

POPULATION.

Comparative statistics.—The total number of Indians in the United States, exclusive of outlying possessions, in 1910 was 265,683,¹ and in Alaska 25,331. Table 1 presents the census figures for the United States and

for Alaska separately for 1910 and earlier years, together with figures for the United States (exclusive of Alaska) derived from the reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Table 1 YEAR.	INDIAN POPULATION.		
	United States.		Alaska (census returns).
	Census returns.	Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. ¹	
1910.....	265, 683	279, 023	25, 331
1900.....	237, 196	250, 000	29, 536
1890.....	248, 253	228, 000	25, 354
1880.....	244, 000	² 32, 996
1870.....	278, 000

¹ Figures are exclusive of freedmen and intermarried whites, as follows: 1910, 25,927; 1900, 20,000 (estimate); 1890, 16,000 (estimate); 1880, 12,000 (estimate); and 1870, 10,000 (estimate).
² Partly estimated.

According to the census figures, which cover the last three enumerations only, the number of Indians in the United States decreased between 1890 and 1900 but increased during the last decade, the increase for the 20-year period 1890-1910 being 17,430, or 7 per cent. The data from the reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs indicate that the number of Indians decreased from 1870 to 1890 and increased by about the same amount in the following 20 years.

In Alaska the number of Indians reported decreased from 1880 to 1910 by 7,665, or 23.2 per cent. The figure for 1890 is probably incomplete, owing to the unexplored condition of the country at the time, so that the increase between 1890 and 1900 may be only

apparent. The figure for 1880, though based in part on an estimate, is believed to be approximately correct. It is probable that the census returns for 1910 and 1900 are fairly comparable, but the difficulties of enumerating the Alaska Indians are so great that conclusions from the statistics must necessarily be tentative.

It should be noted that all persons of mixed white and Indian blood who have any appreciable amount of Indian blood are counted as Indians, even though the proportion of white blood may exceed that of Indian blood. Since there is an increasing amount of white blood, as more fully brought out later, in what is classed as the Indian population, it follows that the number of persons included in that class would tend to increase from census to census without necessarily any increase in the total amount of Indian blood in the country. In other words, while, if there were no marriages of Indians except between full-bloods a decline in the total Indian population might appear, the number classed as Indian might increase very materially as the result of marriages between Indians and persons of other races or between full-blood and mixed-blood Indians.

Table 11 (p. 25) gives the number of Indians for each county in the United States for which one or more Indians were reported at any of the last three Federal censuses, namely, those for 1910, 1900, and 1890. The total number of Indians in the United States at each of these three censuses is shown by divisions and states in Table 2 on the following page.

With respect to Indian population, as shown by Table 2, Oklahoma and Arizona have occupied first and second places, respectively, since 1890; New

¹ The Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports 304,950 Indians in 1910, but this number includes 25,927 freedmen and intermarried whites among the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, the proper figure for comparison with the census returns thus being 279,023. The 265,683 Indians returned by the census, however, include 18,546 enumerated among the general population, a large proportion of whom are probably not included in the Indian Office returns. Thus the number represented in the returns of the Indian Office but not in the census returns comprises, aside from the freedmen and intermarried whites mentioned, 13,340 (the difference between 279,023 and 265,683) plus a large part of 18,546, amounting to about 25,000 in all. Analysis by states shows that this difference is almost entirely confined to two states, Oklahoma and Arizona, and within these states to the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and to the Navajos in Arizona. In the case of Oklahoma the United States census total for 1910, 74,825, is very close to that obtained at the special census of 1907, 75,012, and it is likely that these figures are more nearly accurate than those of the Indian Office, which are based on data collected by the Dawes Commission. In the case of the Navajos of Arizona, it is likely that the census returns are slightly below the true figure, owing to the difficulty of reaching all the members of this large nomadic tribe; but, on the other hand, the figure of the Indian Office is based on an estimate that has remained practically unchanged since 1905. It appears, therefore, that the figure for the United States as given by the Bureau of the Census, 265,683, is substantially accurate.