higher in rural than in urban communities.

Dwellings and families.—The total number of
dwellings in Oklahoma is 342,488, and the total number
of families 351,167, indicating that in comparatively
few cases does more than one family occupy a dwelling.
(See Table I.) The average number of persons per
dwelling is 4.8, and the average number per family, 4.7.