

# THE NEGRO FARMER.

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## FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES.

Negro farmers are of two classes—those who are operating farms they themselves own and those who are operating farms owned by others. In the first part of the following analysis the question of ownership of the farm is disregarded, the figures including all farms operated by negroes whether owned by them or not. Later the question of tenure is considered, and in this connection the figures relative to farms owned by negroes are separately presented and discussed.

*General statistics.*—There were in the United States, in 1900, 746,717 farms operated by negroes, of which 716,514 were improved by buildings. These farms contained 38,233,933 acres, or 59,741 square miles, an area about equal to that of the state of Georgia or that of New England; 23,362,798 acres, or 61 per cent of the total area, was improved for farming purposes. The total value of property on these farms was \$499,943,734, of which \$324,244,397 represented the value of land and improvements, \$71,903,315 that of buildings, \$18,859,757 that of implements and machinery, and \$84,936,265 that of live stock. The gross value of all products on farms of negroes in 1899 was \$255,751,145. Of this sum, however, \$25,843,443 represents products fed to live stock, the value of which reappears and is to that extent duplicated in the reported value of animal products such as meat, milk, butter, eggs, and poultry; subtracting this amount we have a net value of \$229,907,702, or 46 per cent of the total value of farm property in farms cultivated by negroes. This sum represents the gross farm income. The total expenditure for labor on farms of negroes in 1899 was \$8,789,792, and the expenditure for fertilizers was \$5,614,844.

In considering the significance of these statistics it should be borne in mind that a farm, as defined for census purposes, includes all the land under one management, used for raising crops and pasturing live stock, with the wood lots, swamps, meadows, etc., connected therewith, whether consisting of one tract or of several separate tracts. It also includes the house in which the farmer resides, and all other buildings used by him in connection with his farming operations, together with the land upon which they are located.<sup>1</sup> The land is considered to be under the management of the person who cultivates it, either as owner, hired manager, or tenant. Accordingly, a large plantation owned by 1

person, but leased in small areas to 50 tenants, would ordinarily be returned in the census as 50 farms. Nevertheless, in some sections where the negroes work land as tenants the enumerators reported all the land and crops in the name of the owner or manager, thereby crediting white farmers with values which, according to the census definition, should have been assigned to negro farmers.

The classification of farms by color of farmer was not introduced in the Eleventh Census, and comparisons between 1890 and 1900 are therefore impracticable. But the increase in the number of farms operated by negroes may be measured approximately by comparing the number of such farms or the number of negro private farm families in 1900 with the number of negro (including "mixed") farm families in 1890. For the purpose of this comparison the number of farms operated by negro managers in 1900—1,744—must be excluded, because in 1890 such farms were classified according to the color of the employer, who was generally white. In 1900 there were in continental United States 744,971 farms operated by negro owners and tenants, and 758,463 negro private farm families; on comparing these figures with the number of negro farm families in 1890—549,632—the resulting percentages of increase are 35.5 and 38, respectively. In 1890 the number of all farm families, including both negro and white, was in excess of the number of all farms, making it probable that the number of negro farm families was likewise greater than the number of farms of negroes. In that case the comparison of negro farm families in 1890 with farms of negroes in 1900 would not adequately represent the increase in the number of such farms. The comparison with the number of private farm families in 1900 also is defective, because the number of farm families in 1890 included families other than private. It is probable, then, that both of the percentages based on the above comparisons fall short of the true percentage of increase. On considering the returns by geographic divisions, it is found that the increase is confined to the two Southern divisions, being about 35 per cent in the South Atlantic and about 43 per cent in the South Central; but the figures are too roughly approximate to be worth detailed analysis.

The importance of agriculture as an occupation for the negro in the South is emphasized by the following table, which shows by geographic divisions the proportion negro farm homes form of all negro homes:

<sup>1</sup>Twelfth Census, Agriculture, Part I, page xiv.

TABLE I.—Comparison of negro farm homes with all negro homes: 1900.

DIVISION.	All homes.	Farm homes.	Per cent farm homes form of all homes.
Continental United States.....	1,833,759	758,463	41.4
North Atlantic.....	78,838	1,740	2.2
South Atlantic.....	761,105	293,512	38.6
North Central.....	110,332	12,840	11.6
South Central.....	875,919	450,009	51.4
Western.....	6,965	362	5.2

These figures show a high percentage of negro farm population in the two Southern divisions, which naturally produces a high percentage in continental United States as a whole. In the other divisions—especially the North Atlantic and Western—the percentage is small, indicating that outside the South the negroes are to a large extent congregated in cities, and are engaged in pursuits other than farming.

*Number and acreage of farms, by geographic divisions.*—The statistics of number and acreage of farms operated by negroes in continental United States are given by geographic divisions in Table II. The totals in this table differ from those given on page 69 by the exclusion of the two farms which are in the territory of Hawaii, and therefore outside the limits of continental United States.

TABLE II.—Number and acreage of farms of negro farmers: 1900.

DIVISION.	NUMBER OF FARMS.		ACREAGE.			
	Total.	With build-ings.	Total.	Average per farm.	Improved.	Per cent im-proved.
Continental U. S.	746,715	716,512	38,233,920	51.2	23,362,786	61.1
North Atlantic.....	1,761	1,724	84,407	47.9	55,079	65.3
South Atlantic.....	287,933	278,308	15,573,561	54.1	8,874,506	57.0
North Central.....	12,255	11,665	787,071	64.2	566,073	71.9
South Central.....	444,429	424,491	21,712,876	48.9	13,846,278	63.8
Western.....	337	324	76,005	225.5	20,850	27.4

This table confirms very strikingly the fact that the agricultural operations of negroes are confined almost entirely to the two Southern divisions of the country, less than 15,000 farms and less than a million acres being reported from other sections; in other words, the Southern states contain more than 98 per cent of all farms operated by negroes and more than 97 per cent of the total acreage of these farms.

In 1900 the average size of farms operated by negroes in continental United States was 51.2 acres; and of the total acreage 61.1 per cent was improved. In the South Atlantic states the average size was 54.1 acres, while in the South Central states it was 48.9 acres; and of the total acreage 57 per cent and 63.8 per cent, respectively, was improved. In the North Central division the farms were larger and had a greater improved acreage than either of the Southern divisions, the average size being 64.2 acres, with 71.9 per cent improved. The few farms operated by negroes in the Western division were

exceptionally large compared with those in other divisions. The average size was 225.5 acres; nearly one-third of these farms were live stock farms, however, and consequently only 27.4 per cent of the total area was improved. The smallest average was that for the North Atlantic division, 47.9 acres; this, however, was hardly smaller than the average for the South Central.

*Number and acreage of farms, by states.*—The following table gives the number of farms operated by negroes, with the total acreage, for all states containing over 5,000 such farms.

TABLE III.—Number and total acreage of farms of negro farmers in every state containing more than 5,000 such farms.

STATE.	FARMS.			ACREAGE.		
	Number.	Per cent of total number.	Cumulative per cent.	Number of acres.	Per cent of total number.	Cumulative per cent.
Total.....	746,715	100.0	.....	38,233,920	100.0	.....
Mississippi.....	128,351	17.2	17.2	5,886,075	15.4	15.4
Alabama.....	94,069	12.6	29.8	4,719,069	12.3	27.7
South Carolina.....	85,381	11.4	41.2	3,791,510	9.9	37.6
Georgia.....	82,822	11.1	52.3	5,474,889	14.3	51.9
Texas.....	65,472	8.8	61.1	3,835,379	10.0	61.9
Louisiana.....	58,096	7.8	68.9	2,843,365	7.6	68.0
North Carolina.....	53,996	7.2	76.1	2,894,210	7.6	75.6
Arkansas.....	46,978	6.3	82.4	2,303,336	6.0	81.6
Virginia.....	44,795	6.0	88.4	2,227,198	5.8	87.4
Tennessee.....	33,883	4.5	92.9	1,549,683	4.1	91.5
Florida.....	13,521	1.8	94.7	717,028	1.9	93.4
Kentucky.....	11,227	1.5	96.2	446,995	1.2	94.6
Maryland.....	5,842	0.8	97.0	374,276	1.0	95.6
All other states.....	22,282	3.0	100.0	1,670,347	4.4	100.0

The list of states in this table includes every state in the South Atlantic and South Central divisions, except West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory. The District of Columbia has only 17 negro farmers; West Virginia has 742; Delaware, 817; Oklahoma, 2,256; and Indian Territory, 4,097. Outside these Southern divisions there are 4 states, viz, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, and Ohio, each of which has between one and two thousand negro farmers, or more than Delaware; and there is one state, Missouri, which has 4,950 negro farmers, or more than Indian Territory.

Over one-half of all farms cultivated by negroes in continental United States are found in the four states of Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia.

In the several states of the two Southern divisions, excluding the District of Columbia, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma, the average size of farms operated by negroes ranged from about 40 acres in Kentucky and Louisiana to 66 acres in Georgia,<sup>1</sup> and the per cent of the total acreage which was improved ranged from 49.7 in North Carolina to 76.3 in Kentucky.<sup>2</sup> Outside of Kentucky, however, the percentage of improved land did not exceed 67.1 in any of these Southern states. In general, then, from one-half to two-thirds of the land in the farms operated by negroes in the South was improved. In the North Central division there were only five states—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas—which reported, in 1900, more than 1,000 farms

<sup>1</sup> See Table 78.<sup>2</sup> See Table 60.

operated by negroes; the average size of these farms ranged from 50 to 97 acres, or, excluding Kansas, from 50 to 56 acres, and the percentage of improved land ranged from 68 to about 81. It is worthy of note that these five states were the only ones in this division in which negroes formed more than 1 per cent of the total population in 1900.

*Farms classified by area.*—The following table shows by geographic divisions the classification of farms of negro farmers according to area:

TABLE IV.—*Farms of negro farmers, classified according to area: 1900.*

CLASS OF FARMS.	NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	746, 715	1, 761	287, 933	12, 255	444, 429	337
Under 3 acres .....	4, 448	50	2, 850	167	1, 368	13
3 and under 10 .....	50, 331	358	27, 270	1, 192	21, 985	26
10 and under 20 .....	119, 710	303	40, 416	1, 616	77, 351	24
20 and under 50 .....	343, 173	433	120, 979	4, 422	217, 301	38
50 and under 100 .....	134, 228	349	54, 192	2, 651	77, 004	32
100 and under 175 .....	66, 582	195	28, 556	1, 512	36, 184	135
175 and under 260 .....	16, 535	55	8, 301	379	7, 779	21
260 and under 500 .....	3, 715	15	4, 086	257	4, 332	25
500 and under 1,000 .....	2, 007	3	1, 055	44	889	16
1,000 and over .....	486	.....	228	15	236	7

PER CENT WHICH THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS FORMS OF THE TOTAL NUMBER.

All farms .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 3 acres .....	0.6	2.8	1.0	1.4	0.3	3.9
3 and under 10 .....	6.8	20.3	9.5	9.7	4.9	7.7
10 and under 20 .....	16.0	17.2	14.0	13.2	17.4	7.1
20 and under 50 .....	45.9	24.6	42.0	36.1	48.9	11.3
50 and under 100 .....	18.0	19.8	18.8	21.6	17.3	9.5
100 and under 175 .....	8.9	11.1	9.9	12.3	8.1	40.1
175 and under 260 .....	2.2	3.1	2.9	3.1	1.8	6.2
260 and under 500 .....	1.2	0.9	1.4	2.1	1.0	7.4
500 and under 1,000 .....	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	4.7
1,000 and over .....	0.1	.....	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1

The usual farm of the negro has an area of from 20 to 50 acres—the “one-mule farm”—requiring the labor of a man and his family and one mule. Nearly half of the farms operated by negroes in the country in 1900 were of this size. Next in number, were farms of from 50 to 100 acres—the “two-mule farms”—forming 18 per cent of the total. Then came farms of from 10 to 20 acres, followed by the farms of from 100 to 175 acres. Farms under 20 acres, representing largely market gardens and the smaller cotton farms, constituted 23.4 per cent of the total number; farms of 100 acres and over, 12.7 per cent.

In the South Atlantic division the farms showed greater diversity of area than in the South Central, the concentration in the group of 20 to 50 acres being much less marked in the former division, while the proportion of farms under 10 acres and of farms over 50 acres was considerably greater. In the North Atlantic division a still smaller proportion of the comparatively few farms operated by negroes came within the area group 20 to 50 acres, while farms of less than 10 acres and those of over 50 acres were relatively more numerous; in the North Central states the distribution of the farms of negroes by area approached more closely to that in the South.

In respect to size of farms the Western division differs greatly from the other four, the most usual size being from 100 to 175 acres. But the actual number of farms in this division operated by negroes in 1900 was small.

*Value of farm property.*—The value of property on farms operated by negroes in 1900 is given in detail in the following table:

TABLE V.—VALUE OF PROPERTY ON FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS: 1900.

DIVISION.	VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.					PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE OF ALL FARM PROPERTY.				AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM.				
	Total.	Land and improve- ments (ex- cept build- ings).	Buildings.	Imple- ments and machinery.	Live stock.	Land and improve- ments (except build- ings).	Build- ings.	Imple- ments and machin- ery.	Live stock.	All farm prop- erty.	Land and improve- ments (except build- ings).	Build- ings.	Imple- ments and machin- ery.	Live stock.
Continental U.S. ....	\$499, 941, 234	\$324, 242, 997	\$71, 902, 265	\$18, 859, 757	\$84, 936, 215	64. 8	14. 4	3. 8	17. 0	\$669	\$434	\$96	\$25	\$114
North Atlantic .....	4, 776, 245	2, 664, 718	1, 465, 500	206, 777	439, 250	55. 8	30. 7	4. 3	9. 2	2, 712	1, 513	832	117	250
South Atlantic .....	182, 841, 234	106, 251, 076	26, 658, 379	5, 879, 229	24, 052, 600	65. 2	16. 4	3. 6	14. 8	566	369	93	20	34
North Central .....	24, 608, 045	17, 926, 162	2, 933, 377	723, 125	3, 025, 381	72. 9	11. 9	2. 9	12. 3	2, 008	1, 463	239	59	247
South Central .....	306, 665, 271	196, 682, 296	40, 734, 135	12, 014, 612	57, 234, 258	64. 1	13. 3	3. 9	18. 7	690	443	91	27	129
Western .....	1, 050, 339	718, 775	110, 374	36, 014	184, 726	68. 4	10. 6	3. 4	17. 6	3, 117	2, 133	329	107	548

As shown in this table the farms cultivated by negroes in continental United States represent farm property having a total value of half a billion dollars. Land and improvements other than buildings constitutes 64.8 per cent, or more than three-fifths of this total; the next largest item is that of live stock, which constitutes 17 per cent, or more than one-sixth of the total; then that of buildings, constituting 14.4 per cent, or one-seventh; and lastly, implements and machinery, representing a small fraction only. The proportion of the total value of farm property comprised in the value of buildings is much larger in the North Atlantic states than in any other division. Naturally, in the matter of farm buildings, the requirements in a state like Vermont differ greatly from those in Mississippi, the rigorous climate of the North demanding well-constructed shelter for both man and beast, while in the South less protection is needed. Live stock attains its greatest importance, as compared with the total farm value, in the South Central and Western divisions.

The average values of farm property are decidedly higher in the North Atlantic, North Central, and Western divisions than in either of the Southern divisions, and since in the North and West the majority of negro farmers own their farms, while in the South three-fourths of them are tenants, the comparison indicates that the northern negro is a more prosperous farmer than his southern brother. Probably the great majority of the northern and western negroes are immigrants from the South or the children of immigrants, and their greater prosperity may be attributed in part to the native enterprise which led them to migrate, and in part to the influence of a new environment in which they are brought more directly in contact with the example and the competition of the white farmer.

The differences between the two Southern divisions are comparatively slight, but they indicate a greater average farm value in the South Central division, with poorer buildings, however, than in the South Atlantic.

The percentages for the Western division suggest similarity between this and the two Southern divisions, but the averages reveal enormous differences. The apparent advantage of the West is due, however, to the very large acreage per farm, only a small proportion of which was improved. The relatively very large value of live stock per farm in the Western division is due to the fact that three-tenths of all the western farms operated by negroes are live stock farms; in the two Northern divisions, also, the averages are affected by this cause, though not quite so conspicuously.

*The farm home.*—Emancipation made some change in the home life of the negro, but it was not a radical one. In the back districts, where the new order penetrated but little, it was scarcely noticeable; the "big house" and the quarters remained, but the latter were often worse than before, on account of deterioration and the failure to make repairs. Many masters entered into contracts with their freed slaves, who worked

on as hired laborers. It was very difficult, however, to check the roving instinct of a people fired, by newly acquired freedom, with new thoughts and new ambitions. The attractions of town life were very great to the freedman; his few holidays and stolen pleasures in the past had centered there, and thus the picture of congregated life in town represented to him a long-cherished ideal of liberty, while the prospect of life on the old plantation, pursuing the same dull round of toil, had little attraction. To some extent laborers were induced to remain on farms by offers of higher wages and better houses; and thus frame cabins with board floors gradually replaced the worst of the slave quarters.

One impulse toward better housing in the country came from the new negro landowners. Immediately after emancipation the negroes began buying land, and in many instances the new peasant proprietor made efforts to improve the condition of his dwelling. He could not, of course, think of building a big house like that occupied by his former master, and, in default of any other models to follow, he naturally built a slave cabin with some improvements, such as putting a porch on the front, cutting one or two windows, and adding a lean-to at the back for a bedroom. If he went further than this in the number of rooms, or introduced new furniture, the chances are that he got his ideas from friends who lived in town. Many of the freed slaves who had migrated to town and found work as mechanics or laborers lived in frame houses of two, three, or four rooms. From these patterns the negroes learned, and two and three room houses appeared here and there in the country. In the course of time, then, some progress has been made. The dirt floor has practically disappeared, a large proportion of the log cabins have been replaced by frame houses, and glass windows have been introduced here and there. But, on the whole, the improvement is slow. The one-room cabin is still the typical farm home of the negro. Fully one-third of the negroes on farms live in dwellings of this character.

Of course this kind of dwelling has no peculiarly intimate connection with the negro nor with the South, being the primitive form of dwelling of all men and races; the cave dwellers, the French peasants, the American Indians, and the American pioneers all lived in one-room homes. Under certain conditions of life such houses may be fairly comfortable: given a man and wife, the necessity for economy of heat, an active outdoor life, and a scarcity of the finer sort of building material, there can be no better home than the old roomy log hut, with its great fireplace. But an increase in the number of inmates, a decrease in the size of the house, or a change in the manner of life can easily transform this kind of home into a veritable pesthouse. This has been exactly the history of the one-room negro cabin. In it large families of children grow to maturity, under unhealthy conditions and poor moral restraint at best.

The great obstacle to home-making among negroes is, of course, their own training and ideals. Their African

development was cut off suddenly by transportation to the United States; and their training under slavery was not such as to make the masses comprehend the meaning of the best type of family life. It is, therefore, peculiarly hopeful to note the improvement in housing which recent years have brought.

*The farm equipment.*—Naturally when the farmer is poorly housed the beast often is not housed at all, and proper storehouses for crops are usually wanting.

Farm tools and implements on farms operated by negroes are few in number, old fashioned, and very simple. The indispensable implement is the hoe, sup-

plemented by hand muscle; the one-mule plow is needed, but is not indispensable. Outside of these, negroes have very little machinery and few implements. Reapers and mowers are seldom found. There are a few cotton gins, but the utilization of steampower and the introduction of the automatic system of handling seed cotton have crowded most of the small gins out of business.

*Live stock on farms.*—The value of live stock on farms includes that of domestic animals, poultry, and bees. The values of these classes of live stock on farms of negroes in 1900, by geographic divisions, were as follows:

TABLE VI.—VALUE OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF LIVE STOCK ON FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS: 1900.

DIVISION.	Total number of farms.	ALL LIVE STOCK.		DOMESTIC ANIMALS.				POULTRY.				BEES.			
		Value.	Per cent of total value.	Farms reporting.		Value.		Farms reporting.		Value.		Farms reporting.		Value.	
				Number.	Per cent of all farms.	Total.	Average per farm reporting.	Number.	Per cent of all farms.	Total.	Average per farm reporting.	Number.	Per cent of all farms.	Total.	Average per farm reporting.
Continental U. S. . . . .	746, 715	\$84, 936, 215	100.0	690, 020	92.6	\$80, 855, 949	\$117.18	612, 942	82.1	\$3, 903, 250	\$6.37	28, 484	3.8	\$174, 730	\$6.13
North Atlantic . . . . .	1, 761	439, 250	0.5	1, 592	90.4	407, 298	255.84	1, 429	81.1	28, 968	20.27	54	8.1	703	13.02
South Atlantic . . . . .	287, 933	24, 052, 600	28.3	264, 613	91.9	22, 712, 251	85.83	242, 325	84.2	1, 280, 530	5.28	10, 762	3.7	59, 819	5.56
North Central . . . . .	12, 255	3, 025, 381	3.6	11, 597	94.6	2, 863, 635	246.93	10, 808	88.2	156, 440	14.47	577	4.7	5, 306	9.20
South Central . . . . .	444, 429	57, 294, 258	67.4	411, 899	92.7	54, 694, 830	132.79	358, 147	80.6	2, 431, 022	6.79	17, 078	3.8	108, 406	6.35
Western . . . . .	337	184, 726	0.2	319	94.7	177, 935	557.79	233	69.1	6, 295	27.02	13	3.9	496	38.15

In 1900 about nine-tenths of all farms operated by negroes in continental United States reported domestic animals, and about eight-tenths reported poultry. The South Central division reported about two-thirds of all capital invested in live stock. For each class of live stock the highest average value per farm is shown for the Western division, followed in order by the North Atlantic and North Central divisions, which are far above the averages for continental United States; the South Central, which is a little above; and the South Atlantic, which is considerably below.

The numbers of specified domestic animals on farms of negroes in continental United States in 1900, with the number of farms reporting each kind of animal, were as follows:

TABLE VII.—Domestic animals on farms of negro farmers in continental United States: 1900.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.	FARMS REPORTING.		NUMBER OF ANIMALS.	
	Number.	Per cent of all farms.	Total.	Average per farm reporting.
Neat cattle . . . . .	401, 151	53.7	1, 457, 608	3.6
Dairy cows . . . . .	341, 747	45.8	553, 101	1.6
Horses . . . . .	342, 382	45.9	570, 526	1.7
Mules . . . . .	347, 214	46.5	502, 367	1.4
Asses and burros . . . . .	807	0.1	1, 424	1.6
Sheep <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	5, 072	0.8	97, 550	17.2
Swine . . . . .	513, 130	68.7	2, 968, 074	5.8
Goats . . . . .	9, 055	1.2	62, 688	6.9

<sup>1</sup> Including lambs.

It is evident that on farms of negro farmers, swine are more common than any other domestic animals, being reported for more than two-thirds of the total number of such farms. Dairy cows were reported for

rather less than one-half of the farms, and the average number indicates that comparatively few of the farms reporting could have had more than two dairy cows, the majority probably having only one. The figures for mules and horses are about the same as those for dairy cows. Only a very small number of farms reported other domestic animals.

There is an understatement of the number of negro farms reporting mules and horses, due to the fact that mules and horses on many farms operated by negro tenants were owned by the proprietor of the land, and were reported by him on his own farm. Moreover, since the proprietor was in almost all cases a white man this reduced the number of these animals credited to the farms of negroes.

The following table presents by geographic divisions the per cent of farms reporting the specified kinds of domestic animals with the average number per farm and the per cent of the total number in each division:

TABLE VIII.—Per cent of the farms of negro farmers reporting specified domestic animals, with the average number of animals per farm and the per cent of the total number in each geographic division: 1900.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF FARMS REPORTING.							
	Neat cattle.	Dairy cows.	Horses.	Mules.	Asses and burros.	Sheep. <sup>1</sup>	Swine.	Goats.
Continental U. S. . . . .	53.7	45.8	45.9	46.5	0.1	0.8	68.7	1.2
North Atlantic . . . . .	60.5	55.8	33.5	3.9	0.1	3.9	59.8	0.1
South Atlantic . . . . .	54.1	42.0	35.7	39.9	(2)	0.7	71.1	1.3
North Central . . . . .	62.4	59.0	33.1	24.0	0.3	4.2	68.2	1.1
South Central . . . . .	53.2	47.8	51.2	51.6	0.2	0.7	67.2	1.1
Western . . . . .	59.3	52.2	92.6	8.9	1.8	5.9	42.7	2.1

<sup>1</sup> Including lambs.

<sup>2</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

## NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES.

TABLE VIII.—Per cent of the farms of negro farmers reporting specified domestic animals, with the average number of animals per farm and the per cent of the total number in each geographic division: 1900—Continued.

## AVERAGE NUMBER PER FARM REPORTING.

DIVISION.	Neat cattle.	Dairy cows.	Horses.	Mules.	Asses and burros.	Sheep. <sup>1</sup>	Swine.	Goats.
Continental U. S. ....	3.6	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.6	17.2	5.8	6.9
North Atlantic ...	6.2	3.9	2.3	2.0	1.0	34.4	4.5	7.0
South Atlantic ...	2.8	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.6	13.4	4.5	5.6
North Central ...	5.9	2.1	3.0	2.1	2.1	30.8	10.8	5.5
South Central ...	4.1	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.6	16.8	6.5	7.9
Western .....	24.7	4.3	5.9	5.1	2.8	36.7	13.0	13.7

## PER CENT OF TOTAL NUMBER.

DIVISION.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Continental U. S. ....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Atlantic ...	0.5	0.7	0.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	0.1	2.4	0.2	( <sup>2</sup> )
South Atlantic ...	29.5	30.2	23.5	29.0	12.8	26.1	31.0	34.3
North Central ...	3.1	2.7	5.3	1.3	6.3	16.4	3.0	1.1
South Central ...	66.6	66.3	70.3	69.7	79.6	54.4	65.7	64.4
Western .....	0.3	0.1	0.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	1.2	0.7	0.1	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Including lambs.<sup>2</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The proportion of the farms operated by negroes reporting dairy cows and the proportion reporting neat cattle varied, for the several divisions, only from two-fifths to three-fifths. The farms reporting neat cattle, but not reporting dairy cows, were comparatively few, and probably represent, in the main, live stock farms. The average number of all neat cattle, per farm reporting, was much greater than the average number of dairy cows, the contrast being especially marked in the Western division, which showed a very high average for all neat cattle.

In the North and West a large proportion—more than four-fifths—of the farms operated by negroes reported horses, while but few farms reported mules; in the Southern divisions, where the mule is the chief beast

of burden, the proportion of farms reporting horses was much smaller, and was exceeded—though but slightly—by the proportion reporting mules. The average number of horses, per farm reporting, slightly exceeded that of mules in every division except the South Atlantic, where there was no difference; but it is very possible that this fact reflects not so much the more extensive use of the horse as the superior endurance of the mule, making it possible for a smaller number to do the same work.

Swine were reported in 1900 by over two-thirds of all farms in the South. The North Central division also shows a high percentage. The figures for the other divisions are slightly lower.

For every kind of domestic animal the Western division shows the highest average per farm reporting, while the lowest average is in most cases that shown for the South Atlantic.

The South reported more than nine-tenths of the total number of each kind of domestic animal except sheep, of which it reported four-fifths; approximately, two-thirds or more of each kind reported by any considerable number of farms are found in the South Central division, and somewhat less than one-third in the South Atlantic.

The absence of common pasture greatly decreases the amount of stock on farms operated by negroes. The tenants hire little pasture land and put all available soil into cultivation. For some years stock was allowed to roam by the roadside, but "fence laws" in many counties have in recent years held the owners of such stock liable for damage done to unfenced crops, and the custom has declined.

*Value of farm products.*—The statistics of value of products of 1899 on farms operated by negroes in continental United States, by geographic divisions, were as follows:

TABLE IX.—VALUE OF PRODUCTS OF 1899 ON FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS.

DIVISION.	VALUE OF PRODUCTS.		Per cent not fed, to value of farm property.	AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM.		AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE.		AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE OF IMPROVED LAND.	
	Total.	Not fed to live stock.		Total.	Not fed to live stock.	Total.	Not fed to live stock.	Total.	Not fed to live stock.
Continental United States.....	\$255,750,435	\$229,906,992	46.0	\$342	\$308	\$6.69	\$6.01	\$10.95	\$9.84
North Atlantic .....	901,799	683,429	14.3	512	388	10.68	8.10	16.37	12.41
South Atlantic .....	87,413,897	79,095,096	48.6	304	275	5.61	5.08	9.85	8.91
North Central .....	5,442,806	4,238,808	17.2	444	346	6.92	5.39	9.62	7.49
South Central .....	161,784,899	145,718,128	47.5	364	328	7.45	6.71	11.68	10.52
Western .....	207,084	171,581	16.3	614	509	2.72	2.26	9.93	8.23

The average value of products per farm is considerably higher in the Northern divisions than in the Southern, and somewhat higher in the South Central division than in the South Atlantic. In this respect the rank of the several divisions corresponds precisely with their rank in respect to the average value of farm property shown in Table v.

It would perhaps be expected that the most valuable

farms would produce the highest value of farm products. But a comparison of the census figures by states fails to bring out any such relationship. If a comparison be made for the Southern states as regards these two factors it will be found, for instance, that the average value of the negro's farm is higher in Virginia than in Alabama, while the average value of his farm products is lower, and that Mississippi, which ranks second among



Southern states in the average value of products per farm, ranks eleventh in the average value of farm property. The principle that the greater the value of the products or gross income the greater the value of the farm may hold good of farms in the same locality, but apparently it does not apply to farms located in different states or sections, which represent, it may be, radical differences in crops, methods, and costs of farming and other conditions. Nor does the value of products constitute a reliable index of the economic condition of the farmer. It represents only the gross income, out of which come rent, if the farmer is a tenant, and the expenses of operating the farm.

The productivity of farms of negroes as measured by the average value of products per acre is highest in the North Atlantic division; the South Central division ranks next to the North Atlantic in this respect and shows averages considerably higher than those for the South Atlantic.

On farms in the South a small percentage of return in products may sometimes be a distinct sign of prosperity; the land owned by negroes is usually the less fertile, worn-out tracts, and in such cases it is possible that a negro farmer puts a large part of his effort into restoring the soil and making permanent improvements in buildings, fences, etc. The result would be smaller and less valuable crops but a better and more valuable farm which would in time yield better returns than the tenant farm, where the object is to get the largest present crop.

So, too, in the North this relatively low "per cent not fed to value of farm property" probably reflects the fact that a considerable part of the higher farm values in that region represents permanent improvements, which yield a small but continuous return. In general it will be found that this percentage shows a tendency to decrease as the average value of farm property increases.<sup>1</sup>

*Farms classified by value of products.*—In the following table the farms operated by negroes in continental United States and in the main geographic divisions are classified by the value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock:

TABLE X.—Farms of negro farmers classified according to gross income, or value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock.

CLASS OF FARMS.	NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	West- ern division.
All farms.....	746,715	1,761	287,933	12,255	444,429	387
Farms reporting a gross income of—						
\$0 .....	10,879	12	2,420	138	7,792	17
\$1 and under \$50 .....	50,794	95	27,170	792	22,709	28
\$50 and under \$100 .....	73,015	213	33,329	1,544	32,398	31
\$100 and under \$250 .....	247,477	593	102,225	4,169	140,394	91
\$250 and under \$500 .....	254,490	432	87,552	3,199	103,233	74
\$500 and under \$1,000 .....	95,505	270	26,498	1,690	66,936	51
\$1,000 and under \$2,500 .....	14,220	127	3,538	653	9,867	35
\$2,500 and over.....	835	14	201	70	540	10

<sup>1</sup> See Table 60, giving figures by states.

TABLE X.—Farms of negro farmers classified according to gross income, or value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock—Continued.

PER CENT WHICH NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS FORMS OF TOTAL NUMBER.

CLASS OF FARMS.	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	West- ern division.
All farms .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms reporting a gross income of—						
\$0 .....	1.4	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.8	5.0
\$1 and under \$50 .....	6.8	5.4	9.4	6.5	5.1	8.3
\$50 and under \$100 .....	9.8	12.1	13.3	12.6	7.4	9.2
\$100 and under \$250 .....	33.1	34.0	35.5	34.0	31.6	27.0
\$250 and under \$500 .....	34.1	24.5	30.4	26.1	36.7	22.0
\$500 and under \$1,000 .....	12.8	15.3	9.2	13.8	15.1	15.1
\$1,000 and under \$2,500 .....	1.9	7.2	1.2	5.3	2.2	10.4
\$2,500 and over.....	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.1	3.0

On one-third of the farms operated by negroes the reported value of products not fed to live stock was between \$100 and \$250; on another third it was between \$250 and \$500. The majority of the farms composing the remaining third yielded less than \$100, but a considerable number—rather more than one-seventh of all farms—yielded over \$500. The return of farms without income covers accidents, crop failures, crop liens, and certain defects in the reports of the enumerators.

In every division—except the Western—more than half the farms were in the two groups reporting an income of between \$100 and \$500; but this concentration was most marked in the two Southern divisions, in each of which these groups included two-thirds of the total number of farms.

The most productive farms—those yielding over \$500—constituted a larger proportion of the total number in each of the Northern divisions and also in the Western division, than in either of the Southern; but the farms yielding incomes under \$100, while more numerous in proportion to the total number in the Northern divisions than in the South Central division, were most numerous in the South Atlantic division, where they constituted over one-fifth of all farms.

Comparing the two Southern divisions, we find that each of the four groups of farms yielding over \$250 was represented by a larger percentage in the South Central division than in the South Atlantic, and that the total number of farms in these groups makes up 54.3 per cent of all farms in the former division and 40.9 per cent in the latter.

*Crops.*—The acreage and production of the principal crops raised on farms of negro farmers in 1899 were as follows:

TABLE XI.—Acreage and production of specified crops on farms of negro farmers in continental United States: 1899.

CROP.	FARMS REPORT- ING.		ACRES.		QUANTITY PRODUCED.		
	Num- ber.	Per cent of all farms.	Total.	Average per farm.	Unit of measure.	Total.	Average per acre.
Cotton .....	568,180	75.8	9,623,801	17.0	Bales ...	3,707,881	0.4
Corn .....	678,885	90.2	7,055,684	10.5	Bushels...	99,612,692	14.1
Wheat .....	76,140	10.2	470,630	6.2	Bushels...	3,669,475	7.8
Hay and forage .....	232,918	31.2	312,118	1.3	Tons....	367,809	1.2
Oats.....	64,737	8.7	269,254	4.2	Bushels...	3,856,367	12.5
Tobacco.....	40,262	5.4	145,271	3.6	Pounds...	88,179,141	615.5
Sweet potatoes.....	244,620	32.8	135,118	0.5	Bushels...	3,969,524	67.4
Rice .....	22,041	3.0	48,334	2.2	Pounds...	23,367,482	478.5
Potatoes.....	70,797	9.5	85,744	0.5	Bushels...	2,440,275	68.3
Rye .....	2,111	0.3	7,570	3.6	Bushels...	56,827	7.5
Barley.....	302	( <sup>1</sup> )	3,063	10.1	Bushels...	58,610	19.1
Buckwheat.....	603	0.1	1,649	2.7	Bushels...	19,313	11.7

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

## NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES.

In this table the crops have been arranged in the order of their total acreage. If the order of the number of farms reporting were used, the rank of corn, sweet potatoes, and hay and forage would be higher.

Of all crops raised on farms operated by negroes cotton is the most important. In the history of the agricultural operations of negroes, however, tobacco in Virginia was the first crop; then came sugar and coffee in the West Indies, and rice in the Carolinas. Cotton became a leading crop in the thirties, when Whitney's cotton gin was introduced. The quantity raised on all farms increased from eight hundred million pounds in 1840 to a billion in 1850 and two billions in 1860. During the Civil War cotton planting was, of course, suspended. Immediately afterwards, however, it began again with renewed vigor, for the high price of this staple forced all the agricultural energies of the South into cotton culture, leading to an extensive use of land stimulants, and causing neglect of nearly all other crops—even food supplies for man and beast. At first, cottonseed and guano were used to some extent for fertilizers, then concentrated manufactured fertilizers.

*Farms classified by principal source of income.*—An interesting study is furnished by classifying farms according to the crop (if any) the value of which in 1899 constituted at least 40 per cent of the total value of products. All farms not deriving that proportion of their total income from any one crop are classified as "miscellaneous." Such figures must be carefully interpreted, however, or they will become misleading, for only the principal crop is considered, and the aggregate value of a given crop on farms on which it is a subsidiary product sometimes exceeds the aggregate value of the same crop on farms on which it forms 40 per cent of the total income; for example, the aggregate value of corn produced on cotton farms far exceeds that of corn on corn farms. On most of the cotton farms corn and potatoes also are raised, and mules and swine are kept. Tobacco, while the principal crop on but few farms, is a subsidiary crop of considerable importance on a great many.

The classification of farms operated by negroes in continental United States by principal source of income in 1899 is given by geographic divisions in the following table:

TABLE XII.—*Farms of negro farmers classified according to principal source of income in 1899.*

CLASS OF FARMS.	NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	746, 715	1, 761	287, 933	12, 255	444, 429	337
Farms reporting as principal source of income—						
Cotton .....	526, 225	.....	166, 146	126	359, 953	.....
Miscellaneous products .....	92, 844	508	55, 117	2, 520	34, 641	58
Hay and grain .....	51, 170	243	25, 562	4, 389	20, 892	84
Live stock .....	30, 922	487	18, 000	3, 845	13, 536	104
Tobacco .....	19, 454	13	14, 565	129	4, 747	.....
Vegetables .....	15, 526	287	9, 518	622	5, 068	31
Dairy produce .....	5, 142	201	947	353	3, 600	41
Fruit .....	2, 191	59	1, 293	255	598	16
Rice .....	2, 132	.....	1, 722	.....	410	.....
Sugar .....	1, 083	.....	57	16	1, 010	.....
Flowers and plants .....	19	10	5	.....	2	2
Nursery products .....	7	3	1	.....	2	1

TABLE XII.—*Farms of negro farmers classified according to principal source of income in 1899—Continued.*

CLASS OF FARMS.	PER CENT IN EACH CLASS.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms reporting as principal source of income—						
Cotton .....	70.5	.....	57.7	1.0	81.0	.....
Miscellaneous products .....	12.4	28.8	19.1	20.6	7.8	17.2
Hay and grain .....	6.9	13.8	8.9	35.8	4.7	24.9
Live stock .....	4.1	24.8	4.5	31.4	5.1	30.9
Tobacco .....	2.6	0.7	5.1	1.0	1.1	.....
Vegetables .....	2.1	16.3	3.3	5.1	1.1	9.2
Dairy produce .....	0.7	11.4	0.3	2.9	0.8	12.2
Fruit .....	0.3	3.4	0.5	2.1	0.1	4.7
Rice .....	0.3	.....	0.6	.....	0.1	.....
Sugar .....	0.1	.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.1	0.2	.....
Flowers and plants .....	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6	( <sup>1</sup> )	.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6
Nursery products .....	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.2	( <sup>1</sup> )	.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The several divisions differ greatly, of course, in the kind of principal crop reported. In the South Central division four-fifths of all farms are cotton farms. In the South Atlantic there is somewhat greater diversity, cotton farms forming a little less than three-fifths of the total; but even here there is no other single crop returned as the principal crop for one-tenth of all farms in the division. In the North Central states, hay and grain farms and live stock farms are of about equal importance, together constituting about two-thirds of the total. In the West there is considerable concentration on the same two classes, which form over half of the total. In the North Atlantic states the greatest diversity is found, the principal classes of farms being, in the order of their importance, miscellaneous, live stock, vegetable, hay and grain, and dairy farms. For continental United States, as a whole, the principal crop is usually cotton, the cotton farms constituting seven-tenths of all farms; next in rank are miscellaneous farms and then hay and grain farms, constituting respectively 12.4 per cent and 6.9 per cent of the total number.

As the presence of a large miscellaneous class implies the absence of specialization, it is of some interest to compare the several sections in this respect. The South Central division, which is preeminently the region of the cotton plantation, shows by far the smallest percentage of farms of this class. In the South Atlantic division the percentage is much higher, nearly equaling that in the North Central division and surpassing that in the Western. The highest percentage is that for the North Atlantic division. In the cotton belt the negro evidently devotes his energies chiefly to cotton. This is partly because of his long training in growing this staple, and because it is a profitable crop; and it is also partly because even when this crop is not as profitable as others, the crop-mortgage system under which the negro tenant works regards cotton alone as proper security, and the tenant must therefore plant it.

A comparison of the number of the farms operated by negroes in continental United States reporting specified crops in 1899 (Table XI), with the number reporting those crops as their principal source of income (Table XII),



shows that nearly all such farms reporting cotton reported it as their principal source of income, while it is evident that the other crops must have been subsidiary products on a large proportion of the farms reporting them.

The following table shows the per cent distribution, in respect to principal source of income, of the farms of negroes in the several Southern states, arranged in the order of the decreasing per cent of cotton farms:

TABLE XIII.—PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS BY PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF INCOME, FOR THE SOUTHERN STATES AND TERRITORIES.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	PER CENT OF THE FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS REPORTING AS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF INCOME—											
	Cotton.	Miscellaneous.	Hay and grain.	Live stock.	Tobacco.	Vegetables.	Dairy produce.	Fruit.	Rice.	Sugar.	Flowers and plants.	Nursery products.
Continental United States .....	70.5	12.4	6.9	4.1	2.6	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Mississippi .....	88.9	6.3	2.3	0.9	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.1	0.5	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		
Louisiana .....	87.9	3.9	3.1	1.3	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.7	1.6		
Georgia .....	86.7	6.4	3.6	1.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	( <sup>1</sup> )		( <sup>1</sup> )
Texas .....	85.8	7.5	3.2	2.2	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.9	0.3	0.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		
Alabama .....	85.7	7.4	2.5	2.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	1.4	0.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	
Arkansas .....	80.7	9.2	3.5	5.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.1	2.3	0.1				
South Carolina .....	78.1	11.9	5.0	1.3	0.5	1.8	0.1	0.1	1.2	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	
Indian Territory .....	51.0	5.0	25.8	15.8	0.1	1.5	0.5	0.2		0.1		
Tennessee .....	50.2	15.3	17.8	10.8	3.7	1.6	0.4	0.2				( <sup>1</sup> )
Oklahoma .....	45.0	21.4	18.7	9.5	0.1	3.0	1.6	0.6		0.1		
Florida .....	42.2	33.8	8.7	4.0	0.5	9.1	2.3	1.3	0.1	0.1		
North Carolina .....	39.7	27.0	18.1	14.0	10.7	2.1	0.2	0.7	0.3	( <sup>1</sup> )		
Virginia .....	1.2	42.2	18.1	14.0	16.0	7.6	0.3	0.6		( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	
Kentucky .....	0.1	20.5	23.2	20.8	30.1	3.9	0.5	0.9		( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	
Maryland .....		20.1	12.2	25.8	18.7	14.9	3.2	5.1				
Delaware .....		24.0	21.9	50.1		16.9	1.2	5.9				
West Virginia .....		36.7	29.4	28.4	0.4	2.2	0.9	2.0				
District of Columbia .....		11.7				64.7	5.9	5.9			11.8	

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The states in the above list form three rather distinct groups as regards the importance of the cotton farm. In the seven states at the head of the list more than three-fourths, or approximately from 80 to 90 per cent, of all farms cultivated by negroes report cotton as the principal crop. These states lie almost entirely within the cotton belt. Then come, in the above list, five states lying on the border of the cotton belt or partially within it. In these states from 40 to 50 per cent of the farms are devoted principally to cotton. Finally, at the foot of the list there are six states, including the District of Columbia, in which practically no cotton is grown; in these states most of the farms operated by negroes are either miscellaneous, hay and grain, live stock, or tobacco farms. The miscellaneous farm attains its greatest relative importance in Virginia and West Virginia, the live stock farms in Maryland and Delaware, and the tobacco farms in Kentucky. In Maryland and Delaware the vegetable farm is of considerable importance, while the few farms in the District of Columbia are mostly of this class.

*Expenditures for labor and fertilizers.*—The chief items of expense on negro farms are the purchase of seed and tools, the hiring of labor, the buying of fertilizers, and the repair of buildings. Of these the expenditures for labor and fertilizers are perhaps the only items which can be accurately calculated from year to year.

The following table shows the expenditures for labor and fertilizers in continental United States, by geographic divisions, in 1899:

TABLE XIV.—Expenditures for labor and fertilizers on farms of negro farmers: 1899.

DIVISION.	TOTAL.		AVERAGE PER FARM.		AVERAGE PER ACRE OF IMPROVED LAND.	
	Labor.	Fertilizers.	Labor.	Fertilizers.	Labor.	Fertilizers.
Continental U. S. . . . .	\$8,789,792	\$5,614,844	\$12	\$8	\$0.38	\$0.24
North Atlantic .....	86,094	28,125	49	16	1.56	0.51
South Atlantic .....	3,663,841	4,688,977	13	16	0.41	0.52
North Central .....	242,135	15,717	20	1	0.43	0.03
South Central .....	4,768,110	930,838	11	2	0.34	0.07
Western .....	29,612	1,187	88	4	1.42	0.06

On farms of negroes the expenditure for labor is small, because the average farm is just large enough for the labor of one family, needing outside help only in case of emergency.

The average expenditure for labor, both per farm and per acre of improved land, seems to depend upon the wages paid, the agricultural wealth of the section, and the class of farms. The North Atlantic division showed in 1900 the highest average value of property; and it also had a larger proportion of vegetable farms, and therefore of intensive farming, than any other division. Accordingly the average expenditure for labor was very high. In the Western division three-tenths of all negro farms were stock farms, having but little improved land in proportion to their total area, and devoting but little labor to the cultivation of crops; hence the high average expenditure per acre of improved land shown for this division is without much significance in comparison with other divisions. For

the other three divisions the averages per acre differed but slightly from those for continental United States.

The history of the treatment of the soil by both white and negro farmers in the South is simple. At first the plan followed was to wear out the soil by successive crops and then clear new land. This led to a southward and westward movement of land culture, in the path of which, from Virginia to Mississippi, lay a trail of worn-out, waste land. Such land was allowed to rest until the close of the Civil War, when commercial fertilizers were introduced to restore it.

A system of simple crop rotation has now been introduced here and there. Not much use is made of animal manures, as stock is not usually stalled. Although the expenditure for fertilizers is not a very good index of the amount of effort being made to restore the natural powers of the soil, the figures are of considerable value as showing the direction of much of this effort.

The average expenditures for fertilizers show very high figures for the Atlantic states and very low ones

for the Central and the Western. This may be due in part to a difference in the character of farming, but the principal explanation is probably to be found in the worn-out condition of the land in the East, referred to above.

*Geographic distribution.*—The differences in the conditions surrounding the negro farmer in the several geographic divisions described in the preceding sections of this chapter are virtually summarized in Table xv which shows, for each item, the per cent distribution of the total for continental United States by geographic divisions. This table makes it possible to determine whether, in any division, the proportion for a given item is greater or less than that division's proportion of the total number of negro farms. For example, the South Central division reported 59.5 per cent of all farms operated by negroes, and only 56.7 per cent of the total value of buildings on such farms; hence the negro's investment in buildings in the South Central division is relatively low.

TABLE XV.—PER CENT DISTRIBUTION, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS, OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS, TOTAL ACREAGE, TOTAL VALUES OF FARM PROPERTY AND PRODUCTS, AND TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR LABOR AND FERTILIZERS.

DIVISION.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION.										
	Total number of farms.	Acreage.		Value of farm property.					Value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock.	Expenditures: 1899.	
		Total.	Im-proved.	Total.	Land and im-provements (except build-ings).	Build-ings.	Imple-ments and ma-chinery.	Live stock.		Labor.	Fertili-zers.
Continental United States.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Atlantic.....	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.8	2.0	1.1	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5
South Atlantic.....	38.6	40.7	38.0	32.6	32.8	37.1	31.2	28.3	34.4	41.7	82.6
North Central.....	1.6	2.1	2.4	4.9	5.5	4.1	3.8	3.6	1.8	2.8	0.3
South Central.....	59.5	56.8	59.3	61.3	60.7	56.6	68.7	67.4	63.4	54.2	16.6
Western.....	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	(1)

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

#### THE NEGRO TENANT.

*Classification of farms by tenure.*—Conditions of farm tenure have much to do, of course, with farm methods in general. In the reports of the Twelfth Census six different varieties of tenure are distinguished and used as a basis for classification of farm statistics. They comprise farms operated by owners, by part owners, by owners and tenants, by managers, by cash tenants, and by share tenants. The terms here used may be defined as follows: "Owners" in the narrower sense of the term are those farmers owning all the land comprised in their farms; "part owners" are those owning a part of the land in their farms and renting a part; the term "owners and tenants" is used to designate farmers jointly cultivating the same farm, one owning the land, or a part of it, and the other or others owning no part, but receiving for supervision

or labor a share of the products; "managers" are persons employed by the owner to cultivate the farm in return for a fixed salary; "cash tenants" are farmers paying for the use of the land a cash rental or a fixed amount of labor or farm produce; "share tenants" pay as rental a stated share of the products.

The farms operated by owners, part owners, and owners and tenants may be regarded as constituting the owned farms, those operated by cash or share tenants constituting, of course, the rented farms. Of the 746,715 farms of negroes in continental United States in 1900, 187,797, or 25.2 per cent of the total, were owned farms, and 557,174, or 74.6 per cent, rented farms—the remainder, 1,744, or 0.2 per cent of the total, being operated by managers.

The following table shows the distribution, by tenure, of farms operated by negroes in each main geographic division:

TABLE XVI.—Farms of negro farmers classified according to tenure.

DIVISION.	NUMBER OF FARMS OPERATED BY—					
	All classes.	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.		
				All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States..	746,715	187,797	1,744	557,174	273,560	283,614
North Atlantic .....	1,761	1,150	67	544	304	240
South Atlantic .....	287,933	84,389	966	202,578	100,523	102,055
North Central .....	12,255	6,972	109	5,174	1,708	3,466
South Central .....	444,429	95,029	595	348,805	170,999	177,806
Western .....	337	257	7	73	26	47

DIVISION.	PER CENT OPERATED BY—					
	All classes.	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.		
				All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States..	100.0	25.2	0.2	74.6	36.6	38.0
North Atlantic .....	100.0	65.3	3.8	30.9	17.3	13.6
South Atlantic .....	100.0	29.3	0.3	70.4	34.9	35.5
North Central .....	100.0	56.9	0.9	42.2	13.9	28.3
South Central .....	100.0	21.4	0.1	78.5	38.5	40.0
Western .....	100.0	76.2	2.1	21.7	7.7	14.0

The percentages of rented farms in 1900 were relatively high in each of the two Southern divisions, and somewhat higher in the South Central than in the South Atlantic. Of the comparatively few negro farms in the Northern divisions the proportion rented was much smaller.

Clearly the central feature in the southern farm life of the negro race is the tenant class—those half-million black men who hire farms on various terms, and a large proportion of whom stand about midway between slavery and ownership.

*Conditions under slavery.*—Present conditions in the farm life of the southern negro can be understood only by bringing to mind the historic development. Before the war the southern plantation consisted of the owner, from 20 to 200 slaves, and several hundred acres of land. Directly under the master stood an overseer, who directed the work through several head slaves called “drivers.” The rank and file of slaves were divided into house servants, mechanics, and field hands. All over 12 years of age—men, women, and children—worked in some way, children and the old and disabled being given half tasks.

Cotton was the chief crop on these plantations; but rice was largely cultivated in South Carolina, sugar in Louisiana, and tobacco in the more northern states. Grain crops were of minor importance, and the quantities of hay, fruit, and vegetables raised were scarcely sufficient for home consumption.

One of the most striking features in connection with plantations such as these is their large area. Although exact figures are not available, there is evidence to show that they continually increased in size from 1820

to about 1855. As the old lands were gradually worn out, the demand for fresh soil shifted the region of large farms continuously south and west.

The earliest exact figures available are for the censuses of 1850 and 1860. The intervening decade witnessed the zenith of the plantation system and the beginning of its decline. The history of the country during this period is the history of the efforts of the landowners to maintain their economic advantage. The cotton market was favorable, the price rising and remaining high. The region of large farms tended farther and farther southward and westward, and as the worn-out farms of the border states were abandoned for farming purposes they were utilized as slave-breeding farms, in order to meet the increasing demand for slave labor in the cotton district; thus Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri became the seat of an internal slave trade of large dimensions. The average assessed value of slaves (one-third or one-half lower than the real value) rose from \$324 in 1840 to \$361 in 1850, and to \$505 in 1855.<sup>1</sup> The illicit foreign slave trade, thus encouraged, assumed larger dimensions toward 1860.

Between 1850 and 1860 the average size of the plantations in the cotton growing South increased from 427 to 431 acres; leaving out Texas, whose ranches in 1850 were not really farms, the increase was from 353 to 408 acres, or 15.7 per cent. But during the same period the average size in the border states, where the land had been worked out and the plantation system was being abandoned for slave breeding and for the beginnings of small farms, decreased from 282 to 258 acres.

Even more striking than the increase in the area of the large southern plantations was the concentration upon them of nearly all the slaves owned in the South. This is shown in the following statement:

*Proportions of slave owners and of slaves in the population of the South: 1850 and 1860.*

CENSUS YEAR.	PER CENT OWNERS FORM OF—		Percent slaves form of total population.	Average number of slaves per owner.
	Total population.	White population.		
1860 .....	3.2	5.1	34.5	11
1850 .....	3.7	5.8	34.7	9

These figures show that the slaves formed about one-third of the total population of that section, but that the owners of these slaves formed only between 5 and 6 per cent of the white population and between 3 and 4 per cent of the total population, the proportion being even lower in 1860 than in 1850.

*Effect of the Civil War.*—This economic system was

<sup>1</sup> Cotton Kingdom, Olmsted.

overthrown by the Civil War. The land wasted by the armies declined in value, a billion and a half of capital invested in slaves disappeared utterly, and the people were left poor and deeply in debt.

In nearly all the states the course of procedure after the war was the same. The old system of planting on a large scale was partially resumed with contract labor and borrowed capital; but the system soon broke down because of the refusal of the freedmen to work under the conditions offered. The result was a compromise between the landed and landless classes, bringing about a metayer or share tenant system.

*The share tenant system.*—This system showed many forms and variations. In South Carolina a scheme proposed by a negro laborer came into vogue as early as 1866. The laborer was to work for the landowner five days per week, and have a house, rations, 3 acres of land, a mule and plow every other Saturday to work the land, and \$16 in money at the end of the year. The payment of money was considered as representing the value of an extra half day per week, thus raising the laborer's proportion of the week to one and one-half days, or one-fourth; his compensation was therefore regarded as equivalent to his board and lodging and one-fourth of the product. This system proved very successful. The second year some of the laborers proposed to work only four days, feed themselves, and take double the land and mule work, without the money. The third year three-day hands came in, furnishing part of their own stock, and as there were others who paid the rent for a house and an acre of land by giving two days' work per week, there were often found on the same plantation various classes of hands working for the owner from two to six days per week.

The most common share system consisted in granting a freed family a piece of land, usually from 40 to 80 acres, and taking a share of the crop as rent. The share of the crop taken depended on what the laborer furnished. If he gave nothing but his labor and that of his family—implements, stock, and food being furnished—the landowner took two-thirds of the crop; if the laborer fed himself, the owner received half of the crop; if the laborer also furnished tools and mule, the owner received from one-fourth to one-third of the crop. The details of this arrangement of course varied according to locality, fertility, crop, and the character of the contracting parties; if the laborer was thrifty and lucky, the rental of the land was eventually fixed at so much cotton or money, and thus the renter, as distinguished from the metayer, appeared.

This system naturally resulted in the cutting up of the large plantations of the South. The almost continuous decrease in the size of farms may be seen from the following table:

TABLE XVII.—Average area in acres of all farms in the South: 1860 to 1900.

CENSUS YEAR.	All Southern states.	South Atlantic division.	South Central division.
1900 .....	138.2	108.4	155.4
1890 .....	139.7	133.6	144.0
1880 .....	153.4	157.4	150.6
1870 .....	214.2	241.1	194.4
1860 .....	335.4	352.8	321.3

The average area of farms for the South as a whole decreased from 335.4 acres in 1860 to 138.2 in 1900, or 58.8 per cent; the decrease was noticeably greater in the South Atlantic than in the South Central states.

To a considerable extent this change results from the fact that the large plantation, instead of being operated by the owner as one farm with the aid of slave or hired labor, has been leased in small areas to tenants, each such area constituting a separate farm according to the census definition of the term.

*The crop-lien system.*—Another result of the share system in the South was the rise of the crop-lien system of credit farming, the understanding of which is absolutely necessary to any intelligent study of the negro tenant farmer.<sup>1</sup>

Suppose that A is a landholder with 1,000 acres in one of the country districts of Georgia, B is a general merchant, and C is a negro with a wife and several half-grown children.

In slavery times the relations of such a group would have been as follows: A owned C and his family; he furnished them shelter, and gave them food and clothing at stated intervals. Such supplies as A did not have on hand he bought of B, usually on credit, paying at harvest time. At this time the business of B was largely wholesale, and he was located at some central point like New Orleans or Savannah.

Directly after emancipation the relations of the three chief factors changed as follows: A, who was almost or quite bankrupt, divided up his plantation and let C and his family work, say 80 acres, on shares. A furnished, as before, food, shelter, tools, stock, and perhaps even clothes; C was to work the land and receive from one-third to one-half of the net proceeds after the cost of the food and clothing advanced by A had been deducted. B, the merchant of whom A bought these supplies on credit, was no longer a wholesale dealer, but a merchant in a neighboring market town of 500 to 1,000 inhabitants, with a small cash capital and a large supply of general merchandise.

This system proved very unsatisfactory. The freedman usually found himself at the end of the season with no surplus or in debt. Moreover, under the lenient

<sup>1</sup> The following description is based on the report on the negro landowner of Georgia, Bulletin No. 35 United States Department of Labor.

laws for the collection of debts in force at that time, the merchant B was peculiarly liable, between master and man, to lose all. As the freedman was the actual producer of the crop, it was clearly to the interest of the merchant to treat directly with him, if only he could get some legal grip upon him and his work. On the other hand, the freedman, seeking to escape from a condition hardly better than the old slavery, turned eagerly from the master to the merchant. The ex-master was not unwilling to enter into any bargain that insured him a fair income from his land. In the rearrangements between 1870 and 1880, therefore, the economic situation became as follows:

A furnished land, shelter, and stock to C. The rent was either a specific part of the crop, a stated number of pounds of cotton per acre, or a fixed money rental. C bought his supplies of food, clothing, etc., directly from B on credit. B, under a set of laws which gradually grew up, secured himself by a mortgage, which constituted a second lien on C's growing crop, A's rent being the first lien. B now became a crossroads merchant who knew how to attract and hold his black customers.

An investigation of the crop-lien system made in connection with the census of 1880 showed that there was an increasing number of laborers seeking credit to enable them to do business on their own account as tenant farmers, and that the majority of such liens were given by this class, mostly for provisions, but to some extent also for fertilizers, mules, and farm implements.

The effect upon the freedman of this new crop-lien system depended on his character and upon attending circumstances. Thrifty negroes in the hands of well-disposed landowners and honest merchants early became independent landholders; shiftless, ignorant negroes in the power of unscrupulous landowners and merchants sank to a condition hardly better than slavery. The mass of negroes between these two extremes fared as chance and the weather permitted. A good season with good prices regularly freed a number from debt and made them landholders; a season poor either in weather or in prices resulted in ruin to many.

But it is without doubt true that as conditions were after the war the crop-lien system was the only door of opportunity opened to the freedmen, and that through this thousands have advanced from penury to land ownership.

*Present economic conditions.*—The situation of the farming population in the black belt to-day shows four well-defined economic classes representing different stages of advancement toward farm ownership.

There is the farm laborer who receives for his work, at the end of the year, certain fixed wages, varying from \$30 to \$60. Some receive also a house, perhaps with a garden spot, and have their supplies of food and

clothing advanced; in such cases the supplies must be paid for, with interest, out of the money wages. Another class of laborers are contract hands—i. e., laborers paid by the month or year and fed and supplied by the landowner. Such laborers receive from 35 to 40 cents per day during the working season; they are usually unmarried persons, many being women, and when they marry they become metayers, or, occasionally, renters.

The cropper is entirely without capital, even in the limited sense of food or money to keep him from seed-time to harvest; all he furnishes is labor, while the landowner furnishes house, land, stock, tools, and seed. At the end of the year the cropper gets a stipulated portion of the crop; out of his share, however, comes payment, with interest, for food and clothing advanced him during the year. Thus we have a laborer without capital and without wages, and an employer whose capital consists largely of food and other supplies advanced to laborers—an arrangement unsatisfactory to both parties, and in vogue usually on poor land with hard-pressed owners.

Above the cropper comes the metayer, or share tenant, who works the land on his own responsibility, paying rent in cotton and supported by the crop-lien system. The great mass of the negro population is found in this class. After the war this plan attracted the freedmen on account of its larger freedom and its possibilities for making a surplus. If the rent fixed was reasonable, this was an incentive to the tenant to strive; on the other hand, if the rent was too high or if the land deteriorated, the result was to discourage and check the efforts of the tenant.

The renter for fixed money rental belongs in the highest of the emerging classes. The sole advantages possessed by this class are their freedom to choose their crops and the increased responsibility which comes through having money transactions. While some of the renters differ little in condition from the metayers, yet on the whole they are a more intelligent and responsible class, and are the ones who eventually become landowners.

#### THE NEGRO FARM OWNER.

*Proportion of owned farms.*—Of the 746,715 farms operated by negroes in continental United States in 1900, 21 per cent were owned entirely, and an additional 4.2 per cent owned in part, by the farmers operating them; in other words, forty years after emancipation 25.2 per cent or about one-fourth of all negro farmers had become landholders.

Of the total negro and mixed farm families reported in 1890, 120,738, or 21.7 per cent owned their farms. In 1900 there were 187,799 farms owned by negroes, which was 25.2 per cent of all farms operated by

negroes. There were 190,111 private farm-owning negro families in 1900 and a somewhat larger number of farm-owning families of all sorts. Thus, while the number of negro farmers probably increased by about 36 or 38 per cent (see page 69), the number of negro owners increased over 57 per cent, and the percentage of ownership increased by 3.5. These percentages, although based on figures which are not entirely comparable, are sufficiently exact to measure approximately the advance toward farm ownership made by the negroes during the decade, 1890 to 1900.

In the following table the Southern states are arranged in the order of the decreasing per cent of owned farms:

TABLE XVIII.—Per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total number of farms of negro farmers in each Southern state: 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	PER CENT OPERATED BY—				
	Owners.	Man-agers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
West Virginia .....	72.0	1.1	26.9	9.1	17.8
Oklahoma .....	71.2	0.3	28.5	7.6	20.9
Virginia .....	59.2	0.5	40.3	15.4	24.9
Maryland .....	55.8	1.8	42.4	9.6	32.8
Indian Territory .....	55.4	0.3	44.3	7.1	37.2
Florida .....	48.4	0.7	50.9	40.7	17.2
Kentucky .....	48.0	0.6	51.4	7.0	44.4
Delaware .....	40.5	1.8	57.7	9.2	48.5
North Carolina .....	31.2	0.2	68.6	19.0	49.3
Texas .....	30.7	0.1	69.2	12.9	56.3
District of Columbia .....	29.4	11.8	58.8	58.8	—
Tennessee .....	27.8	0.2	72.0	32.2	39.8
Arkansas .....	25.4	0.2	74.4	33.7	40.7
South Carolina .....	22.2	0.2	77.6	49.7	27.9
Mississippi .....	16.3	0.1	83.6	44.5	39.1
Louisiana .....	16.1	0.1	83.8	36.5	47.3
Alabama .....	15.0	0.1	84.9	59.7	25.2
Georgia .....	13.7	0.3	86.0	41.9	44.1

This table exhibits a wide range in the percentage of ownership in different Southern states. In the states along the northern border of the South, including Virginia, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, and in Florida, the per cent of owned farms is comparatively high, varying from 40.5 in Delaware to 72 in West Virginia. In Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana the percentage is very low, ranging from 13.7 per cent in Georgia to 16.3 in Mississippi; in South Carolina the percentage is somewhat higher (22.2), but is still below the average for the country. These five states are in the heart of the South; they comprise the greater part of the black belt; in each of them negroes form between 45 and 60 per cent of the total population, and negro farmers between 35 and 60 per cent of all farmers; collectively they contain almost one-half (47.5 per cent) of the total negro population of the United States. In states where negroes are relatively less numerous the percentage of ownership is higher. This suggests the inference that where the negroes are massed, tenancy is the prevailing form of farm tenure; but it is not so clear that we have here a direct relation of cause and effect. These states are all cotton growing states. The massing of negroes, tenant farming, and cotton culture

appear to be correlated facts, the first resulting from the last and the second and the last acting as reciprocal cause and effect through the crop-lien system. In Florida, which has a percentage of negro population (43.7) almost as high as that of Georgia (46.7), the percentage of ownership among colored farmers is high (48.4), because of the greater ease of acquiring fertile land in a newly settled state. For the same reason, in Texas, where nine-tenths of the negro farmers make cotton their principal crop, the per cent of ownership (30.7), though not high, is above the average for the country.

If we add a list of the states with the actual number of negro owners in each we have:

Virginia, 26,566.	Tennessee, 9,426.
Mississippi, 21,973.	Louisiana, 9,378.
Texas, 20,139.	Florida, 6,552.
South Carolina, 18,970.	Kentucky, 5,402.
North Carolina, 17,520.	Maryland, 2,262.
Alabama, 14,110.	West Virginia, 534.
Arkansas, 11,941.	Delaware, 332.
Georgia, 11,375.	District of Columbia, 5.

Virginia leads, followed by Mississippi, Texas, and the Carolinas. In all these cases there are obvious reasons for the large number of owners: Virginia had developed slavery furthest and brought a larger body of negroes to a considerable degree of culture and civilization before 1861. It also bore the main brunt of war and the breaking up of estates gave the negroes a chance to buy. The Mississippi bottoms and the rising price of cotton are attracting negro owners, and Texas offers the chances of the free West. North Carolina had a thrifty free negro element, and Government lands were sold on favorable terms in South Carolina.

*Total acreage and value of owned farms.*—Census statistics of the acreage and value of farms of negro owners as distinguished from other colored owners are not available, because in the reports of the Twelfth Census the returns of the acreage of farms, the value of farm property and products, and the expenditure for labor and fertilizers were tabulated by tenure for farms of colored farmers, but not for farms of negroes alone. The term "colored," as used in the census, includes not only negroes, but Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Hawaiians. Negroes, however, constitute more than 97 per cent of all colored farmers in continental United States, and almost 99 per cent of all in the Southern states. Accordingly, in considering continental United States or the South as a whole the statistics relative to colored farmers may be accepted as representing practically negro farmers.

The total acreage and total value of farm property comprised in the farms owned by colored farmers are given in Table XIX, together with the total value of farm products and total expenditures for labor and fertilizers. This table gives also the distribution of those totals according to the subclasses of owned farms distinguished in the census classification.



TABLE XIX.—DISTRIBUTION, BY SUBCLASSES OF TENURE, OF THE NUMBER, ACREAGE, VALUE, ETC., OF THE FARMS OF NEGRO, INDIAN, AND MONGOLIAN OWNERS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES: 1900.

CLASS OF OWNERSHIP.	FARMS OF NEGRO OWNERS.		FARMS OF ALL NEGRO, INDIAN, AND MONGOLIAN OWNERS.												
	Number.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Number.		Acreage.			Value of farm property.		Value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock.		Expenditures for labor: 1899.		Expenditures for fertilizers: 1899.	
			Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Per cent improved.	Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.	Total.	Per cent of total for all owners.
All owners .....	187,797	100.0	206,517	100.0	15,976,098	100.0	42.2	\$179,796,639	100.0	\$57,422,983	100.0	\$2,624,595	100.0	\$1,197,180	100.0
Owners proper .....	156,370	83.3	174,484	84.4	13,621,733	85.3	40.5	150,557,251	83.7	47,428,553	82.6	2,095,485	79.9	964,760	80.6
Part owners .....	29,956	15.9	30,501	14.8	2,205,297	13.8	52.4	27,358,225	15.2	9,431,859	16.4	496,670	18.9	222,210	18.6
Owners and tenants .....	1,471	0.8	1,582	0.8	149,068	0.9	50.2	1,881,163	1.1	562,571	1.0	32,440	1.2	10,210	0.8

These figures show that in 1900 negro farmers who owned all of the land they cultivated, or "owners proper," formed 83.3 per cent of all negro owners, while part owners and owners and tenants formed 15.9 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively. For all colored farmers the percentage of owners proper was slightly larger, and that of part owners slightly smaller, than for negroes alone. It will be noticed that while the percentage of the total acreage held by colored part owners was slightly smaller than their percentage of the number of farms, their percentage of the value of farm property was slightly larger and their percentage of the value of products and of expenditures for labor and fertilizers considerably larger. This indicates that part owners as a class operate smaller but more valuable, productive, and highly cultivated farms than those who own all their land. The few farms of owners and tenants exhibit a similar superiority over the farms of owners proper as regards value of farm property and of products, and expenditures for labor.

The above table represents only the farms cultivated by negro or colored owners, taking no account of the land rented out by negro or colored owners, of which there is a considerable amount, for the custom of sub-renting is widespread.

*Owned and rented land in farms of owners.*—The total area in farms of colored owners in continental United States in 1900 was 15,976,098 acres, or 24,963 square miles. Not all of this land, however, was owned by the farmers cultivating it; in farms of part owners, some of it, as already explained, was rented from other persons as an addition to the owned land. This composite form of tenure, under which the farmer is both owner and tenant, is representative of a method of buying land prevalent among southern negroes. A man first buys 40 acres of land, paying for it in installments; after that is bought—or, more probably, while he is paying for it—he rents a neighboring plot of 40 acres which he conducts as part of his original farm. Thus he is a landowner, but only part owner of the farm

under his control. In 1900 there were 30,501 such farms in continental United States conducted by colored farmers, of whom 29,956 were negroes. These farms contained 2,205,297 acres, of which 1,193,413, or an average of 39.1 acres per farm, were owned, and 1,011,884, or an average of 33.2 acres per farm, were rented. In the Southern states there were 28,055 such farms, all of which were reported by negroes.

There is still a further complication of ownership in the case of the few farms conducted jointly by the owner of the land and a tenant who shares the product. In 1900 colored farmers conducted 1,582 such farms, with an area of 149,068 acres, or 94 acres per farm; of these farms, 1,471 were conducted by negroes. The land in such farms partakes of the nature of both owned and rented land (see page 78), but is appropriately classified as owned land in any statement designed to show the extent to which negroes are to be credited with the ownership of the land they cultivate. Observing these distinctions, we find that the total owned land of colored farmers in continental United States in 1900 amounted to 14,964,214 acres, or 23,382 square miles—an area nearly as large as Holland and Belgium—and constituted 35.8 per cent of all the land operated by colored farmers. The figures for continental United States and for the two Southern divisions are given in the following table:

TABLE XX.—Acres of owned and rented land in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian owners: 1900.

TENURE.	Continental United States.	South Atlantic division.	South Central division.
Total.....	15,976,098	4,427,439	8,981,245
Owned.....	14,964,214	4,095,720	8,477,013
In farms of owners proper.....	13,621,733	3,670,737	7,717,407
In farms of part owners and of owners and tenants.....	1,342,481	424,983	759,606
Rented.....	1,011,884	331,719	454,232

The per cent which the acreage owned forms of the total acreage in all farms of colored farmers is 35.8 for

continental United States, 26.2 for the South Atlantic states, and 36.9 for the South Central states.

*Value of farm property owned by negroes.*—The total value of the farm property in the three classes of farms operated by colored owners in the United States (including Hawaii) was \$181,116,048. "This sum includes the value of farms, live stock, and implements on farms owned and operated by Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Hawaiians, as well as by negroes. After making an allowance for such values, if an estimate of the probable total farm wealth of the negro farmers, June 1, 1900, be desired, the value of the live stock on rented farms, of which a large share generally belongs to the tenants, should be added. That value for the colored tenants was \$57,167,206. Adding this sum to the preceding total, it appears that the value, June 1, 1900, of the farm property belonging to negroes was approximately \$200,000,000, or a little less than \$300 for each negro farmer."<sup>1</sup>

This estimate, however, takes no account of property owned by negroes and rented out to either negroes or whites. In the state of Georgia, for instance, according to the tax returns the land held by colored owners in rural districts in 1900 comprised 1,075,073 acres, while according to the Twelfth Census the acreage of land owned by colored farmers was 871,776, or more than 200,000 less. A similar, though smaller, discrepancy appeared in Virginia. It is probable that most of this difference represents land sublet by negro owners to tenants, and accordingly reported in the census among the farms of tenants; therefore we are probably justified in adding 15 per cent to the above estimated value of property owned by negro farmers in continental United States, thus bringing the total up to \$230,000,000.

The value of the land in farms of all colored owners in continental United States in 1900—including the value of the supplementary land rented, which, if we assume it to be of the same average value as the rest, amounted to about \$7,500,000—was \$102,022,601. While some of the land is very good, most of it is poor, being often practically worn out or disadvantageously situated as regards a market.

Of the 206,517 farms of colored owners in continental United States in 1900, 201,106 had buildings, and the value of these was \$28,662,167. For farms which had buildings, the average value per farm was \$143. This would mean, in the South, a log or plank house of two or three rooms, and two or three outhouses of various kinds.

The value in 1900 of implements and machinery on these farms amounted to \$8,352,975. The negro's tools are few and old-fashioned, a plow and a hoe being the indispensables. However, the farms of negro owners are somewhat better equipped than those of tenants, having wagons and here and there a cotton gin, and perhaps a reaper, though that is rarer.

<sup>1</sup>Twelfth Census, Vol. V, page ex.

The value of live stock on these farms in 1900 was \$40,758,896. The proportion of this total reported by Indians is greater than their proportion of any other item of farm property, but the negroes own considerable live stock.

*Products and expenditures on owned farms.*—The gross value of products of 1899 on farms of colored owners in continental United States was \$67,132,380; on subtracting the value of products fed to live stock, we have a net value of \$57,422,983, or 31.9 per cent of the total value of farm property.

In 1899 colored farm owners expended for labor over \$2,500,000, or nearly \$13 per farm. At prevailing rates of wages this means the employment of a man, to hoe or pick cotton, or to plant and gather other crops, for about one month in the year. This indicates that the owned farm of the negro is primarily a tract suitable for cultivation by one family. This statement is partially modified, however, by the fact that considerable land is rented out by owners; moreover, it is probable that on the small farms very little labor is hired, the average being maintained by considerable hiring on the larger farms. It is noteworthy that among colored farmers more labor is hired, on the average, by colored tenants than by owners—probably because the farms of tenants, although smaller, have a larger average acreage of improved land than those of owners.

The expenditures for fertilizers on farms of colored owners in 1899 amounted to over a million dollars, thus averaging about \$6 per farm.

#### FARM STATISTICS BY TENURE.

*Farms of colored farmers classified by tenure.*—In comparing the value, acreage, etc., of the farms of the negro farmers in the different classes of tenure it is necessary, for reasons already explained, (see page 82) to make use of figures which include farms operated by Mongolian and Indian farmers. The relative importance of the negro farmers as compared with the other colored farmers is shown for the several geographic divisions of the United States in the following table:

TABLE XXI.—Number and acreage of farms of negro, and of Indian and Mongolian farmers: 1900.

#### A.—NUMBER.

DIVISION.	Total number.	FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS.		FARMS OF INDIAN OR MONGOLIAN FARMERS.	
		Number.	Per cent of total number.	Number.	Per cent of total number.
Continental U. S.	767,764	746,715	97.3	21,049	2.7
North Atlantic.....	2,140	1,761	82.3	379	17.7
South Atlantic.....	288,871	287,933	99.7	938	0.3
North Central.....	16,900	12,255	72.5	4,645	27.5
South Central.....	451,799	444,429	98.4	7,370	1.6
Western.....	3,054	337	4.2	7,717	95.8

TABLE XXI.—Number and acreage of farms of negro, and of Indian and Mongolian farmers: 1900—Continued.

B.—ACREAGE.

DIVISION.	Total acreage.	FARMS OF NEGRO FARMERS.		FARMS OF INDIAN OR MONGOLIAN FARMERS.	
		Acreage.	Per cent of total acreage.	Acreage.	Per cent of total acreage.
Continental U. S.	41,766,023	38,233,920	91.5	3,532,103	8.5
North Atlantic.....	107,239	84,407	78.7	22,832	21.3
South Atlantic.....	15,637,265	15,573,561	99.6	63,704	0.4
North Central.....	2,211,388	787,071	35.6	1,424,267	64.4
South Central.....	22,974,781	21,712,876	94.5	1,261,905	5.5
Western.....	885,400	76,005	9.1	759,395	90.9

In the two Southern divisions the colored farmers consist almost entirely of negroes, the number of other colored farmers being so small that it is practically a negligible quantity; accordingly, for these two divisions generalizations in regard to the negroes may be based upon statistics for all colored. In the North Atlantic and North Central states, however, the proportion of other colored is a factor of importance, and in the Western states the number of negroes is small in comparison to the total number of colored. In so far, then, as it may be necessary to use the data for "colored," the discussion by geographic divisions and states will be confined to the South, where 95 per cent of the negro farmers are found, and where negro and colored are practically coextensive and identical; and the Northern and Western states will be taken into consideration only so far as they are represented in the totals for continental United States.

The distribution of farms by tenure has already been presented for the farms operated by negroes (see Table XVI), but since the statistics of acreage and value which follow, relate to all colored farmers it is desirable to have the distribution shown for this class also, although it differs but little from that shown for negro farmers alone. Accordingly, in Table XXII, the number of farms operated by colored farmers in each main class of tenure is given, together with the per cent which the number in each class forms of the total number in all classes. The comparison by geographic divisions in this table and in those which follow is confined to the South, but is presented for the minor as well as the main divisions of that section.

TABLE XXII.—Farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified according to tenure: 1900.

DIVISION.	NUMBER OF FARMS OPERATED BY—					
	All classes.	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.		
				All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental U. S. ....	767,764	206,517	1,824	559,423	274,663	284,760
South Atlantic division.....	238,871	85,116	970	202,785	100,597	102,188
Northern South Atlantic.....	52,254	30,699	368	21,187	7,607	13,580
Southern South Atlantic.....	236,617	54,417	602	181,598	92,990	88,608
South Central division.....	451,799	101,560	623	349,616	171,105	178,511
Eastern South Central.....	267,895	49,911	324	217,660	125,104	92,556
Western South Central.....	183,904	51,649	299	131,956	46,001	85,955

TABLE XXIII.—Farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified according to tenure: 1900—Continued.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OPERATED BY—					
	All classes.	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.		
				All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental U. S. ....	100.0	26.9	0.2	72.9	35.8	37.1
South Atlantic division.....	100.0	29.5	0.3	70.2	34.8	35.4
Northern South Atlantic.....	100.0	58.8	0.7	40.5	14.5	26.0
Southern South Atlantic.....	100.0	23.0	0.3	76.7	39.3	37.4
South Central division.....	100.0	22.5	0.1	77.4	37.9	39.5
Eastern South Central.....	100.0	18.6	0.1	81.3	46.7	34.6
Western South Central.....	100.0	28.1	0.2	71.7	25.0	46.7

A little more than one-fourth of all colored farmers in continental United States are owners, almost three-fourths are tenants, and a very small fraction are managers. A comparison of the figures for the South by minor divisions brings out the fact that in the Northern South Atlantic states the percentage of owners is exceptionally high (58.8), while in the Eastern South Central it is exceptionally low (18.6).

The tenant class of colored farmers in continental United States, is almost equally divided between cash tenants and share tenants, the former constituting a little more and the latter a little less than one-half of the total. This equality is the resultant, however, of counterbalancing inequalities in the different divisions; for in the Northern South Atlantic and Western South Central divisions share tenants predominate, constituting about two-thirds of all tenants, while in the Eastern South Central almost three-fifths of all tenants are cash tenants.

*Farm acreage by tenure.*—The per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total farm acreage is shown in the following table:

TABLE XXIII.—Per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total acreage and of the total improved acreage in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers: 1900.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE IN FARMS OF—					
	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.			
			All.	Cash.	Share.	
Continental United States.....	38.3	1.2	60.5	31.6	28.9	
South Atlantic division.....	28.3	1.3	70.4	36.0	34.4	
Northern South Atlantic.....	43.4	1.9	54.7	16.8	37.9	
Southern South Atlantic.....	25.2	1.1	73.7	40.0	33.7	
South Central division.....	38.9	1.0	60.1	32.3	27.8	
Eastern South Central.....	30.4	0.5	69.1	43.9	25.2	
Western South Central.....	49.2	1.6	49.2	13.1	31.1	

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL IMPROVED ACREAGE IN FARMS OF—					
	Owners.	Managers.	Tenants.			
			All.	Cash.	Share.	
Continental United States.....	27.8	0.6	71.6	35.7	35.9	
South Atlantic division.....	23.6	0.7	75.7	36.9	38.8	
Northern South Atlantic.....	44.6	1.8	53.6	14.6	39.0	
Southern South Atlantic.....	19.6	0.6	79.8	41.0	38.8	
South Central division.....	27.4	0.4	72.2	36.8	35.4	
Eastern South Central.....	20.9	0.3	78.8	43.2	30.6	
Western South Central.....	36.1	0.6	68.3	21.6	41.7	

Colored owners, while constituting, in 1900, 26.9 per cent of all colored farmers, cultivated 38.3 per cent of the total farm acreage under colored control, but only 27.8 per cent of the improved acreage. This means that their farms were considerably larger than those of tenants, although comprising but little more improved acreage. The contrast is most marked in the Western South Central states, where the owners, operating 28.1 per cent of all farms, had 49.2 per cent of the total acreage and 36.1 per cent of the improved acreage; in other words, in this division owners had not only a much larger total acreage in proportion to the number of their farms than tenants, but also a considerably larger improved acreage. In the Northern South Atlantic division, on the other hand, the owners' proportion of acreage, both total and improved, fell below their proportion of farms.

The following table gives the percentage which the improved acreage forms of the total acreage for each main class of tenure:

TABLE XXIV.—Per cent of the total acreage improved in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified by tenure: 1900.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE IMPROVED IN FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States .....	42.2	30.1	68.8	65.6	72.3
South Atlantic division .....	47.4	33.2	61.1	58.3	64.1
Northern South Atlantic .....	54.1	51.2	51.7	45.8	54.3
Southern South Atlantic .....	45.0	27.2	62.6	59.4	68.5
South Central division .....	44.0	26.8	74.8	70.9	79.2
Eastern South Central .....	44.7	42.8	74.0	71.1	78.9
Western South Central .....	43.5	21.0	76.2	70.4	79.5

Attention has just been called to the fact that owners, while operating larger farms than tenants, have hardly more improved acreage. It follows, of course, that they have less improved acreage in proportion to the size of their farms. The difference is shown in the above table, the per cent which, in continental United States, the improved land forms of the total acreage being 42.2 for farms of owners and 68.8 for farms of tenants. A similar difference prevails in each of the main and minor geographic divisions of the South, except the Northern South Atlantic, in which the per cent of the total acreage improved on farms of owners slightly exceeds that on farms of tenants. This division, it will be remembered, is exceptional also in showing smaller farms for owners than for tenants. In general, the small farm is more fully improved than the large.

Of the two classes of tenants, cash tenants, operating larger farms than share tenants, have the lower per cent of improved acreage, so that, as regards the percentage of improved land, tenants rank above owners and share tenants above cash tenants. A reason for

this difference is stated in the following extract from the Report on Agriculture:<sup>1</sup>

The very high per cent of improved land in the tenant farms of the South arises from the fact that land in that section is leased mainly for raising crops. Originally, great areas of land in the South were held in large plantations and operated by slave labor. After emancipation that form of labor was superseded by some form of contract leasehold, by which the former slaves or wage laborers were given charge of small tracts of improved land, upon which they were to raise crops. The tracts thus leased included only the improved land of the old plantations, while the land retained by the plantation owners was mostly unimproved. This explains the exceptionally high per cent of improved land in farms of tenants and the correspondingly low per cent in those of owners and managers. The same general relation between the lands of owners and tenants exists in all parts of the country. A large proportion of tenant farms are but parts of larger farms once operated by their owners, who, with advancing years, lease the larger portion of their cultivable land to tenants, retaining the woodland and partially improved lands as their own farms.

In many sections of the South the small renter takes nothing but actually cultivated land. His rent, whether in money or kind, is generally, and over large areas invariably, per acre. Consequently it is to his interest to rent not one barren or idle acre, and the result is that large numbers of rented tracts are 100 per cent improved. Generally speaking, it is only the owners or renters of large bodies of land who have any considerable woodland or other land unimproved. Under the share system the interests of the landlord as well as the tenant demand that every acre rented be productive land. This probably explains the fact that the per cent of improved acreage is higher for share than for cash tenants.

Table xxv gives the average total and the average improved acreage per farm for each main class of tenure:

TABLE XXV.—Average total and improved acreage in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified by tenure: 1900.

DIVISION.	AVERAGE TOTAL ACREAGE FOR FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States .....	77	278	45	48	42
South Atlantic division .....	52	207	54	56	53
Northern South Atlantic .....	38	137	70	60	75
Southern South Atlantic .....	60	250	52	56	49
South Central division .....	88	365	40	43	36
Eastern South Central .....	77	186	40	44	34
Western South Central .....	99	559	39	41	37

DIVISION.	AVERAGE IMPROVED ACREAGE FOR FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States .....	33	84	31	32	31
South Atlantic division .....	25	69	33	33	34
Northern South Atlantic .....	21	70	36	27	41
Southern South Atlantic .....	27	68	33	33	33
South Central division .....	39	98	30	31	28
Eastern South Central .....	34	80	30	32	27
Western South Central .....	43	117	29	29	30

<sup>1</sup> Twelfth Census, Vol. V, page lxxxii.

The averages in the above table express in another way, and more precisely, the differences in the size of farms in different classes of tenure, already indicated by the comparison between the distribution of the number of farms and the distribution of farm acreage. In continental United States the average size of farms of owners is 77 acres, while that of tenants is only 45 acres; but the average numbers of acres improved are 33 and 31, respectively, or hardly more on farms of owners than on those of tenants. In the Northern South Atlantic states the tenant farms are exceptionally large and the owned farms exceptionally small, the result being that in this division the tenant's farm has not only a larger total acreage, but also a larger improved acreage, than the owner's. The exceptional character of this division as regards the tenure of farms is noted in other connections. It is due to several causes: This section of the country is the oldest seat of negro settlement in America; the slaves here were sifted, the least intelligent and the vicious being sold south and the house servant class retained; proximity to northern markets and a considerable city population make market gardening possible; all this has led the more intelligent to buy land and go into small farming with miscellaneous crops. On the other hand, tenant farming in this region only pays when entered into on a larger scale than that of the owned market garden, and at the same time there is no great staple crop like cotton to form the basis of a crop-lien system and lead to tenancy rather than ownership. The Western South Central states represent the other extreme, owners' farms being very much larger than those of tenants. It is probable that in this division the live stock farms, of which there are a considerable number operated by colored farmers, bring up the average for owners without greatly affecting that for tenants. Then, too, the greater ease of buying land in the West is a factor of importance. The exceptionally large size of the few managers' farms is noticeable in each division.

*Value of farm property by tenure.*—The per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total value of farm property is shown in the following table:

TABLE XXVI.—Per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total value of property in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers: 1900.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY IN FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mann-agers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States.....	32.9	1.8	65.3	32.6	32.7
South Atlantic division.....	28.8	2.0	69.2	32.8	36.4
Northern South Atlantic.....	47.2	4.7	48.1	15.1	33.0
Southern South Atlantic.....	23.7	1.3	75.0	87.7	37.3
South Central division.....	30.3	1.3	68.4	34.8	33.6
Eastern South Central.....	22.7	0.9	70.4	45.8	30.6
Western South Central.....	38.8	1.7	69.5	22.6	36.9

From this table it appears that owners' farms, which constitute 26.9 per cent of the total number of farms and comprise 38.3 per cent of the total acreage (Tables XXI and XXII), represent 32.9 per cent of the total value of farm property. This means that these farms are both larger and more valuable than the farms of tenants although the difference in value is not as great as the difference in size. Or, one might say, the tenant has a more valuable farm in proportion to its acreage than the owner, which would only be another way of repeating the fact that 57.8 per cent of the total acreage in owners' farms is unimproved land, while in tenants' farms the unimproved portion is only 31.2 per cent of the total. The Northern South Atlantic division, it will be remembered, is exceptional in showing a higher per cent of improved acreage for owners than for tenants, and in this division only does the owners' proportion of the total farm property exceed their proportion of the total acreage.

The per cent which the value of each class of farm property forms of the total farm value is shown in the following table:

TABLE XXVII.—Per cent which the value of each specified class of farm property forms of the total value of farm property in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers classified by tenure: 1900.

DIVISION AND CLASS.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.			
	Land and Improvements (except buildings).	Build-ings.	Imple-ments and ma-chinery.	Live stock.
Continental United States:				
Farms of—				
Owners.....	56.7	15.9	4.7	22.7
Managers.....	61.4	16.8	2.8	19.0
Tenants.....	67.8	12.8	3.4	16.0
Cash.....	66.3	12.2	3.8	17.7
Share.....	69.2	13.4	3.1	14.3
Northern South Atlantic division:				
Farms of—				
Owners.....	52.9	25.7	4.7	16.7
Managers.....	65.7	24.1	2.9	7.3
Tenants.....	65.6	19.6	3.2	11.6
Cash.....	68.7	17.4	3.2	10.7
Share.....	64.3	20.5	3.2	12.0
Southern South Atlantic division:				
Farms of—				
Owners.....	60.0	18.6	4.6	16.8
Managers.....	68.3	20.2	3.3	8.2
Tenants.....	68.9	13.3	3.2	14.6
Cash.....	67.3	12.9	3.7	16.1
Share.....	70.6	13.7	2.7	13.0
Eastern South Central division:				
Farms of—				
Owners.....	56.7	16.8	4.9	21.6
Managers.....	68.0	17.6	3.3	11.1
Tenants.....	65.2	12.5	3.8	18.5
Cash.....	63.7	12.1	4.0	20.2
Share.....	67.6	13.2	3.3	16.0
Western South Central division:				
Farms of—				
Owners.....	55.3	13.7	4.5	26.5
Managers.....	42.8	8.2	1.9	47.1
Tenants.....	67.5	12.4	3.4	16.7
Cash.....	64.8	12.4	3.7	19.1
Share.....	69.2	12.3	3.8	15.2

From this analysis it is evident that buildings, imple-ments, and live stock represent larger percentages of the total value of property in owned farms than in tenant farms. This holds true for each of the minor

divisions of the South, as well as for continental United States. It follows that the percentage of the total farm value represented by land alone is smaller for owners than for tenants. The differences are shown in the above table. The owner's farm, however, is on the average a more valuable farm, so that the land, while constituting a smaller part of the total value of farm property, may nevertheless represent a greater value than the land on the tenant's farm. That this is to some extent the case is evident from the following table, which presents the average values of different classes of farm property:

TABLE XXVIII.—Average values per farm of specified classes of property in farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers, classified by tenure: 1900.

DIVISION AND CLASS.	AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.				
	Total.	Land and improvements (except buildings).	Buildings.	Implements and machinery.	Live stock.
Continental United States:					
Farms of—					
Owners.....	\$871	\$494	\$139	\$41	\$197
Managers.....	5,360	3,294	899	150	1,017
Tenants.....	638	432	82	22	102
Cash.....	649	431	79	24	115
Share.....	628	434	85	19	90
Northern South Atlantic division:					
Farms of—					
Owners.....	542	287	139	25	91
Managers.....	4,510	2,963	1,087	131	329
Tenants.....	801	525	157	26	93
Cash.....	698	479	122	22	75
Share.....	858	551	176	27	104
Southern South Atlantic division:					
Farms of—					
Owners.....	559	335	104	26	94
Managers.....	2,716	1,854	549	90	223
Tenants.....	528	365	70	17	77
Cash.....	519	349	67	19	84
Share.....	539	381	74	14	70
Eastern South Central division:					
Farms of—					
Owners.....	778	442	130	38	168
Managers.....	4,628	3,144	815	154	515
Tenants.....	601	392	75	23	111
Cash.....	627	399	76	25	127
Share.....	505	382	74	19	90
Western South Central division:					
Farms of—					
Owners.....	1,152	637	158	52	305
Managers.....	8,637	3,714	714	164	4,095
Tenants.....	633	408	85	24	116
Cash.....	755	489	93	28	145
Share.....	660	457	81	22	100

In continental United States and in each of the minor Southern divisions except the Northern South Atlantic, the owner's farm is more valuable than the tenant's, the difference being especially marked in the Western South Central states. But in the Northern South Atlantic division the total farm value and also the separate values of land, buildings, and live stock are higher for tenants than for owners. In the Southern South Atlantic states, while the value of land is higher on tenant farms, the values of the other items, as well as the total farm value, are somewhat lower. In each of the two South Central divisions, not only the total value of the farm, but also the value of each class of farm property, is higher on owners' farms than on those of tenants. The farms of managers show, in every divi-

sion and for each class of property, a much higher value than those of either owners or tenants.

*Value of farm products by tenure.*—The following table gives the per cent which the value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock for each class of farms by tenure formed of the total value for all farms:

TABLE XXIX.—Per cent distribution, by tenure, of the total value of the farm products not fed to live stock, for farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers: 1899.

DIVISION.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE COMPRISED IN FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States.....	24.1	0.7	75.2	38.1	37.1
South Atlantic division.....	24.0	0.7	75.3	35.7	39.6
Northern South Atlantic.....	49.3	1.9	48.8	14.3	34.5
Southern South Atlantic.....	20.0	0.6	79.4	39.0	40.4
South Central division.....	22.4	0.6	77.0	40.2	36.8
Eastern South Central.....	17.6	0.3	82.1	49.5	32.6
Western South Central.....	29.2	1.1	69.7	26.9	42.8

For continental United States the owners' proportion of the total value of products not fed to live stock (24.1 per cent) is not as large as their proportion of the total value of farm property (32.9 per cent), indicating that their farms are less productive in proportion to the value of the farm property than the farms of tenants. In the Northern South Atlantic, however, the difference is the other way, the tenants' farms representing a slightly larger proportion of the total value of products not fed than of the total value of farm property. The per cent which the value of products not fed forms of the total value of farm property is given for each class of tenure in the following table:

TABLE XXX.—Per cent which the value of the products not fed to live stock forms of the value of farm property, for farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers, classified by tenure: 1899.

DIVISION.	PER CENT WHICH THE VALUE OF THE PRODUCTS NOT FED TO LIVE STOCK FORMS OF THE VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY FOR FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States.....	31.9	17.6	50.2	50.9	49.4
South Atlantic division.....	40.3	17.6	52.8	52.8	52.9
Northern South Atlantic.....	31.6	12.1	30.7	28.7	31.6
Southern South Atlantic.....	45.1	23.2	56.8	55.4	58.1
South Central division.....	34.0	22.0	51.7	52.9	50.4
Eastern South Central.....	39.5	15.0	54.7	55.1	54.3
Western South Central.....	30.5	26.1	47.3	48.1	46.8

It appears from this table that the products raised on farms of tenants are equivalent, in value, to one-half (50.2 per cent) of the value of such farms; on farms of owners the products are equivalent to less than one-third (31.9 per cent) of the farm value. These percentages confirm the inference already made with



reference to comparative productiveness of tenants' and owners' farms, as measured by the ratio of value of products to value of property. The greatest difference between owner and tenant is in the general methods of farming; the owner seeks more to preserve the native powers of the soil, and consequently does not raise as large crops by wasteful and forcing methods; his crops are more diversified, and he cultivates more articles for home consumption; more of his capital is put into permanent improvements and less into seed, fertilizers, and hired labor.

The average values per farm and per acre of products of 1899 not fed to live stock are presented in the following table:

TABLE XXXI.—Average values, per farm and per acre, of the products not fed to live stock for farms of negro, Indian, and Mongolian farmers: 1899.

DIVISION.	AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM FOR FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States.....	\$278	\$945	\$320	\$331	\$311
South Atlantic division .....	223	598	295	281	308
Northern South Atlantic .....	171	547	246	200	271
Southern South Atlantic .....	252	680	300	288	313
South Central division .....	330	1,449	328	350	308
Eastern South Central .....	307	694	329	345	307
Western South Central.....	351	2,267	328	363	309

DIVISION.	AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE FOR FARMS OF—				
	Own-ers.	Mana-gers.	Tenants.		
			All.	Cash.	Share.
Continental United States.....	\$3.59	\$3.40	\$7.09	\$6.87	\$7.32
South Atlantic division.....	4.29	2.89	5.43	5.04	5.84
Northern South Atlantic .....	4.49	4.00	3.53	3.36	3.60
Southern South Atlantic .....	4.21	2.51	5.72	5.18	6.36
South Central division .....	3.75	3.97	8.31	8.07	8.59
Eastern South Central .....	4.00	3.72	8.21	7.79	8.93
Western South Central .....	3.56	4.06	8.49	8.90	8.25

The average production per farm is higher for tenants than for owners in each minor geographic division except the Western South Central, in which, it will be remembered, the farms of owners represent a much greater average value of property than the farms of tenants (Table xxviii). The average value of products per farm for share tenants is higher than that for cash tenants in the two South Atlantic divisions, but lower in the two South Central divisions. The averages per acre are affected to a considerable extent by the proportion of acreage improved. A farm in which most of the land is improved will naturally produce more per acre than one in which the proportion of improved land is smaller. It is not surprising, then, to find that in the South Central divisions, where about 75 per cent of the tenants' acreage is improved and only about 45 per cent of the owners' (Table xxiv), the average value of

products per acre is more than twice as high for tenants as for owners. In the Southern South Atlantic division a similar, though less marked, contrast exists, but in the Northern South Atlantic division both the per cent of improved acreage and the average value of products per acre are lower for tenants than for owners.

*General conclusions.*—Several things are noticeable in regard to tenure: First, the percentage of tenancy in most of the Southern states and especially in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi is high; second, those states with a relatively large percentage of owners—Texas, Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, and West Virginia—have in nearly all cases fewer cash tenants, or renters, than share tenants, or metayers, showing that it is as easy to pass directly from share tenancy to ownership as to stop at the intermediate stage. The District of Columbia and Florida are exceptions to this rule because of market gardening of the District and the peculiar crops of Florida. On the other hand, where the percentage of ownership is small, the tendency often is for the cash renters to outnumber the metayers and thus secure the differential advantages by assuming the greater risk. This is shown by the figures for Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina, where the renters exceed the metayers, and the same tendency is manifest, though less marked, in Georgia, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. North Carolina stands between the owning and tenant states.

In all these divisions there are certain points brought out by comparing the renters and metayers. The metayers usually excel in the value per acre of their produce, not counting that fed to live stock. This means that the metayer's chief object is to get a large crop, and that this crop often represents a forcing of the natural productiveness of the soil and a neglect of stock raising. Consequently, as we should expect, the renters in most cases have more stock. In the centers of negro population the renter also has better tools to work with. On the other hand, the metayer is apt to have a better home. At first sight this seems illogical, but it most probably means that the strain of a rising social class, as the renters are, falls often on home comforts. They economize here, living in the old one-room cabin, and eating and dressing meagerly until they can buy land. The metayer, on the other hand, may have his home repaired at the owner's expense, or, having no intention of buying land, may not deny himself many available comforts. Certain differences, too, are manifest between the East and West—i. e., between the North and South Atlantic states on the one hand and the North and South Central states on the other. In the West the land of the renter is the more valuable. In the East that of the metayers is the more valuable, although this is not wholly true in the North Atlantic states. At any rate, taking into account all the farm property, the renter is noticeably the richer in the West, and the metayer, in the North. Both these

phenomena are, of course, explained by the richer and more abundant land of the Mississippi valley.

THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGRO IN AGRICULTURE.

An attempt has been made in the foregoing study to treat the negro farmers as a group without comparing them directly with the whites. This is necessary if one would gain an intelligent picture of the development of the freedmen's sons and not be misled by inapt comparison. Nevertheless the great and patent fact is that this group of negroes is not developing by itself, but is surrounded by a large and rich nation of whites. What

are the relations of the black to the enviroing white group? Their relations are of three kinds: They stand as laborer to employer, as tenant to landlord, and as coproducers of the wealth of the land. The first of these three relations has been touched on but casually in this discussion; the second has been treated at considerable length. Let us now consider the third.

*Proportion of the total farm acreage and total farm values in farms operated by negroes.*—Some light upon this question may be derived from the following table showing what percentages of the total number of farms, total farm acreage and farm values, and total expenditures for labor and fertilizers, are comprised in farms operated by negroes.

TABLE XXXII.—PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL FARMS, TOTAL ACREAGE, AND TOTAL SPECIFIED VALUES AND EXPENDITURES COMPRISED IN FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES: 1900.

DIVISION AND STATE OR TERRITORY.	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FOR ALL FARMS COMPRISED IN FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES.											
	Number of farms.	Acreage.	Improved acreage.	Value of farm property.				Value of products: 1899.	Value of products of 1899 not fed to live stock.	Expenditure for labor: 1899.	Expenditure for fertilizers: 1899.	
				Total.	Land and improvements (except build-ings).	Build-ings.	Imple-ments and ma-chinery.					Live stock.
Continental United States.....	13.0	4.6	5.6	2.4	2.7	2.2	2.8	3.3	5.4	6.1	2.5	10.5
South Atlantic division.....	29.9	14.9	19.3	11.2	11.9	8.7	11.1	12.4	18.8	19.6	9.9	20.4
Delaware.....	8.4	4.9	4.6	3.4	3.7	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7	2.5	3.6
Maryland.....	12.7	7.2	6.8	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	2.7	4.5
District of Columbia.....	6.3	3.6	4.0	2.6	2.8	1.0	7.2	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.1	2.3
Virginia.....	26.7	11.2	11.1	7.6	7.2	7.7	9.4	8.6	11.4	11.6	5.5	11.2
West Virginia.....	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
North Carolina.....	24.0	12.7	17.3	12.2	13.3	9.4	10.4	12.2	16.5	16.9	9.1	18.5
South Carolina.....	55.0	27.1	39.4	28.6	30.2	21.3	24.0	32.0	38.9	39.4	19.8	33.5
Georgia.....	36.9	20.7	31.3	21.3	23.5	15.2	17.2	21.8	28.7	29.0	6.2	7.3
Florida.....	33.1	18.4	27.8	12.0	12.0	11.4	15.1	12.0	20.1	19.7	9.1	9.6
South Central division.....	26.8	8.4	17.3	10.9	12.3	12.4	10.0	10.6	18.2	19.1	9.6	13.9
Kentucky.....	4.8	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.8	3.0	1.7	1.7
Tennessee.....	15.1	7.6	10.1	7.8	8.4	5.8	8.3	8.0	10.4	11.0	5.2	4.4
Alabama.....	42.1	22.8	35.4	26.1	29.0	17.8	22.2	27.1	32.5	33.1	27.7	20.9
Mississippi.....	58.1	32.3	49.3	42.3	47.9	31.3	34.5	38.6	50.7	52.3	34.1	22.9
Louisiana.....	50.1	21.2	33.7	19.1	22.5	16.7	5.0	23.5	28.9	29.0	6.2	7.3
Arkansas.....	26.3	13.8	19.8	18.8	21.6	14.0	14.2	16.2	22.6	24.3	17.3	15.1
Indian Territory.....	9.0	5.0	5.8	4.8	5.7	5.9	5.3	8.6	5.4	5.4	3.3	.....
Oklahoma.....	3.6	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.6	0.7	.....
Texas.....	18.6	3.0	12.4	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.2	3.9	10.2	10.3	4.9	.....
North Atlantic division.....	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
North Central division.....	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Western division.....	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.7	1.5	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

The negro farmer conducts 13 per cent or about one-eighth of the farms in continental United States, and controls 4.6 per cent of the total farm acreage, 5.6 per cent of the improved acreage, and 2.4 per cent of the farm property. He raises 5.4 per cent of the total farm products measured by value and 6.1 per cent of the farm products not fed to live stock. These figures are small, but that is because the country is so large and rich.

In the North Atlantic division the negro farmer is a negligible quantity, cultivating only three-tenths of 1 per cent of all the farms in that division. In the North Central states he is a somewhat larger figure, but holds only six-tenths of 1 per cent of the farms. In the Western states the proportion falls to one-tenth of 1 per cent. If, however, we confine our comparison to the

South we find that the negro conducts considerably more than a fourth of the farms, a little more than a tenth of the total acreage, more than a sixth of the improved acreage, and about a ninth of the farm property; and that he raises more than a sixth of the gross products, according to value, and almost a fifth of the products not fed to live stock. These statistics, of course, take no account of the negro's productivity as a farm laborer, but only as a farmer. It is noticeable that while the contribution of the negro farmer to the agricultural production of the South comes short of his proportion of the total number of farms, it fully equals his proportion of the improved acreage, and exceeds his proportion of the total farm acreage and farm property.

In the South Atlantic division negroes hold a little

more than two-sevenths of the farms, over one-seventh of the acreage, and one-ninth of the total farm property, and raise one-fifth of the farm products measured by value. They hire one-tenth of the farm labor measured in wages, and use over one-fifth of the fertilizers. In the South Central division they hold a smaller proportion of the total number of farms and of the total acreage, but their proportion of the total farm property and farm products is about the same as in the other division. They spend as much relatively for labor but less for fertilizers.

If we consider the figures by states we may get additional light. Over one-half the farms in Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina are conducted by negroes; between one-third and one-half in Alabama and Georgia; and between one-fourth and one-third in Virginia, Arkansas, and Florida. Mississippi has nearly one-third of its total farm acreage under negro farmers, and Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina have from one-fifth to one-third of their acreage. Of the total value of farm property negroes control two-fifths in Mississippi, more than one-fourth in Alabama and South Carolina, and about one-fifth in Louisiana and Georgia. Of farm products measured by value negroes raise more than one-half in Mississippi, two-fifths in South Carolina, and from one-fourth to one-third in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Arkansas. It is evident, then, that in a large section of the South, and notably in the Gulf states, agricultural industry is dependent to a very large degree upon the cooperation of the negro farmer, leaving out of account the services of the negro farm laborer.

*Proportion of classified farms operated by negroes.*—The following table shows the proportion of farms operated by negroes in each class of tenure:

TABLE XXXIII.—Per cent which farms operated by negroes form of the total number of farms in each class of tenure: 1900.

CLASS OF FARMS.	PER CENT OPERATED BY NEGROES.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	13.0	0.3	29.9	0.6	26.8	0.2
Farms of—						
Owners .....	5.0	0.2	14.7	0.4	10.8	0.1
Part owners .....	6.7	0.4	30.4	0.7	16.0	0.1
Owners and tenants .....	2.8	0.1	8.0	0.5	6.4	0.1
Managers .....	2.9	0.5	10.6	0.6	6.2	0.1
Cash tenants .....	36.3	0.5	58.2	0.8	59.8	0.1
Share tenants .....	22.3	0.3	40.4	0.9	34.2	0.2

As would be expected, the proportion of negroes is largest among tenant farmers; and it is interesting to note that it is larger among cash tenants than among share tenants. For each class of tenure the per cent of farms operated by negroes is naturally highest in the Southern divisions. For cash tenants it is slightly

higher in the South Central states than in the South Atlantic, but for all other classes the South Atlantic shows the higher proportion—a natural result of the fact that negro farmers are more numerous in that division in proportion to the white.

The position of the negro farmer will be better understood if we separate the farms according to size. The following table shows the percentage of the farms of specified area cultivated by negroes:

TABLE XXXIV.—Per cent which the farms operated by negroes form of the total number in each group of farms classified by area: 1900.

CLASS OF FARMS.	PER CENT OPERATED BY NEGROES.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms.....	13.0	0.3	29.9	0.6	26.8	0.2
Under 3 acres .....	10.6	0.6	46.0	1.3	20.2	0.2
3 and under 10 .....	22.4	0.8	50.2	2.0	37.8	0.2
10 and under 20 .....	29.4	0.6	46.6	2.1	44.6	0.1
20 and under 50 .....	27.3	0.4	45.6	1.3	43.6	0.1
50 and under 100 .....	9.8	0.2	25.0	0.4	21.0	0.1
100 and under 175 .....	4.7	0.1	15.8	0.2	10.7	0.2
175 and under 260 .....	3.4	0.1	11.1	0.2	7.7	0.1
260 and under 500 .....	2.3	0.1	7.7	0.1	5.8	0.1
500 and under 1,000 .....	2.0	0.1	6.1	0.1	3.6	0.1
1,000 and over .....	1.1	.....	3.9	0.1	1.4	0.1

Comparing the above percentages for the United States as a whole we may make three classes of farms: Of the large farms, containing 100 acres and above, the negro cultivates only a small proportion—from 1 to 5 per cent. Of the small market gardens and other farms under 3 acres, and of the middle-sized farms of from 50 to 100 acres, he cultivates about 10 per cent, which is less than his proper proportion. On the other hand, he cultivates a relatively large proportion—between 22 and 30 per cent—of the farms from 3 to 50 acres in extent.

In the South Atlantic states the negro cultivates nearly one-half of all farms under 50 acres; one-fourth of those from 50 to 100 acres, and a diminishing proportion of the farms above that size. The negro farmers constitute 30 per cent of all farmers in this division, and therefore have more than their proportion of the farms under 50 acres, but less than their proportion of the farms over 50 acres.

In the South Central states a little more than one-fourth of all farms are in the hands of negroes. The proportion is smaller—about one-fifth—for the garden-farm class, under 3 acres, and for the two-mule farms of 50 to 100 acres; but it is very much larger for farms between 3 and 50 acres. As in the South Atlantic division, the percentages diminish rapidly as the sizes of farms increase above 50 acres.

For each class of farms the per cent cultivated by negroes is higher in the South Atlantic states than in the South Central; but the difference is most marked for farms under 3 acres, of which the per cent cultivated

by negroes is 46 in the former division and only 20.2 in the latter.

Another comparison may be made by ascertaining what proportion of the farms in each class as determined by the principal source of income are cultivated by negroes. The following table gives the percentages:

TABLE XXXV.—Per cent which the farms operated by negroes form of the total number in each group of farms classified by principal source of income: 1900.

CLASS OF FARMS.	PER CENT OPERATED BY NEGROES.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	13.0	0.3	29.9	0.6	26.8	0.2
Farms reporting as principal source of income—						
Cotton .....	49.1		49.9	5.6	48.9	
Rice .....	37.3		74.6		14.1	
Tobacco .....	18.3	0.2	30.5	1.2	11.3	
Sugar .....	14.8		18.7	1.8	22.0	
Vegetables .....	10.0	0.7	31.7	1.8	22.8	0.3
Miscellaneous products .....	8.8	0.2	22.6	0.9	0.1	0.1
Hay and grain .....	3.9	0.3	17.5	0.5	9.3	0.1
Fruits .....	2.7	0.3	11.5	1.2	7.0	0.1
Live stock .....	2.0	0.3	9.6	0.4	5.0	0.2
Dairy produce .....	1.4	0.1	8.1	0.3	10.3	0.2
Flowers and plants .....	0.4	0.3	1.6		0.7	0.6
Nursery products .....	0.4	0.6	0.6		0.7	0.4

From this table it appears that the negro cultivates one-half of all the cotton farms, more than one-third of all the rice farms, rather less than one-fifth—or, to be more exact, two-elevenths—of the tobacco farms, and one-seventh of the sugar farms. Of all these farms he cultivates more than his due proportion, the negroes constituting, it will be remembered, hardly more than one-eighth of all the farmers in the United States. He also cultivates a considerable proportion of the miscellaneous and vegetable farms. In none of the remaining classes does his proportion come up to 4 per cent of the totals for the United States; but in the Southern states farms operated by negroes comprise a considerable percentage also of the hay and grain, fruit, live stock, and dairy farms.

In the North Atlantic states the farms of negroes in no instance form 1 per cent of all farms for any principal crop. They form the largest proportion in vegetable (0.7 per cent) and nursery farms (0.6 per cent). In the North Central states, 5.6 per cent of the few cotton farms were cultivated by negroes, and a little over 1 per cent of the vegetable (1.3 per cent), fruit (1.2 per cent), tobacco (1.2 per cent), and sugar farms (1.3 per cent). In the Western states the highest per cent, 0.6, is that shown for farms reporting flowers and plants as the principal source of income.

If we consider the farms of the country with reference to income, classifying them according to the value of products not fed to live stock, we find, as would be expected, that the negroes hold a very small proportion of the farms which yield the larger incomes, and

a rather large proportion of the less valuable farms. The percentages are as shown in the following table:

TABLE XXXVI.—Per cent which the farms operated by negroes form of the total number in each group of farms classified by gross income, or value of products not fed to live stock: 1900.

CLASS OF FARMS.	PER CENT OPERATED BY NEGROES.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All farms .....	13.0	0.3	29.9	0.6	26.8	0.2
Farms reporting a gross income of—						
\$0 .....	19.4	0.5	38.3	1.0	35.9	0.2
\$1 and under \$50 .....	30.3	0.7	55.3	2.4	37.0	0.3
\$50 and under \$100 .....	23.9	0.8	45.8	2.1	30.8	0.2
\$100 and under \$250 .....	19.9	0.5	34.8	1.3	29.8	0.2
\$250 and under \$500 .....	15.9	0.2	28.4	0.6	28.9	0.1
\$500 and under \$1,000 .....	6.9	0.2	16.9	0.3	20.9	0.1
\$1,000 and under \$2,500 .....	1.7	0.1	6.5	0.1	10.3	0.1
\$2,500 and over .....	0.5	0.1	2.1	0.1	3.3	(1)

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

It appears that negroes hold one-fifth of the farms reporting no income, somewhat less than one-third of those reporting an income under \$50, almost one-fourth of those reporting from \$50 to \$100, and one-fifth of those reporting from \$100 to \$250. The proportion for farms returned as having no income is unduly large because, as explained in the census report on agriculture, "some enumerators found great difficulty in securing what they deemed accurate crop reports from the negro tenants on large plantations. They obtained the names of the tenants and the number of acres operated by each, and then secured from the owner a statement of the aggregate crops raised by the several tenants, reporting all upon the schedule of the owner. They did not attempt to distribute the crops among the tenants, hence the schedules for the farms of these tenants show no crops and their farms appear in this report as farms without income."

*Proportion of farm animals and crops on farms operated by negroes.*—The proportion of the total number of farm animals found on farms of negroes is shown in the following table:

TABLE XXXVII.—Per cent which the number of specified domestic animals reported on farms operated by negroes forms of the total number reported on all farms.

KIND OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.	PER CENT ON FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
Neat cattle .....	2.2	0.1	9.7	0.1	5.4	0.1
Dairy cows .....	3.2	0.1	12.1	0.2	12.6	0.1
Other cows .....	1.3	0.1	7.1	0.1	2.1	0.1
All other neat cattle .....	1.9	0.1	9.1	0.1	4.9	0.1
Horses .....	3.2	0.2	12.7	0.3	11.8	0.1
Mules .....	15.4	0.3	26.2	0.8	19.6	0.1
Asses and burros .....	1.6	0.1	8.0	0.5	2.8	0.1
Sheep and lambs .....	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.1	(1)
Swine .....	4.7	0.2	16.5	0.2	15.0	0.1
Goats .....	3.4	0.2	10.5	0.6	4.3	(1)

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The highest percentages in this table are those for the mule. Of the total number of farm mules in the United States about one-sixth, or more accurately two-thirteenths, are found on farms of negroes; in the South Atlantic states the proportion is one-fourth and in the South Central one-fifth. The table indicates that the pig, the dairy cow, and the horse are the animals ranking next to the mule in the extent to which they are found on farms of negroes. A comparison with the percentages given in Table xxxii, shows that in neither Southern division is the negro's proportion of the total number of any kind of domestic animal equal to his proportion of the total number of farms; but compared with his total farm acreage and farm wealth, he has more mules, swine, dairy cows, and horses than the white farmer in the South Central states, and more mules and swine in the South Atlantic. Reference has already been made to the probability that in the census returns many mules and horses used on farms of negro tenants were credited to the farm of the landlord who was the owner of these animals.<sup>1</sup>

The negro farmers produce almost two-fifths of all the cotton raised in continental United States, more than one-fifth of the sweet potatoes, and about one-tenth of the tobacco and the rice. These are crops which are mainly or entirely confined to the South, the two Southern divisions producing all the rice grown in continental United States and all the cotton, with the exception of a comparatively small quantity grown in Missouri and Kansas. Of the sweet potatoes, 87.2 per cent are produced in the Southern divisions, and of the tobacco, 84.2 per cent. Accordingly, for these crops the proportion of the total production of continental United States grown on farms operated by negroes corresponds

closely to the proportion of the production of the Southern states grown on their farms.

Of the other crops the proportion grown by negroes is very small, being less than 1 per cent for all except corn, for which their proportion is 3.7 per cent. If the comparison be restricted to the Southern states the percentages are naturally somewhat larger, the negro farmers raising 14.7 per cent of all the corn grown in the two Southern divisions and 8.6 per cent of all the potatoes.

The following table shows the proportion of the principal crops grown on farms of negroes:

TABLE XXXVIII.—Per cent of the total quantity of the specified crops raised on farms operated by negroes in 1899.

CROP.	PER CENT OF TOTAL CROP RAISED ON FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES.			
	Continental United States.	South Atlantic and South Central divisions.	South Atlantic division.	South Central division.
Corn .....	3.7	14.7	17.0	18.9
Wheat .....	0.6	2.9	5.1	1.8
Oats .....	0.4	4.3	9.5	2.7
Barley .....	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.6	1.3	1.7
Rye .....	0.2	2.4	2.8	1.5
Buckwheat .....	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.4
Rice .....	9.3	9.3	22.5	4.3
Hay <sup>2</sup> .....	0.5	3.7	5.1	3.1
Potatoes .....	0.9	8.6	9.0	9.1
Sweet potatoes .....	21.1	24.0	23.3	24.9
Cotton .....	38.9	39.0	38.6	39.2
Tobacco .....	10.2	13.1	20.4	7.1

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.  
<sup>2</sup> Hay and forage exclusive of cornstalks.

*Comparison of averages for white and for negro farmers.*—A comparison between the negro and white farmer may be presented by means of averages. The following table gives the average size and value of farms and the average value of products and of expenditures for labor and fertilizers:

TABLE XXXIX.—AVERAGE ACREAGE PER FARM FOR FARMS OF WHITE AND OF NEGRO FARMERS, AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY AND FARM PRODUCTS, AND AVERAGE EXPENDITURES FOR LABOR AND FERTILIZERS: 1900.

AVERAGE.	CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.		NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.		SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.		NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION.		SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION.		WESTERN DIVISION.	
	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.
Average number of acres per farm:												
Total acreage.....	160.3	51.2	96.7	47.9	131.7	54.1	144.6	64.2	194.6	48.9	395.8	225.5
Improved acreage.....	78.5	31.3	57.5	31.3	55.3	30.8	101.7	46.2	54.5	31.2	114.5	61.9
Average value of farm property per farm:												
Total.....	\$4,016	\$669	\$4,361	\$2,712	\$1,917	\$566	\$5,263	\$2,008	\$2,065	\$690	\$7,221	\$3,177
Land and improvements (except buildings).....	2,567	434	2,221	1,513	1,178	369	3,598	1,463	1,208	443	4,746	2,133
Buildings.....	701	96	1,440	832	416	93	777	239	91	708	329	329
Implements and machinery.....	149	25	226	117	70	20	167	59	95	27	222	107
Live stock.....	599	114	474	250	253	84	721	247	437	129	1,545	548
Average value of products per farm:												
Total.....	900	342	985	512	561	304	1,080	444	599	364	1,415	614
Products not fed to live stock.....	709	308	731	388	481	275	820	346	510	328	1,214	509
Average value per acre of products not fed to live stock.....	4.41	6.01	7.56	8.10	3.66	5.08	5.67	5.39	2.62	6.71	3.06	2.26
Average expenditures per farm:												
For labor.....	71	12	105	49	13	37	66	20	37	11	236	88
For fertilizers.....	10	8	23	16	16	5	3	1	5	2	4	4

For all values in the above table, except the value per acre of products not fed to live stock, the contrast between the two races is much more marked in the

United States, as a whole, than it is in the two Southern divisions, simply because the inclusion of the Northern and Western divisions increases very materially—in many cases more than doubling—the averages for white

<sup>1</sup> See page 73.

farmers, without greatly affecting those for negro farmers, comparatively few of whom are found in those divisions. For each race the average values are in most instances somewhat higher in the South Central division than in the South Atlantic. Buildings form an exception to this statement, their average value being considerably lower in the South Central than in the South Atlantic for white farmers, and slightly lower for negro farmers. This may be due in some measure to climatic differences between the two sections.

The negro is preeminently the small farmer, cultivating 50 acres while the white farmer has 160. The contrast is greatest in the South Central states, where the inclusion of the large cattle ranches in the state of Texas increases the average acreage for white farmers without perceptibly affecting that for negroes. In some of the Northern and Western states the contrast in size between farms of negroes and of whites is not very great; and in a few instances—Vermont, the two Dakotas, and New Mexico—the negro operates a larger average acreage than the white man.<sup>1</sup> But there are only a handful of negro farmers in any of these states.

In most of the Southern states the farms of negroes have a much larger proportion of improved acreage than those of the whites, and accordingly the difference between the two races, indicated by the averages in Table xxxix, is less marked for the improved than for the total acreage. This perhaps is a natural result of the fact that the negro farms are small and that three-fourths of them are rented farms, while the proportion of rented farms for white farmers is less than one-third. The difference in the per cent of improved acreage is shown for the main geographic divisions and the Southern states in the following table:

TABLE XL.—Per cent of improved acreage in farms of white and of negro farmers: 1900.

DIVISION AND STATE OR TERRITORY.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.
Continental United States.....	49.0	61.1
South Atlantic division.....	42.0	57.0
Delaware.....	71.0	65.8
Maryland.....	68.3	63.8
District of Columbia.....	69.7	75.3
Virginia.....	50.7	50.5
West Virginia.....	51.6	55.5
North Carolina.....	34.7	49.7
South Carolina.....	34.4	60.0
Georgia.....	34.9	60.7
Florida.....	29.9	58.6
South Central division.....	28.0	63.8
Kentucky.....	62.2	76.3
Tennessee.....	49.0	66.9
Alabama.....	35.0	64.9
Mississippi.....	31.2	63.6
Louisiana.....	35.5	67.1
Arkansas.....	38.9	59.7
Indian Territory.....	41.8	49.0
Oklahoma.....	35.2	40.8
Texas.....	14.1	63.3
North Atlantic division.....	59.5	65.3
North Central division.....	70.3	71.9
Western division.....	28.9	27.4

<sup>1</sup>See Table 78.

In the average value of farms, as shown in Table xxxix, the contrast between the two races is more marked than in the average acreage, the white man's farm being six times as valuable as the negro's in the United States as a whole, and seldom less than twice as valuable in any individual state. In this comparison the negro farmer makes a nearer approach to equality with the white farmer in the North and West than in the South, the value of the white man's farm being about three and one-half times that of the negro's in the South Atlantic division, three times in the South Central, two and one-half times in the North Central, two and one-third times in the Western, and one and three-fifth times in the North Atlantic. But measured by the value of products the difference between the negro's farm and the white man's is less marked in the South than in the North, the average value per farm of products not fed to live stock being rather more than one and one-half times as great for white as for negro farmers in each of the two Southern divisions, but almost twice as great in the North Atlantic division and more than twice as great in the North Central and in the Western divisions.

The only item in Table xxxix which shows a higher average for negroes than for whites is the value per acre of products not fed to live stock. This exception is doubtless due in large measure to the fact that negroes have, as we have seen, much smaller farms with higher percentages of improved acreage. But even if the average be computed on the basis of the improved acreage alone, it is still somewhat larger for the negro than for the white farmer, notwithstanding the fact that this computation gives the white farmer the advantage resulting from crediting the improved acreage with the products of the unimproved. He gains more by this than the negro does, because his unimproved acreage is relatively greater. The results of the two computations are presented in the following table:

TABLE XLI.—Average value per acre of products not fed to live stock on farms operated by white and by negro farmers: 1900.

DIVISION.	AVERAGE FOR TOTAL ACREAGE.		AVERAGE FOR IMPROVED ACREAGE.	
	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.
South Atlantic.....	\$3.66	\$5.08	\$8.71	\$8.91
South Central.....	2.62	6.71	9.36	10.52

*Ratio of value of products to value of farm property.*—In proportion to their size, then, the farms of negroes are more productive than those of white men. They are also more productive in proportion to their value, as is shown by the following table giving for white and for negro farmers the percentage which the value of products not fed to live stock forms of the total value of farm property:



TABLE XLII.—Per cent which the value of products not fed to live stock forms of the total value of farm property on farms of white and of negro farmers in each geographic division: 1900.

DIVISION.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.
Continental United States.....	17.7	46.0
North Atlantic.....	16.8	14.3
South Atlantic.....	25.1	48.6
North Central.....	15.6	17.2
South Central.....	24.7	47.5
Western.....	16.8	16.8

The total value of products raised on farms of negroes in continental United States is equivalent to 46 per cent of the total value of the farm property; the corresponding per cent for white farmers is 17.7.

If we restrict the comparison to the Southern divisions the difference is not so marked; for negro farmers the value of products not fed to live stock approaches one-half the value of their farm property, while for white farmers it is only about one-fourth. The following table presents the percentages for each of the Southern states:

TABLE XLIII.—Per cent which the value of products not fed to live stock forms of the total value of farm property on farms of white and of negro farmers in each Southern state: 1900.

DIVISION AND STATE OR TERRITORY.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.	DIVISION AND STATE OR TERRITORY.	Farms of white farmers.	Farms of negro farmers.
South Atlantic division	25.1	48.6	South Central division	24.7	47.5
Northern South Atlantic.....	19.1	30.2	Eastern South Central.....	26.8	50.9
Delaware.....	18.1	19.6	Kentucky.....	21.5	27.7
Maryland.....	17.0	19.9	Tennessee.....	24.8	36.2
District of Columbia.....	7.4	5.7	Alabama.....	41.0	57.4
Virginia.....	21.7	35.0	Mississippi.....	36.7	54.9
West Virginia.....	17.9	20.1	Western South Central.....	23.2	43.2
Southern South Atlantic.....	33.5	53.6	Louisiana.....	29.2	50.5
North Carolina.....	32.0	47.1	Arkansas.....	34.0	46.9
South Carolina.....	34.6	56.0	Indian Territory.....	25.8	28.8
Georgia.....	36.2	55.8	Oklahoma.....	20.3	20.9
Florida.....	27.4	49.3	Texas.....	20.7	38.3

It will be found that the contrast between the two percentages is greatest in the states having a large negro population. They are most of them cotton growing states, in which the great majority of negro farmers are tenants, cultivating land owned by white landlords.

These percentages, however, are not to be accepted as a criterion of the relative profitableness of farming as carried on by the two races. It is true that the average values of products per acre presented in Table xxxix indicate that a given area of agricultural land located in the black belt of the South and farmed by negro tenants yields a greater value than an equal area cultivated by white farmers outside the black belt. This larger return to the negro farmer does not necessarily prove that he is a superior farmer to the white cultivator, any more than the larger return of the negro

tenant is evidence of his greater prosperity as compared with the negro owner. It shows rather different conditions of farming. First there come considerations as to the form in which the farmer gets his returns; some get it in marketable products, others in live stock, others in improved homes and social advantages. The white farmer gets fewer products, but more live stock, a better house and a more advantageously situated home; the negro farmer must raise goods easily sold, so as to turn over his small capital quickly. For these returns the white farmer invests principally his cash capital, land, and experience; the negro invests his labor, skill, and his capital as represented in his mule and seed. Thus each is investing his resources for such returns as they will bring and such as he values.

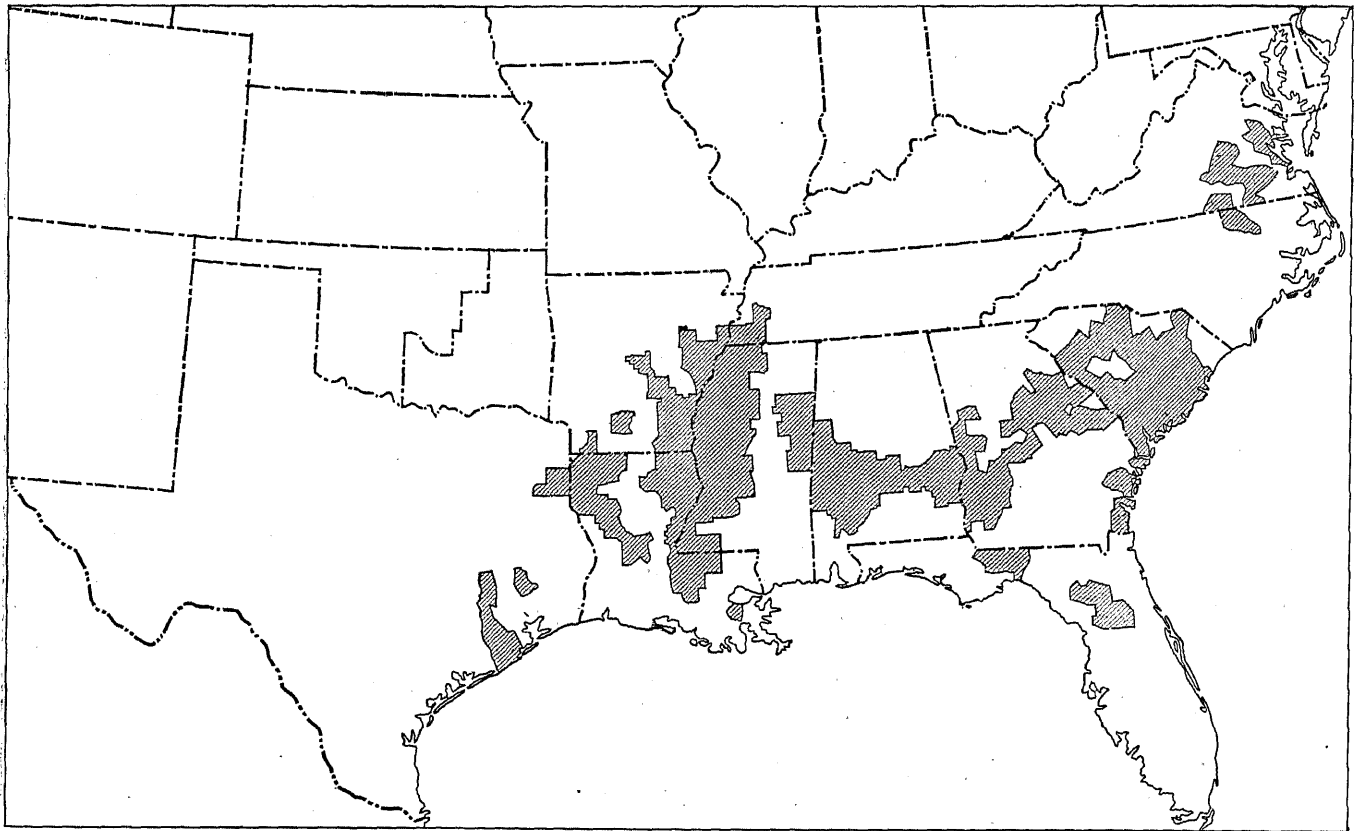
FARM OWNERSHIP AND THE FARMING BLACK BELT.

In another portion of this bulletin what is commonly termed the black belt has been described in the text and its geographic position defined and illustrated by means of maps. In this connection it will be appropriate to consider what may be termed the farming black belt, consisting of those county areas in which negro farmers constitute one-half or more than one-half of all farmers. This will differ from the population black belt principally in leaving out of account the influence of the urban population. Map 9 shows the farming black belt. With a view to determining what influence, if any, the massing of negroes may have upon the form of farm tenure, two other maps have been prepared, Map 10 showing, for the Southern states exclusive of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, those counties in which the farms owned by negroes form 50 per cent or more of all farms operated by negroes, and Map 11 showing for the same states those counties having 300 or more farms owned by negroes.

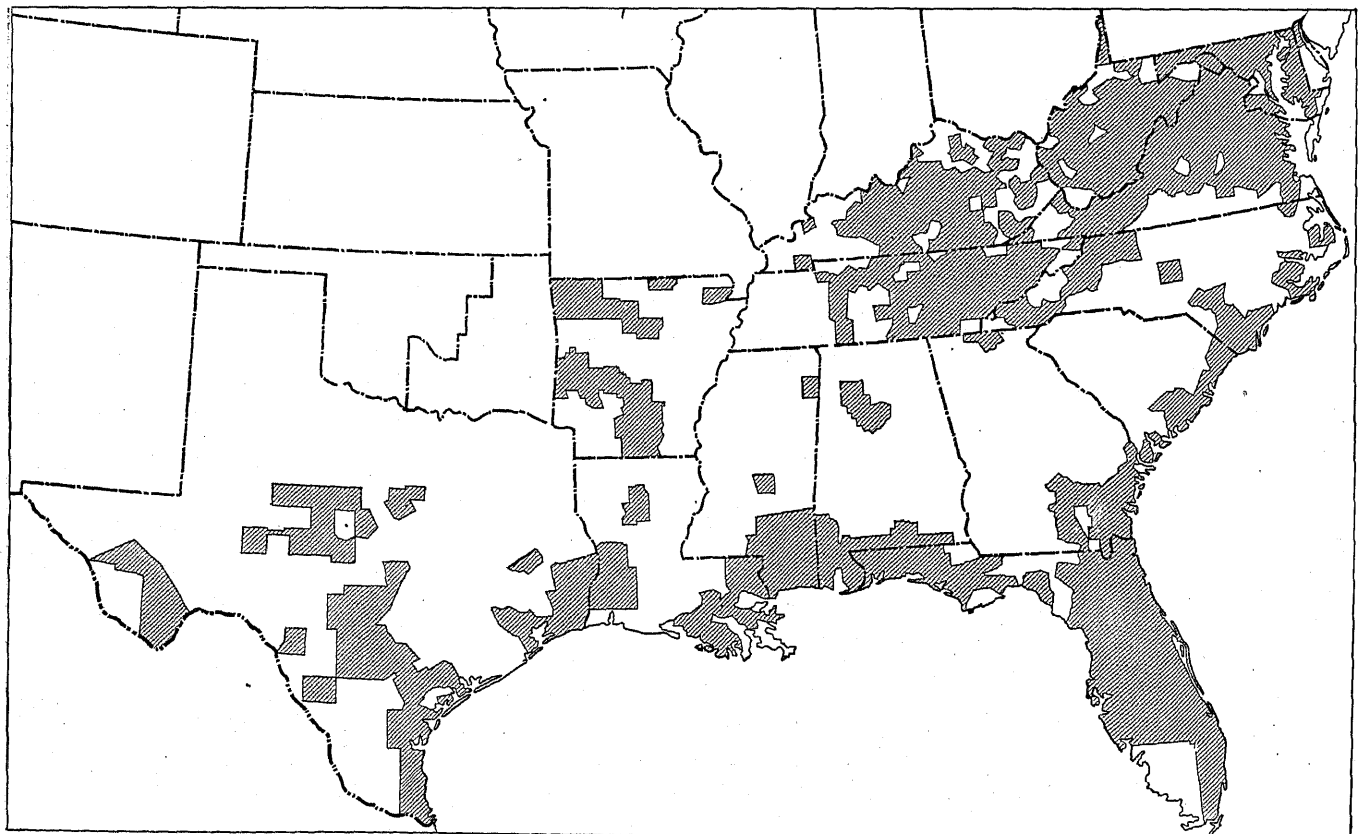
Considering these maps together, it will be noticed that the largest proportion of ownership is often outside the black belt while the larger number of owners is usually in that region. In Alabama, e. g., the farming black belt extends across the south central half of the state; here the proportion of negro to all farmers rises to 75 per cent or more in eleven counties. Here the relative number of owners among the black farmers is usually smaller than elsewhere in the state. The absolute number of negro owners is, however, largest in this belt, so that if we mark the counties with 300 or more negro owners we find that these counties are nearly all in the farming black belt. Mere numbers, of course, will not explain land ownership or the lack of it. In many counties where the proportion of ownership among negro farmers is large, the figures are of little significance as the number of negroes in those counties is very small. The real question is, what are the surrounding influences of the black farmer. In six of the black belt counties where the negro population is densest the illiteracy of the adult males reaches 66 per cent or

NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES.

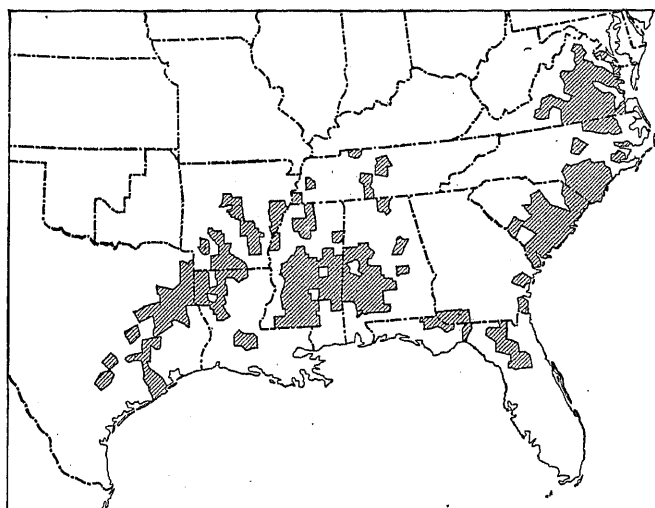
MAP 9.—SOUTHERN COUNTIES IN WHICH THE FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES IN 1900 CONSTITUTED AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF ALL FARMS.



MAP 10.—SOUTHERN COUNTIES IN WHICH FARMS OWNED AND OPERATED BY NEGROES IN 1900 CONSTITUTED AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF ALL FARMS OPERATED BY NEGROES.



MAP 11.—Southern counties in which there were at least 300 farms owned and operated by negroes in 1900.



more, and the past and present economic conditions are not favorable to the laborers. In other counties, both within and outside the black belt, where the number of negro owners is large, the direct influence of educational institutions is manifest, as in Talladega, Madison, Elmore, Macon, and Lowndes counties.

The farming black belt of Arkansas centers in the southeastern part, along the Mississippi. The largest proportion of owners is in the southwest, overlapping the black belt, while the counties having the largest absolute number of owners include the black belt counties, with a few exceptions, and overlap toward the southwest. This state really exhibits two black belts—one formed in slavery days, where the precedents among both employer and employed are unfavorable to land ownership; another representing western expansion to new lands, where the number and proportion of ownership is high.

In Delaware and Maryland the proportion of colored owners of farms is in general much greater than in the states having a larger negro population—probably because of better education and greater opportunities.

In Florida the percentage of ownership among negro farmers is comparatively high throughout the state. The negro farmers are relatively most numerous, outnumbering the white, in the region around Tallahassee and between Ocala and Gainesville. Of the 5 counties included in this area 3 are also in the area having more than 50 per cent of owners.

The farming black belt of Georgia has two divisions, the main part extending in a southwesterly direction through the center of the state and a smaller part extending along the sea islands in the southeast. In the first region the proportion of owners is smaller than elsewhere in the state; in the latter region it is considerably higher. The difference is due to the sale of lands on the coast to negroes, on easy terms, after the war; in the main farming regions, on the other hand, few negroes have bought land.

In Kentucky, where the negro population is proportionately much less than in most of the other states under discussion, the proportion of negro owners of farms among all negro farmers is large.

Louisiana shows two areas in which the proportion of negro farmers is especially high, one bordering on the Mississippi and the other extending along the Red river. The proportion of ownership is large only in the southern portion of the state. It is interesting to observe, however, that the number of negro farm owners is largest along the Red river. In that section greater intelligence and the low price of land have encouraged ownership; on the other hand, the negroes on the plantations along the Mississippi are very ignorant, and are restricted by a rigorous crop-lien system.

In Mississippi the area in which is found the largest proportion of negro farmers includes all the counties along the Mississippi river, and also a small section on the eastern border of the state. The counties showing the largest proportion of ownership do not correspond with the areas above mentioned, but are in the central and southern portions. The region of the largest absolute number of owners centers outside the black belt, but overlaps it. It should be observed that for the state as a whole there has been a decided increase in negro ownership of farms, but it is probable that the comparatively high price of the rich lands along the Mississippi—which are owned, moreover, in large tracts—and the profits accruing to owners from tenant farmers tend to restrict negro ownership in those localities where the proportion of negro farmers is highest.

In the northern part of North Carolina, near the Virginia line, are two counties reporting a majority of negro farmers. These counties do not show the largest proportion of ownership, but they are among those having the largest absolute number of owners; it should be noted that negro owners of farms are comparatively numerous throughout the state.

In 28 out of the 41 counties in South Carolina there are more negro farmers than there are white farmers. Thus negroes form a majority of the farmers in two-thirds of the counties in the state. The actual number of owners and the proportion of ownership are largest along the coast, where many negroes secured farms as the result of events growing out of the war.

In Tennessee there are only 3 counties in which negro farmers constitute more than half of the total number, although the proportion is large in 4 others. The percentage of ownership in these counties is comparatively low, nearly all the counties in which the per cent exceeds 50 being in the eastern half of the state.

In Texas the largest proportion of negro farmers is found in the counties along the Brazos river, and in 3 adjoining counties in the northeastern part of the state.

Most of this territory is comprised in the areas having more than 300 negro owners to a county as shown

on Map 11, but most of the counties in which the per cent of ownership exceeds 50 lie farther west.

In Virginia, negro farmers are most numerous from the lower Potomac southwest to Mecklenburg county, on the North Carolina line, including the section around Richmond and Petersburg; there are 19 counties in which more than one-half of the farms are operated by negroes. Negro owners of farms are numerous throughout the state, probably because of opportunity long open to the race to secure land, and to some extent because of good educational facilities.

In West Virginia no section presents a high proportion of negro farmers. They are scattered in small numbers over the state, and generally own the farms they operate.

The relationship of density of negro population to land ownership can best be shown by taking certain typical states and grouping their counties according to the percentage of negro farmers: let Alabama represent the gulf states; Texas, the southwest; South Carolina, the Atlantic seaboard; and Virginia, the border states. We have then the following table:

TABLE XLIV.—PERCENTAGE OF FARM OWNERSHIP AMONG NEGRO FARMERS, IN COUNTIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF NEGRO FARMERS AMONG ALL FARMERS; FOR SELECTED SOUTHERN STATES.

STATE.	COUNTIES IN WHICH TWO-THIRDS OR MORE OF ALL FARMERS ARE NEGRO.					COUNTIES IN WHICH FROM ONE-THIRD TO TWO-THIRDS OF ALL FARMERS ARE NEGRO.					COUNTIES IN WHICH LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF ALL FARMERS ARE NEGRO.				
	Number of counties.	Number of negro farmers.	Per cent which negro farmers form of all farmers.	Number of negro owners.	Per cent which negro owners form of all negro farmers.	Number of counties.	Number of negro farmers.	Per cent which negro farmers form of all farmers.	Number of negro owners.	Per cent which negro owners form of all negro farmers.	Number of counties.	Number of negro farmers.	Per cent which negro farmers form of all farmers.	Number of negro owners.	Per cent which negro owners form of all negro farmers.
Alabama .....	13	51,897	81.2	4,281	8.2	16	27,742	47.1	5,382	19.4	37	14,430	14.4	4,436	30.7
Texas .....	2	3,900	72.9	1,432	36.7	22	25,447	45.2	7,524	29.6	219	36,125	12.4	11,138	30.8
South Carolina .....	8	23,579	78.2	8,447	35.8	25	53,047	56.2	8,942	16.9	8	8,755	28.4	1,567	17.9
Virginia .....						46	31,999	47.4	19,151	59.8	72	12,796	12.8	7,382	57.7

In the gulf states like Alabama the proportion of owners among negro farmers is largest in those counties where two-thirds or more of the farmers are white, and smallest in the counties where two-thirds or more of the farmers are black. This is due to the profitability of tenant farming in the cotton belt, the concentration of land ownership there, and the general lack of any inspiring or uplifting influences. Illiteracy in these counties is very great, and historic conditions unfavorable. Whenever these influences are counteracted by educational institutions, as in parts of Alabama, or by new cheap land, as along the Red river in Louisiana, the proportion of ownership increases. The negro owners of the gulf states are largely concentrated in the lighter portions of the black belt—that is, in regions where from one-third to two-thirds of the farmers are black—the number of owners here among negroes being larger than in the white belts or the blackest portions of the black belt.

In western states like Texas the region of the largest proportion of black farmers is the region of the largest proportion of owners. This is because land is cheap and plentiful and the large plantation system of the past was never fully developed here.

In states like South Carolina we have again ownership and a dense black population in the same localities, but this is for a different reason—viz, government aid in the securing of lands directly after the war.

In the older border states like Virginia the percentage

of ownership is high and does not appear to be much affected by concentration of negro population; this is because Virginia has turned in later years to crops which the tenant system of farming does not make profitable, and because of unusual educational facilities for negroes.

The validity of these comparisons is somewhat impaired by the fact that in the black belt, under the system of tenant farming, a very large number of persons must be classed as farmers by the census who are in reality little more than laborers. This decreases the apparent proportion of negro owners.

Thus it may be seen that a detailed study of ownership, state by state and county by county, reveals no hard and fast relation of the number of negro landowners to the black belt. We may, however, easily distinguish in the black belt two kinds of conditions: In the one case, the region is a black belt because economic conditions are favorable and the negroes migrate to or remain in the region, and enjoy there a fair degree of agricultural prosperity. In the other case the economic conditions are less favorable but they render emigration difficult by providing little education for the negroes, and by a general resort to the crop-lien system, under which the acquisition of landed property by negroes is impeded by the high value of the land. Sometimes these two sets of conditions are combined in the same region; sometimes they are separate, forming two belts of widely different economic prosperity.