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FARM POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

AN ANALYSIS OF THE 1920 FARM POPULATION FIGURES,
ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON WITH URBAN DATA,
TOGETHER WITH A STUDY OF THE MAIN
ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING
THE FARM POPULATION

BY

LEON E. TRUESDELL



CENSUS MONOGRAPHS

VI

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FOREWORD

When the early censuses were taken in the United States, the Nation was so largely rural that interest centered in the growth of cities. Village and farm population was taken for granted. The early censuses therefore separated out the city population and left the remaining unsorted population together. When the first census was taken, only 3 per cent of the population lived in places of 8,000 or more inhabitants, but in 1920 nearly 44 per cent lived in such places. With the rapid urbanization of the Nation, it has become increasingly important to know something about the farm population, which is now less than 30 per cent of the total.

In previous censuses, the farm population was included in the so-called "rural" group. This group includes people in small cities and villages, miners, suburban residents, and the like. Much of this population is very distinct from the farm population.

At one time, the farm, city, and village populations were much alike, but to-day material differences have developed. The farm population includes a relatively small percentage of recent immigrants. Less than 11 per cent of the foreign-born white persons are living on farms. The remaining 89 per cent live in cities and villages—mostly in cities. Of the native whites of native parents, 36 per cent live on farms.

Of the white population on farms, 80 per cent are native whites of native parents, but of the white urban population, only 48 per cent are native whites of native parents.

So many other differences exist that many persons have desired an analysis of the farm population. The census of 1920 made such a study and presents the results herewith.

G. F. WARREN.