

Abstract of the
Twelfth Census
1900

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1900



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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| | Page. |
|---|-------|
| LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL..... | xi |
| POPULATION. | |
| UNITED STATES. | |
| TABLE 1.—Area and population: 1900 and 1890 | 7 |
| CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. | |
| TABLE 2.—Population classified by sex, by race, and by nativity: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 7 |
| TABLE 3.—Population classified by sex and race, and by sex and nativity: 1900 and 1890..... | 7 |
| TABLE 4.—Population classified by race and nativity: 1900 and 1890 | 8 |
| TABLE 5.—Population classified by sex, race, and nativity: 1900..... | 8 |
| TABLE 6.—Population classified by race and nativity of parents: 1900 and 1890..... | 8 |
| TABLE 7.—Native population classified as born within or born without state or territory of residence: 1850 to 1900 | 9 |
| TABLE 8.—Foreign born population classified by principal countries of birth: 1850 to 1900.... | 9 |
| TABLE 9.—Population having one or both parents born in specified country, for the total, white, native white, and foreign born white: 1900 | 10 |
| TABLE 10.—Foreign born population classified by number of years in the United States: 1900. | 10 |
| TABLE 11.—Population classified by sex and age periods, by race and age periods, and by nativity and age periods: 1900..... | 11,12 |
| TABLE 12.—Population classified by sex, race, and age periods, and by sex, nativity, and age periods: 1900..... | 12,13 |
| TABLE 13.—Population at least 10 years of age and population at least 15 years of age classified by sex and race, and by sex and nativity: 1900..... | 14 |
| TABLE 14.—Population of school age classified by sex and age periods, and by race and age periods: 1900..... | 14 |
| TABLE 15.—Population attending school during the census year classified by sex and age periods, and by race and age periods: 1900..... | 15 |
| TABLE 16.—Population attending school during the census year classified by sex and months of attendance, and by race and months of attendance: 1900..... | 15 |
| TABLE 17.—Per cent of population attending school of total population in specified age periods, and per cent distribution of population attending school by months of attendance: 1900..... | 16 |
| TABLE 18.—Illiterate population at least 10 years of age classified by sex, by race, and by nativity: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 16 |
| TABLE 19.—Illiterate population at least 10 years of age classified by sex and age periods, and by race and age periods: 1900..... | 17 |
| TABLE 20.—Population at least 10 years of age unable to speak English classified by race, nativity, and age periods: 1900..... | 18 |
| TABLE 21.—Males of voting age and illiterate males of voting age classified by race, by nativity, by citizenship, and by age periods: 1900 | 18 |
| TABLE 22.—Foreign born males of voting age and aliens classified by principal countries of birth: 1900 | 19 |
| TABLE 23.—Foreign born males of voting age and aliens classified by number of years in the United States: 1900..... | 19 |
| TABLE 24.—Male population classified by race, nativity, nativity of parents, age periods, and marital condition: 1900 | 20,21 |

| | Page. |
|---|--------|
| TABLE 25.—Female population classified by race, nativity, nativity of parents, age periods, and marital condition: 1900 | 22, 23 |
| TABLE 26.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by sex and kind of occupation: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 24 |
| TABLE 27.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by sex and specified occupations: 1900 and 1890 | 24-27 |
| TABLE 28.—Dwellings and families: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 27 |
| TABLE 29.—Dwellings classified by number of persons living in the dwelling: 1900 | 27 |
| TABLE 30.—Families classified by number of members: 1900 | 28 |
| TABLE 31.—Families classified by tenure of home: 1900 and 1890 | 28 |
| TABLE 32.—Private families classified by race of head and tenure of home: 1900 | 29 |
| TABLE 33.—Private families classified by age of head and tenure of home: 1900 | 30 |
| TABLE 34.—Per cent distribution of private families by tenure of home: 1900 | 31 |

STATES AND TERRITORIES.

| | |
|--|--------|
| TABLE 35.—Area and density of population, 1900, and population, 1790 to 1900 | 32, 33 |
| TABLE 36.—Decennial increase in population: 1790 to 1900 | 34-36 |
| TABLE 37.—Population living in cities within specified limits of size and in country districts: 1900 | 37, 38 |
| TABLE 38.—Population classified by sex: 1900 and 1890 | 39 |
| TABLE 39.—Population classified by race: 1900 and 1890 | 40, 41 |
| TABLE 40.—Population classified by nativity: 1900 and 1890 | 42 |
| TABLE 41.—Population classified by sex and race: 1900 | 43 |
| TABLE 42.—Population classified by sex and nativity: 1900 | 44 |
| TABLE 43.—White population classified by sex and nativity: 1900 | 45 |
| TABLE 44.—Population classified by nativity of parents: 1900 | 46 |
| TABLE 45.—Native white population classified by nativity of parents: 1900 | 47 |
| TABLE 46.—Native population classified by state or territory of birth: 1900 | 48-54 |
| TABLE 47.—Native white and native negro population classified as born within or born without state or territory of residence: 1900 | 55, 56 |
| TABLE 48.—Foreign born population classified by number of years in the United States: 1900 .. | 57 |
| TABLE 49.—Foreign born population classified by country of birth: 1900 | 58-63 |
| TABLE 50.—Population classified by age periods: 1900 | 64, 65 |
| TABLE 51.—Proportion of the total population in specified age periods per 10,000 of all ages: 1900. | 66 |
| TABLE 52.—Population at least 10 years of age classified by sex and by race: 1900 | 67 |
| TABLE 53.—Population at least 15 years of age classified by sex and by race: 1900 | 68 |
| TABLE 54.—Males of militia age classified by race and nativity: 1900 | 69 |
| TABLE 55.—Population of school age, 5 to 20 years, inclusive, classified by sex, and by race and nativity: 1900 | 70 |
| TABLE 56.—Population attending school during the census year classified by sex, by race, by age periods, and by months of attendance: 1900 | 71-73 |
| TABLE 57.—Illiterate population at least 10 years of age classified by sex, and by race and nativity: 1900 | 74, 75 |
| TABLE 58.—Population at least 10 years of age unable to speak English classified by race and nativity: 1900 | 76 |
| TABLE 59.—Males of voting age classified by race and nativity: 1900 | 77 |
| TABLE 60.—Males of voting age classified by citizenship: 1900 | 78 |
| TABLE 61.—Illiterate males of voting age classified by race, by nativity, and by citizenship: 1900. | 79-81 |
| TABLE 62.—Population classified by sex and marital condition: 1900 | 82, 83 |
| TABLE 63.—Population classified by marital condition: 1900 | 84 |
| TABLE 64.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by kind of occupation: 1900 | 85 |
| TABLE 65.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by sex and kind of occupation: 1900 | 86, 87 |
| TABLE 66.—Per cent distribution of population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations, by kind of occupation: 1900 | 88, 89 |
| TABLE 67.—Dwellings and families: 1900 | 90 |
| TABLE 68.—Families classified by tenure of home: 1900 | 91 |
| TABLE 69.—Farm families and other families classified by tenure of home: 1900 | 92, 93 |
| TABLE 70.—Per cent distribution of families by tenure of home: 1900 | 94 |

PORTO RICO.

| | |
|---|----|
| TABLE 71.—Area, population, and density of population, by departments: 1899 | 95 |
| TABLE 72.—Population classified by sex and race, and by sex and nativity: 1899 | 95 |
| TABLE 73.—Population classified by sex, race, and place of birth: 1899 | 95 |
| TABLE 74.—Population classified by sex and age periods, and by race and age periods: 1899 | 96 |

Table of Contents.

vii

| | Page. |
|---|--------|
| TABLE 75.—Population attending school classified by sex and age periods, and by race and age periods: 1899..... | 97 |
| TABLE 76.—Population attending school classified by sex and months of attendance, and by race and months of attendance: 1899..... | 97 |
| TABLE 77.—Illiterate population at least 10 years of age classified by sex and by race, and males of voting age classified by race: 1899..... | 97 |
| TABLE 78.—Population classified by sex, race, nativity, and marital condition: 1899..... | 98 |
| TABLE 79.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by sex, race, and kind of occupation: 1899..... | 98, 99 |

CITIES HAVING AT LEAST 25,000 INHABITANTS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| TABLE 80.—Population: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 100-102 |
| TABLE 81.—Population classified by sex, by race, and by nativity: 1900..... | 103-105 |
| TABLE 82.—Foreign born population classified by principal countries of birth: 1900..... | 106-108 |
| TABLE 83.—Population classified by age periods: 1900..... | 109-111 |
| TABLE 84.—Population of school age, 5 to 20 years, inclusive, and population attending school during the census year classified by race: 1900..... | 112-114 |
| TABLE 85.—Illiterate population at least 10 years of age classified by race and nativity: 1900..... | 115-117 |
| TABLE 86.—Males of voting age classified by race and by citizenship, and number of illiterate males of voting age: 1900..... | 118-120 |
| TABLE 87.—Population classified by sex and marital condition: 1900..... | 121-123 |
| TABLE 88.—Population at least 10 years of age engaged in gainful occupations classified by kind of occupation, and by sex and kind of occupation: 1900..... | 124-129 |
| TABLE 89.—Dwellings and families: 1900..... | 130-132 |
| TABLE 90.—Private families classified by tenure of home: 1900..... | 133-135 |

PLACES HAVING AT LEAST 2,500 INHABITANTS.

| | |
|--|---------|
| TABLE 91.—Population: 1900 and 1890..... | 136-149 |
|--|---------|

COUNTIES.

| | |
|---|---------|
| TABLE 92.—Area and population: 1900 and 1890..... | 149-175 |
|---|---------|

MORTALITY.

REGISTRATION AREA.

| | |
|--|-----|
| TABLE 93.—Deaths and death rates from certain causes: 1900 and 1890..... | 179 |
|--|-----|

REGISTRATION STATES AND CITIES.

| | |
|---|---------|
| TABLE 94.—Deaths by race, nativity, and nativity of parents: 1900..... | 180-185 |
| TABLE 95.—Death rates per 1,000 population, by race, nativity, and nativity of parents: 1900..... | 186-191 |
| TABLE 96.—Deaths by age periods: 1900..... | 192-196 |
| TABLE 97.—Death rates by age periods per 1,000 population of corresponding age: 1900..... | 197-201 |
| TABLE 98.—Deaths from certain principal causes: 1900..... | 202-207 |
| TABLE 99.—Death rates from certain principal causes per 100,000 population: 1900..... | 208-213 |

AGRICULTURE.

CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

| | |
|--|-----|
| TABLE 100.—Number and acreage of farms, and number of acres improved and unimproved: 1850 to 1900..... | 217 |
| TABLE 101.—Value of farm property: 1850 to 1900..... | 217 |
| TABLE 102.—Number of farms of specified acreage: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 217 |
| TABLE 103.—Number of farms of specified tenure: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 218 |
| TABLE 104.—Domestic animals on farms and ranges: 1850 to 1900..... | 218 |
| TABLE 105.—Acreage of certain farm crops: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 218 |
| TABLE 106.—Production of certain farm crops: 1850 to 1900..... | 219 |
| TABLE 107.—Value of farm products of 1899..... | 219 |
| TABLE 108.—Quantity and value of animal products of farms in 1899..... | 219 |

| | Page. |
|--|----------|
| TABLE 109.—Acreage, quantity, and value of farm crops in 1899..... | 220 |
| TABLE 110.—Value of all live stock: 1900..... | 221 |
| TABLE 111.—Number and value of domestic animals: 1900..... | 221 |
| TABLE 112.—Number of farms operated by farmers of specified race classified by tenure, by area, by principal source of income, and by value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock: 1900..... | 222 |
| TABLE 113.—Number of farms with specified value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock, classified by area in acres: 1900..... | 223 |
| TABLE 114.—Number of farms of specified tenure classified by area, by principal source of income, and by value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock: 1900..... | 223 |
| TABLE 115.—Number of farms of specified principal source of income classified by area, and by value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock: 1900..... | 224 |
| STATES AND TERRITORIES. | |
| TABLE 116.—Number of farms operated by farmers of specified race: 1900..... | 225 |
| TABLE 117.—Number of farms of specified area in acres: 1900..... | 226 |
| TABLE 118.—Number of farms of specified tenure: 1900..... | 227 |
| TABLE 119.—Number of farms of specified principal source of income: 1900..... | 228-230 |
| TABLE 120.—Number of farms of specified value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock: 1900..... | 231-233 |
| TABLE 121.—Number and acreage of farms, value of farm property, value of products, and expenditures for labor and fertilizers..... | 234-237 |
| TABLE 122.—Number and value of domestic animals on farms and ranges: 1900..... | 238-245 |
| TABLE 123.—Number of domestic animals in barns and inclosures, not on farms or ranges: 1900..... | 246-249 |
| TABLE 124.—Value of farm products of 1899..... | 250, 251 |
| TABLE 125.—Quantity and value of dairy produce of 1899 on farms and ranges..... | 252 |
| TABLE 126.—Pounds of butter and pounds of cheese made in 1899 on farms and in factories..... | 253 |
| TABLE 127.—Poultry and eggs on farms and ranges..... | 254, 255 |
| TABLE 128.—Bees, honey, and wax on farms and ranges..... | 256 |
| TABLE 129.—Wool, mohair and goat hair shorn in fall of 1899 and spring of 1900..... | 257 |
| TABLE 130.—Acreage, production, and value of the cereals, of hay and forage, and of clover seed and other grass seed in 1899..... | 258-261 |
| TABLE 131.—Acreage and production of specified classes of hay and forage in 1899..... | 262, 263 |
| TABLE 132.—Acreage, production, and value of all vegetables, and of potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, chicory, and miscellaneous vegetables in 1899..... | 264-266 |
| TABLE 133.—Acreage, production, and value of flaxseed and hemp in 1899..... | 267 |
| TABLE 134.—Acreage, quantity, and value of cotton fiber and cottonseed in 1899, as reported by farmers, and quantity of fiber, as reported by ginners..... | 268 |
| TABLE 135.—Acreage and production of sugar cane in 1899..... | 268 |
| TABLE 136.—Farm value of sugar cane and products in 1899..... | 269 |
| TABLE 137.—Quantity and farm value of sugar, molasses, and sirup made from cane harvested in 1899 on the farms of the makers..... | 269 |
| TABLE 138.—Quantity and value of all sugar, molasses, and sirup made on plantations and in factories from sugar cane harvested in 1899..... | 270 |
| TABLE 139.—Acreage, quantity sold, and receipts from sales of beets grown for sugar making in 1899, and certain data as to the manufacture of beet sugar..... | 270, 271 |
| TABLE 140.—Acreage, production, and value of sorghum cane grown and of sorghum sirup made on farms in 1899..... | 272 |
| TABLE 141.—Quantity and value of maple sugar and sirup made on farms in 1899..... | 273 |
| TABLE 142.—Acreage, production, and value of tobacco, beans, pease, peanuts, broom corn, hops, miscellaneous crops, and miscellaneous seeds in 1899..... | 274-277 |
| TABLE 143.—Acreage of flowers and ornamental plants and nursery products, and the amount of sales therefrom in 1899, and square feet of glass surface reported by florists' establishments..... | 278 |
| TABLE 144.—Value of specified kinds of fruits in 1899..... | 279 |
| TABLE 145.—Number of orchard trees, grapevines, and nut trees of bearing age, in 1900, with products and values, and value of forest products in 1899..... | 280-285 |
| TABLE 146.—Total value, and acreage and production of specified kinds of small fruits in 1899..... | 286, 287 |
| TABLE 147.—Number and acreage of farms and acres of improved land: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 288-290 |
| TABLE 148.—Value of farm property: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 291-293 |
| TABLE 149.—Number of farms of specified tenure: 1900, 1890, and 1880..... | 294, 295 |
| TABLE 150.—Irrigation in 1899..... | 296 |
| TABLE 151.—Agriculture in Porto Rico: 1899..... | 297 |

MANUFACTURES.

CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

| | Page. |
|--|----------|
| TABLE 152.—Summary for all establishments: 1900 | 300, 301 |
| TABLE 153.—Comparative summary: 1850 to 1900 | 300, 301 |
| TABLE 154.—Comparative summary, by specified industries: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 302-321 |
| TABLE 155.—Rank of industries with products valued at over \$50,000,000: 1900 | 322, 323 |
| TABLE 156.—Comparative summary, 15 groups of industries: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 324 |
| TABLE 157.—Industry groups ranked by capital, number of wage-earners, wages, and gross and net value of products: 1900 | 325 |
| TABLE 158.—Establishments and products classified by character of organization, by groups of industries: 1900 | 326 |
| TABLE 159.—Establishments classified by number of employees, not including proprietors and firm members: 1900 | 327 |
| TABLE 160.—Cost of materials used in each of the 15 groups of industries: 1900 | 327 |
| TABLE 161.—Summary of statistics for industrial combinations: 1900 | 328, 329 |
| TABLE 162.—Summary of capitalization for industrial combinations: 1900 | 328, 329 |
| TABLE 163.—Power, comparative summary: 1870 to 1900 | 330 |

STATES AND TERRITORIES.

| | |
|--|----------|
| TABLE 164.—Comparative summary: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 331-333 |
| TABLE 165.—Establishments and products classified by character of organization: 1900 | 334, 335 |
| TABLE 166.—Establishments classified by number of employees: 1900 | 336, 337 |
| TABLE 167.—Average number of wage-earners classified as men, women, and children: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 338, 339 |
| TABLE 168.—Localization of specified industries, by states: 1900 | 340 |
| TABLE 169.—Power used in manufactures: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 341 |
| TABLE 170.—Amount of each kind of power: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 342-349 |

CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES.

| | |
|--|---------|
| TABLE 171.—Comparative summary, 100 principal cities compared with continental United States outside these cities: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 350 |
| TABLE 172.—Comparative summary, 164 principal cities compared with continental United States outside these cities: 1900 and 1890 | 350 |
| TABLE 173.—Summary for 1,340 cities, towns, and villages compared with continental United States outside these cities, towns, and villages: 1900 | 351 |
| TABLE 174.—Comparative summary for principal cities shown separately: 1900, 1890, and 1880 | 352-360 |
| TABLE 175.—Summary for 1,341 cities, towns, and villages: 1900 | 361-381 |
| TABLE 176.—Localization of specified industries, by cities: 1900 | 382 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| TABLE 177.—Rank of states and territories in population, agriculture, and manufactures: 1900 and 1890 | 383, 384 |
|---|----------|

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| GLOSSARY | 387-389 |
| LIST OF PUBLICATIONS | 391-395 |

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

HON. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM,
Director of the Census.

SIR: The committee appointed by your order of June 13, 1902, to prepare the "Abstract of the Twelfth Census" have the honor herewith to submit their report.

The Abstract is an epitome or digest of the contents of the ten volumes of the Twelfth Census, and is designed for the use of the general public who may not have access to the main volumes or may find this digest more convenient for ready reference. For this purpose the volume should be small; the information should be presented in tables because an item of information is found far more easily in a table than in text; and the tables should be arranged in a simple, orderly way so that any table wanted may be found without delay. We have endeavored to make the present volume fulfill these requirements.

This Abstract conforms in the main to the one prepared for the Eleventh Census. The present volume, however, contains no sections upon fisheries, mineral industries, transportation, insurance, wealth, debt and taxation, real estate mortgages, education, churches, insane, feeble-minded, deaf and dumb and blind, or crime, pauperism and benevolence. Reports on these subjects are not yet available, because in accordance with the requirements of the act providing for the Twelfth Census all special inquiries were postponed until the main reports were completed. Future editions of the Abstract may incorporate their results.

The Abstract is divided into four parts, Population, Mortality, Agriculture, and Manufactures, corresponding to the four main lines of inquiry ordered by the census act of March 3, 1899.

In each part the first series of tables is for the largest area, the second series is for the states and territories, the third for the cities, the order being thus, as a rule, that from the greater to the less. For obvious reasons, in the part relating to agriculture, the series of tables for cities is lacking.

The area, to which the first series of tables for population, agriculture, and manufactures relates, is continental United States, by which is meant that part of the United States lying on the continent of North America south of the Canadian boundary. It thus excludes Alaska and the recent insular accessions of Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands, Guam, Samoa, and, if it be a part of the United States, the Isle of Pines. As all this territory except Alaska has been acquired since 1890, as the Twelfth Census covers no part of it except Alaska and Hawaii, and as it comprises populations living under peculiar conditions and having distinctive characteristics, it has been deemed best to confine the first series of tables, with one exception (Table 1), to the area comprised in continental United States, and not to attempt to cover either the entire United States, for which we have practically no statistical information, or the area covered by the Twelfth Census, which includes Alaska, Hawaii, and the military and naval stations outside continental United States. However, in the second series of tables, those for states and territories, the figures for Alaska, Hawaii, and the military and naval stations are given, but at the end of the table rather than in one alphabetical series with the states and territories of continental United States. The latter is divided geographically into five divisions, which, with the states and territories included under them, are as follows:

Letter of Transmittal.

NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Maine. | Massachusetts. | New York. |
| New Hampshire. | Rhode Island. | New Jersey. |
| Vermont. | Connecticut. | Pennsylvania. |

SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Delaware. | Virginia. | South Carolina. |
| Maryland. | West Virginia. | Georgia. |
| District of Columbia. | North Carolina. | Florida. |

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION.

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Ohio. | Wisconsin. | North Dakota. |
| Indiana. | Minnesota. | South Dakota. |
| Illinois. | Iowa. | Nebraska. |
| Michigan. | Missouri. | Kansas. |

SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION.

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Kentucky. | Mississippi. | Indian Territory. |
| Tennessee. | Louisiana. | Oklahoma. |
| Alabama. | Arkansas. | Texas. |

WESTERN DIVISION.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Montana. | New Mexico. | Washington. |
| Idaho. | Arizona. | Oregon. |
| Wyoming. | Utah. | California. |
| Colorado. | Nevada. | |

These five groups have been placed at the head of each table for states and territories directly under continental United States.

Census statistics for 1900 relate either to the census day—June 1, 1900—or to the census year—June 1, 1899, to May 31, 1900, inclusive—except that crop statistics are reported for the crop year, 1899, and all manufacturing statistics for the business year most nearly conforming, in each case, to the census year.

This Abstract differs from that of the Eleventh Census in reproducing the figures for the Twelfth Census with much greater completeness than those for the Eleventh Census were reproduced in the previous Abstract. No small part of the additional pages required for these extensions has been gained by the exclusion of figures for earlier censuses from all tables except those for continental United States. This exclusion is due to our belief that detailed figures of censuses prior to 1890 are less desired by the majority of persons who will use the Abstract than approximately complete figures for 1900, or at most for 1890 and 1900, the two together indicating present conditions and the amount and direction of changes now in progress.

At the head of each table a reference in brackets is given to the volume and page of the extended Census Reports from which the figures have been drawn. If information regarding the subject is desired in greater detail or for smaller territorial subdivisions, it may usually be found at or immediately following the place referred to. The Abstract will thus serve to a degree as a classified index of the ten quarto volumes of figures and interpretations constituting the Twelfth Census of the United States.

The Census Office often finds it necessary to give to words, which in ordinary speech have a vague and indefinite meaning, a more exact and precise signification. In so doing, the popular interpretation, while always the basis of the definitions, is often

narrowed or widened to meet special requirements. For example, ordinary speech does not regard a canal boat or hotel as a dwelling, a person living alone as a family, or a greenhouse requiring for its care the entire time of at least one person as a farm; yet in each of these instances the Census Office finds itself obliged thus to widen the popular definition. That the special meaning assigned to such words or phrases may be made clear, a glossary is provided (pages 387 to 389) which contains the definition of all terms employed in the Abstract in an unusual or technical sense.

On pages 391 to 395 will be found a list of all publications of the Census Office designed for distribution. While the large quarto volumes are printed in small editions and can not be freely supplied, any person desiring special information can often find in the list of publications a bulletin on the subject he is investigating. If copies of the bulletin are on hand, they can be obtained by addressing a request to the Census Office.

We desire to express our obligation to our colleagues, Mr. W. C. Hunt, Mr. W. A. King, and Mr. L. G. Powers for important and helpful suggestions regarding the matter to be included in the Abstract, and to Mr. W. B. Hunter for efficient supervision of the details of its preparation.

Yours respectfully,

S. N. D. NORTH,
WALTER F. WILLCOX,
HENRY GANNETT,
Committee.

UNITED STATES CENSUS OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., November 1, 1902.