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out its good influences in spite of the adverse effects of untruth. If the earth is to pass away in a few thousand years—at least as a habitable globe—the good and bad seem so nearly balanced in this initial stage of our evolution that their equated value is relatively small and the creation of the earth seems scarcely to have been worth while; but if adequate time is to be granted so that the truth may grow and may fully prove itself, and the good triumph over the bad because it is good, the outlook for the future becomes inspiring to the last degree.”

THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

PROBLEMS of war and reconstruction call special attention at the present time to the foreign born population of the country. It may consequently be desirable to reproduce the diagrams and descriptions published by the Bureau of the Census.

Fig. 1 indicates, by the length of the bars, the number of natives re-

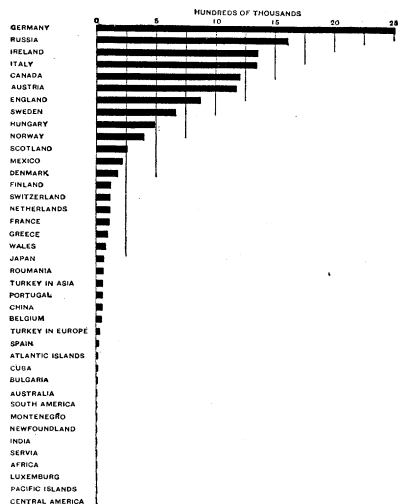


FIG. 1. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, 1910.

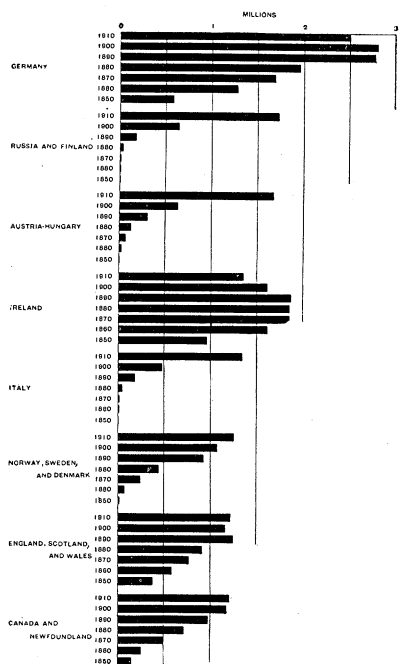


FIG. 2. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF BIRTH, 1850-1910.

turned at the census of 1910, from each of the foreign countries that were tabulated separately, the countries being arranged in the order of the total number returned. There were 2,501,333 natives of Germany, over three quarters of a million more than was returned from Russia, which stood second. The smallest number returned was 1,736, from Central America.

Fig. 2 shows, by the length of the bars, the number of natives of each of the principal foreign countries that were returned at each census, from 1850 to 1910, the countries being ranked according to the number returned in 1910. The natives of Germany increased in numbers from 1850 to 1900, but in 1910 there was a falling off. There was a comparatively small number of natives of Russia and Austria-Hungary returned at the censuses prior

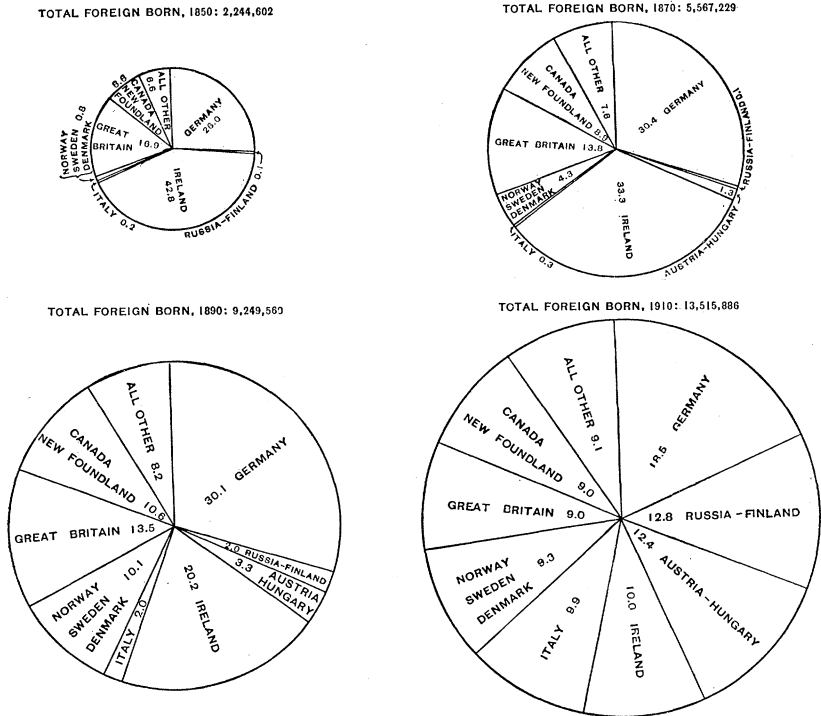


FIG. 3. PER CENT. DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION BY PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF BIRTH, 1850, 1870, 1890, AND 1910.

to 1900. Increasing numbers of Irish are found at each census from 1850 to 1890, when the highest mark was reached; since then the number has steadily decreased. The natives of Italy, like those of Austria-Hungary, came in great numbers to this country between 1890 and 1900, and especially between 1900 and 1910. Norway, Sweden and Denmark combined have had a constant increase at each census since 1850. Natives of England, Scotland, and Wales increased from 1850 to and including 1890; 1900 showed a slight decrease from the previous enumeration, but in 1910 an increase over the 1900 census was reported. The natives of Canada and Newfoundland increased at each enumeration from 1850 to 1910, although the increase from 1900 to 1910 was small.

In Fig. 3 the four circles are proportionate in size to the total foreign-born population returned at the censuses of 1850, 1870, 1900 and 1910. The divisions of each circle present the percentage of distribution of the foreign-born population by principal countries of birth. In 1850 the natives of Ireland (42.8 per cent.), Germany (26 per cent.) and Great Britain (16.9 per cent.) formed 85.7 per cent. of the foreign-born population. In 1870 the same countries furnished 77.5 per cent. Germany increased its proportion and was nearly equal to the Irish, the percentage being 33.3 for Ireland against 30.4 for Germany. In 1890 the Germans outnumbered the Irish at the rate of 30.1 to 20.2. In 1910 Germany was again the country furnishing a larger proportion than any other, with 18.5;

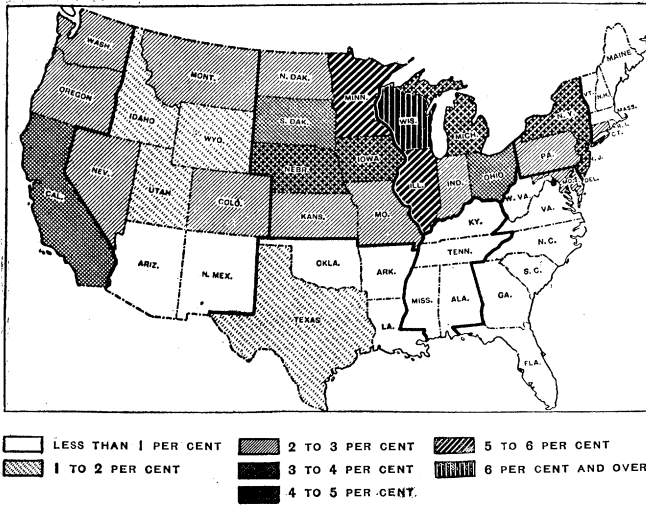


FIG. 4. PER CENT. OF GERMAN-BORN POPULATION IN EACH STATE; 1910.

Russia and Finland, with 12.8 per cent., and Austria-Hungary, with 12.4 per cent., were second and third, respectively, Ireland having fallen to the fourth place, with 10 per cent., and being about equal to Italy with 9.9 per cent.

Fig. 4 shows the percentage of the population of each state, at the census of 1910, born in Germany. The Germans form a larger proportion of the total population of Wisconsin (10 per cent.) and Illinois (5.7 per cent.) than of any other state.

The figures so far given refer

only to the foreign born, but we are also concerned with natives of foreign parentage, and the natives of mixed parentage—that is, one parent foreign born and one parent native. Fig. 5 presents the foreign white stock by principal countries of origin, for 1910, in these three classes. The largest number was from Germany, the bar being shaded to indicate first the number born in Germany; second, the number born in this country, both parents born in Germany; and third, the native with one parent born in Germany and the other in

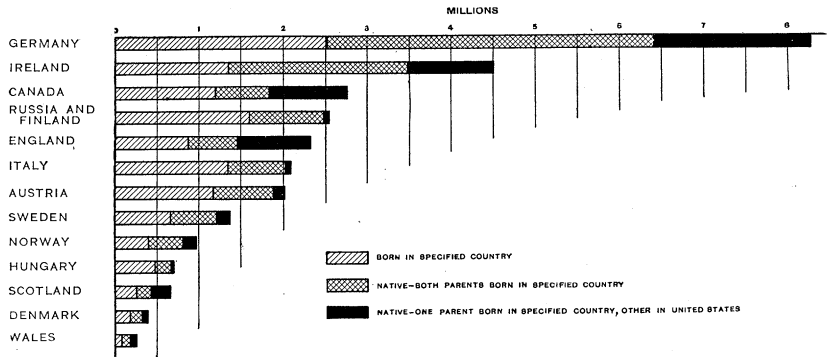


FIG. 5. FOREIGN STOCK BY PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, 1910.

the United States. The same designations are carried out through all the bars. One peculiarity will be noticed in the bars for the countries which have only recently begun to send large numbers of their natives to the United States. Of Germany, Ireland, Canada and England, the foreign white stock includes a large number of one parent born in the specified country and one in the United States. The bar for Russia and Finland, as well as those for Italy, Austria and Hungary, have a very small proportion in this class.

THE USE OF HELIUM FOR AIRSHIPS

AN article in *Nature* states that shortly after the commencement of the war it became evident that if helium were available in sufficient quantities to replace hydrogen in naval and military airships, the losses in life and equipment arising from the use of hydrogen would be enormously lessened. Helium, as is known, is most suitable as a filling for airship envelopes, in that it is non-inflammable and non-explosive, and, if desired, the engines may be placed within the envelope. By its use it is also possible to secure additional buoyancy by heating the gas (electrically or otherwise), and this fact might possibly lead to considerable modifications in the technique of airship maneuvers and navigation. The loss of gas from diffusion through the envelope is also less with helium than with hydrogen, but, on the other hand, the lifting power of helium is about 10 per cent. less than that of hydrogen.

Proposals had been frequently put forward by men of science regarding the development of supplies of helium for airship purposes, but the first attempt to give practical effect to these proposals was initiated by Sir Richard Threlfall, who received

support from the Admiralty through the Board of Invention and Research.

It was known that supplies of natural gas containing helium in varying amounts existed in America, and it became evident from the preliminary investigations as to cost of production, transportation, etc., that there was substantial ground for believing that helium could be obtained in large quantities at a cost which would not be prohibitive. In the course of the investigations, which were carried out with the cooperation of L'Air Liquide Co., it was found that large supplies of helium were available in Canada, which could be produced at a cost of about one shilling per cubic foot.

In the summer of 1917, when the United States of America had entered the war, and after the investigations referred to above were well under way, proposals were made to the Navy and Army and to the National Research Council of the U. S. A. to cooperate by developing the supplies of helium available in the United States. These were made, on behalf of the Admiralty, through the Board of Invention and Research by Sir Ernest Rutherford and a special Commission consisting of Commander Bridge, R.N., Lieutenant-Colonel Lowcock, and Professor John Satterly.

The authorities cited agreed to cooperate with vigor in supporting these proposals, and large orders were at once placed by them with the Air Reduction Co. and the Lynde Co. for plant, equipment, cylinders, etc. The Bureau of Mines also cooperated in developing a new type of rectifying and purifying machine. By July, 1918, the production of helium in moderate quantities was accomplished, and from that time onward the possibility of securing large supplies of helium was assured.