

PREFACE

SINCE 1897 estimates have been prepared decennially of the number of Jews in the country and their distribution, and for the past thirty years these estimates were made at the time that the decennial censuses were being taken of the religious bodies by the United States Bureau of the Census. Before 1927, estimates of the number of Jews in the country did not go further than their distribution by states and divisions. In the course of the present study for the first time data was collected with a view to ascertaining the distribution of the Jews in the United States not only among the Divisions of the country and the States, but also among the 15,700 incorporated cities, towns, and villages of the various sizes and the 45,000 rural unincorporated areas in the country. It was not before known that residents of the Jewish faith lived in nearly 10,000 cities, towns, villages, and rural areas in the country, nor that Jews have already spread to every place of 25,000 or over; to nearly 90% of the urban places of 25,000 or less; to over 30% of the rural villages of 2,500 or less, and to over 7% of the rural unincorporated areas. The wide dispersion of the Jews over the country was found quite remarkable.

For several reasons, previous studies of the number of Jews in the United States could not enter exhaustively into the matter of the density of the Jews in the country. The present study aimed to supply this omission. Data was collected with a view to determining the percentage that the Jews constitute of the total population in the large regions of the country of the North, the South, and the West; in the Divisions like New England, Middle Atlantic, etc.; and in the separate states; an attempt was then made for the first time to determine the percentage that the Jews constitute in the unincorporated areas and in the various classes of incorporated places in accordance with their size. Thus it was found that while the Jews form 11.11% of the total population in cities of the class of 100,000 population or over, they constitute but 3.11% in the class of cities of the size of 100,000 to 25,000, and only 1.61% in the class of 25,000