

ILLITERACY IN VIRGINIA: A SOCIAL PROBLEM
"

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INTRODUCTION

Definition of Texas

What is illiteracy? - The term illiteracy as used here has the same meaning that it has in the United States Census reports. Up to and including the 1920 census, it meant the inability of those 10 years of age and over to write in English or some other language. In the 1930 reports it was defined as the inability of those 10 years of age and over to write and to read in any language. The change of meaning, however, does not affect the data in the several census reports. Those able to write have always been considered able to read.

What is a social problem? - Hart ^{1/}says, "a social problem is a problem which actually or potentially affects large numbers of people in a common way so that it may best be solved by some measure or measures applied to the problem as a whole rather than by dealing with the individual as an isolated case, or which requires concerted or organized human action."

Bossard ^{2/}says, "social problems consist of (a) social situations, (b) which are the product of group life, (c) involving a substantial number of persons, (d) characterized as constituting a threat to social

^{1/} Hart, Hornell. "What Is A Social Problem?" American Journal of Sociology. November, 1923. Page 349.

^{2/} Bossard, J. H. S. Social Change and Social Problems. Harper and Brothers, 1938. Page 3.

well being, (e) as defined by the mores of the group, and (f) which must be dealt with in an organized and concerted way. They are problems in that they constitute a crisis, and social in that they are group products with consequences significant for the entire group, and which must be dealt with by group action.* The term group as used here means two or more persons. Groups are the component parts of our society. We are a product of group life, and anything which endangers the group also proves disastrous for the individual. The term "mores" refers to certain group behavior patterns which have an ethical or moral significance. They are group ways of doing things which are looked upon as being essential to the welfare of society.

Who are urban people? -According to the United States census reports, all people who live in incorporated towns and cities of over 2500 people are classified as urban.

Who are rural people?- The United States census reports classify as rural all those living in suburban areas, the open country, and in towns of less than 2500 people.

What is meant by the word "South"? - South as used here includes the southeastern region of the United States. This region includes the following states: Alabama, ^{ARKANSAS,} Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. This classification was devised by Professor Odum of the University of North Carolina.

The Problem

According to the United States census of 1930, there were 162,588 illiterates in the state of Virginia. This amounts to 8.7 percent of the total population (1,872,838) ten years of age and over.

Illiteracy is a social problem in that it involves social situations, it is a product of group life, it affects a substantial number of people, it constitutes a threat to social well being as defined by the mores of our civilization and in order to deal with it effectively we must have organized and concerted action.

The fact that illiteracy is an important problem is unquestionable. Literacy is part and parcel of the world-wide movement toward more highly developed and integrated nations and people. It is certainly in keeping with the development and extension of democratic institutions. A people cannot at the same time be ignorant and free.

Method of Procedure

The purpose of this study is threefold. First, to show trends in illiteracy in Virginia from 1880 to 1930, inclusive, and in the counties, regions and independent cities thereof from 1910 to 1930, inclusive; second, to compare trends in the state with those in the United States, the South and certain foreign countries; third, to bring out the relationship between illiteracy and certain social factors in Virginia and to point out the sociological significance of illiteracy.

The statistical data are based on the official census reports of the federal government unless otherwise stated.

By means of tables and graphs the number of illiterates and the percentage of illiteracy in Virginia are presented for the several age groups, 10 years and over, 10-20 inclusive, and 21 and over, from 1880 to 1930, inclusive. Information is presented on the distribution of illiteracy according to sex, according to urban and rural areas, and on the basis of nativity.

Illiteracy is next presented by counties, regions and independent cities from 1910 to 1930. It was not deemed worth while to go back further than three census dates for this section of the study. Data for this length of time should give a reliable picture of trends in the counties, regions and cities.

Conditions in Virginia are then compared with those in the United States, in the South, and in certain foreign countries.

Finally, illiteracy is related to certain social factors such as tenancy, size of families and relief areas. Statements from outstanding educational and political leaders are used to bring out clearly the sociological significance of illiteracy.

Illiteracy Trends In Virginia Since 1880

According to nativity. - The official census reports divide the population into the following major divisions: Native white, Foreignborn white, Negro, and other classes. According to this division, the native white and the negro population have been the chief sources of illiteracy in the state. About 98.0 percent of the illiterate population is concentrated in these two classes. While

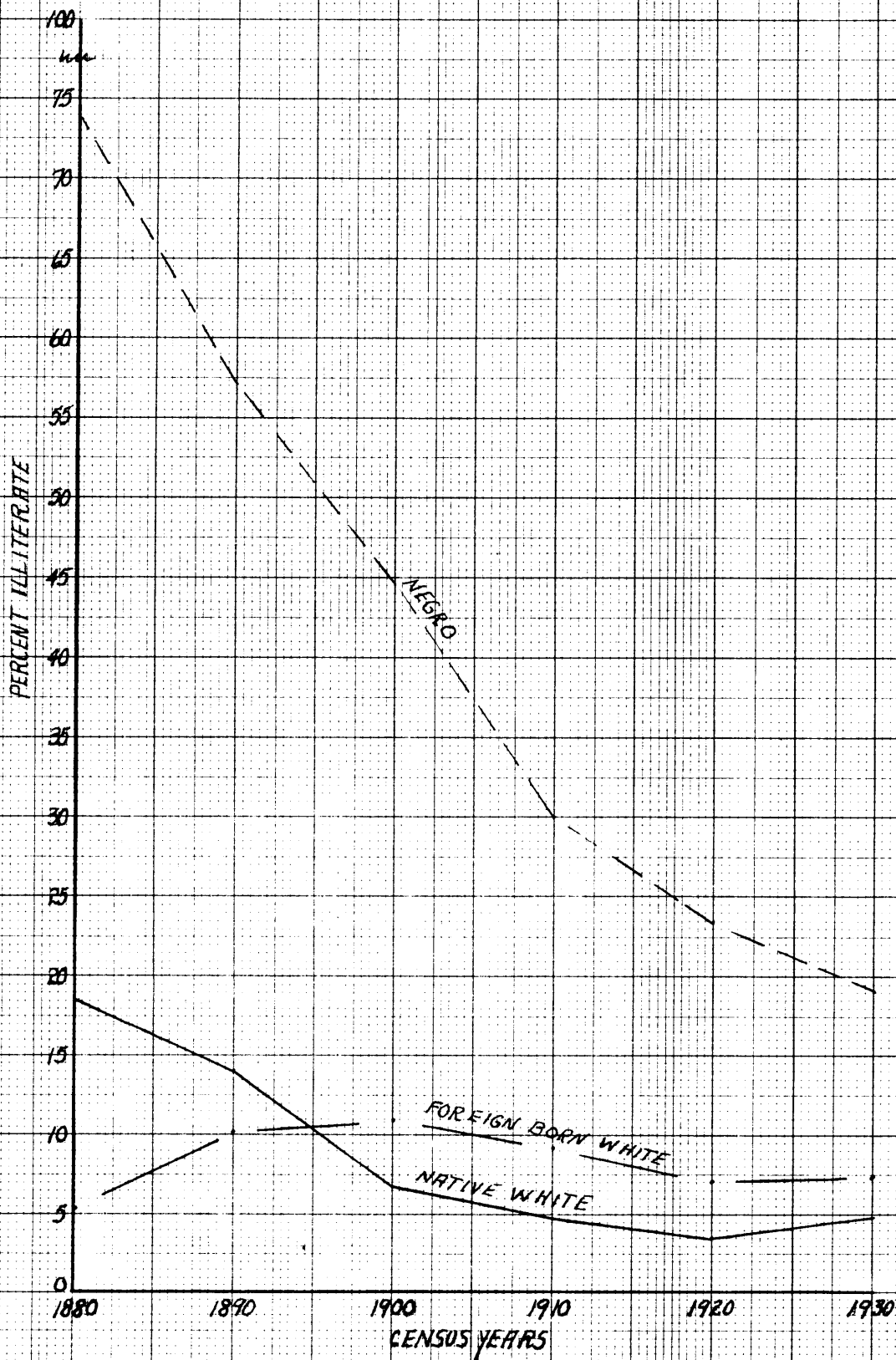
the percentage of illiteracy is declining in both of these classes, the percent is declining more rapidly in the negro population. For example, in 1910 the native white population supplied 35.0 percent of the total illiterates in the state, whereas the negro population supplied 64.0 percent. In 1930 the percentages were 40.0 and 58.5 respectively. Thus it can be seen that illiteracy is also a serious problem among the native white population. The foreignborn white and other classes only make up about 1.0 percent of the total number of illiterates in the state. While these divisions of the population should not be overlooked, our efforts to eradicate illiteracy should be concentrated mainly in the negro and native white population.

Table 1.- Percentage of Illiteracy in Virginia from 1910 to 1930, Classified According to Nativity

Divisions of Population	Percent Illiterate by divisions of population			Percentage of total illiteracy in state		
	1910	1920	1930	1910	1920	1930
Native White						
Native Parentage	8.2	6.1	5.0	34.9	35.9	40.0
Foreign or Mixed Parentage	1.2	1.0	.8	0.1	0.2	0.3
Foreign Born White	9.2	7.1	7.4	1.0	1.1	1.0
Negro	30.0	23.5	19.2	63.9	62.7	58.5
Other Classes	24.9	21.9	22.0	0.1	0.1	0.2

FIGURE I

Illiteracy Trends In The White and Negro Population of Virginia From 1880 to 1930. (Based on Table IV, Appendix A)



According to age groups.- In 1880 in Virginia 40.6 percent of the population of the age 10 years and over were illiterate, as shown in Figure 1. By 1930 illiteracy in this group had fallen to about 8.7 percent, a decrease in percentage of 31.9. The rate of reduction was somewhat regular from 1880 to 1910, ranging from 8 to 10 percent for each decade. The decline was considerably less during each of the next ten year periods, being 4.0 percent from 1910 to 1920 and 2.5 percent from 1920 to 1930. Not only did the percentage of illiteracy decrease during these several periods, but in every decade the number of illiterates diminished, notwithstanding the fact that the population increased. In 1880 there were 430,352 illiterates in the age group 10 years and over, whereas in 1930 the number of illiterates in this age group had dropped to 162,588, a decrease of 267,764 illiterates. Thus it is seen that illiteracy has been on a steady decline in Virginia since 1880, the initial date for this study.

Illiteracy is much higher among the adults than among the youths or children. In fact, it can be seen from the statistics that the older the age group the higher is the percentage of illiteracy. In 1930, for example, 3.9 percent of those of the age 10-20 years were illiterate, while 10.8 percent of those 21 years old and over were illiterate.

There has been greater improvement of the illiteracy situation in the younger age groups than among the older groups. In 1880, 39.5 percent of the age group 10-20 were illiterate. By 1930 the percentage

for this group had declined to 3.9. However, in the age group 21 years and over the decrease was much less. In 1880 the percentage of illiteracy in the age group 21 years and over was 41.1. This percentage declined to 10.8 in 1930.

According to sex.- In the period from 1880 to 1890 there was a higher percentage of illiteracy in the female population than in the male population. However, the situation was reversed in 1900 and ever since then the percentage of illiteracy has been higher in the male population. It is also to be noted that illiteracy is decreasing at a much more rapid rate in the female population than in the male population. In 1900 22.5 percent of the female population 10 years and over were illiterate. This percentage decreased to 7.4 in 1930. In 1900 the percentage of illiteracy in the male population was 23.2, and it was reduced to 10.0 percent in 1930. In the twenty year period there was a decrease of 13.2 percent in the male population, while the female population showed a decrease of 15.1 in the percentage of illiteracy. In every succeeding decade since 1900 the female population has constituted a decreasing proportion in the illiterate population.

On the basis of urban and rural areas.- From Figure 4 it can be readily seen that from 1910 to 1930 illiteracy has been much more prevalent among the rural population than among the urban population. This statement holds true for all of the age groups. This divergence between the rural and urban areas has always been evident. For example, in 1910 in the rural areas 20.5 percent of those 21 years old and over were illiterate; whereas in the urban area 10.8 percent of

FIGURE 2

Illiteracy Trends In Virginia From 1880 to 1930
In Certain Age Groups. (Based on Table I,
Appendix A)

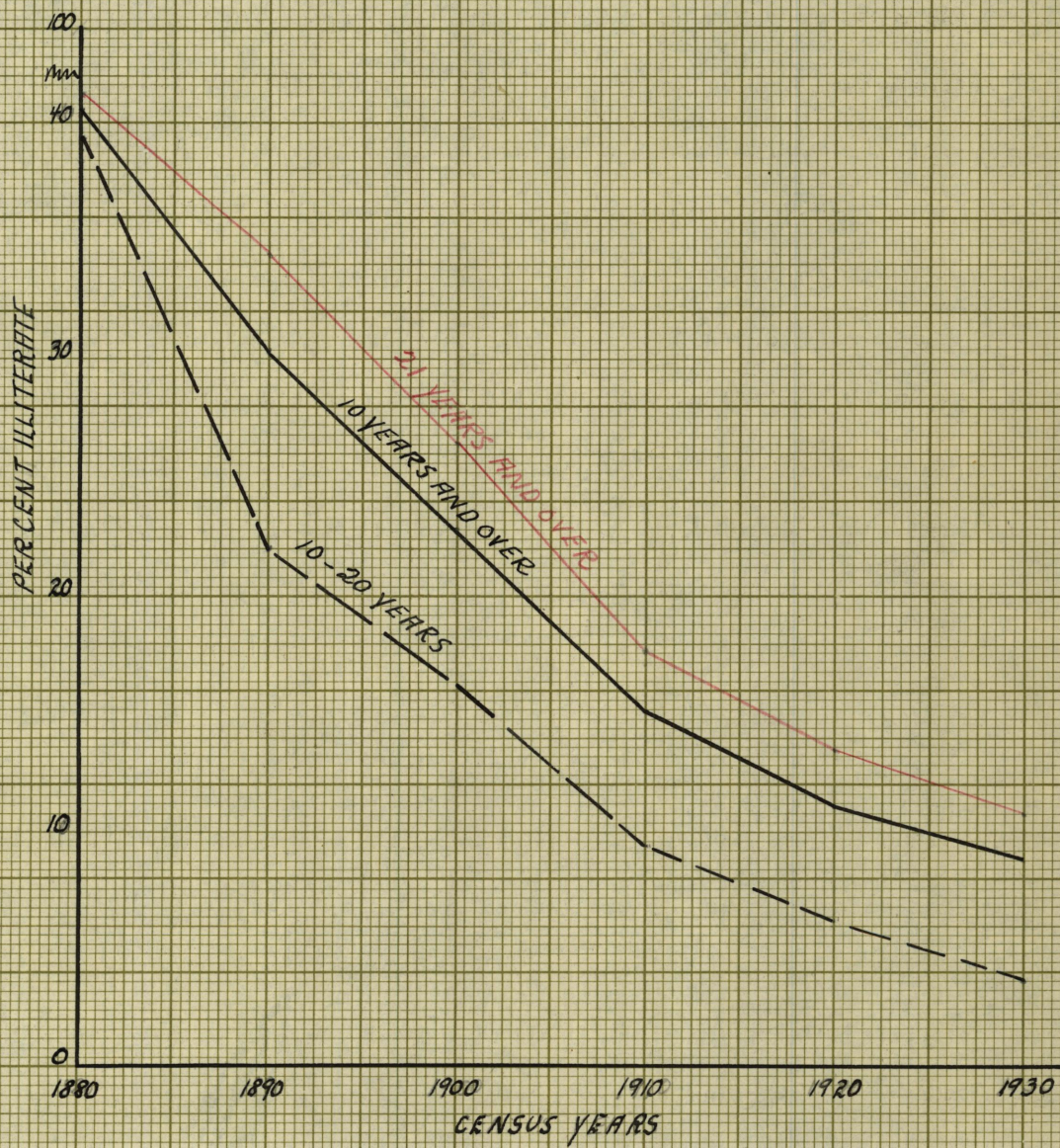
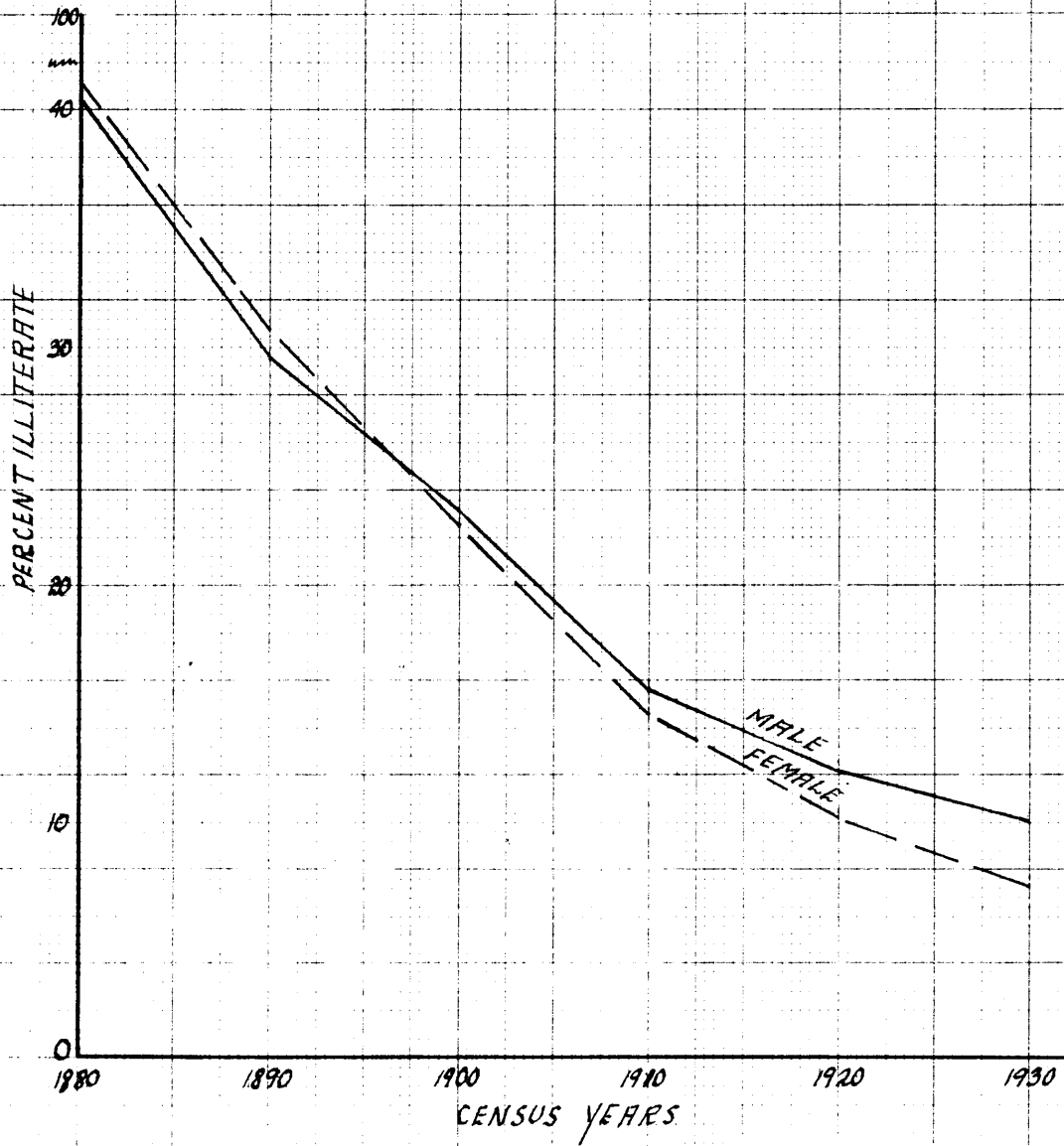


FIGURE 3

Illiteracy Trends in Virginia From 1880 to 1930 On
The Basis of Sex. (Based on Table I, Appendix A)



the same age group were illiterate. In 1930 the percentages had dropped to 10.6 and 6.3 respectively. In the age group 10-20 years differences have also been widespread in the rural and urban areas. This seems to indicate that educational opportunities are much better in urban than in rural areas. That is, schools are probably more widespread in the urban areas and also reach a larger proportion of the population.

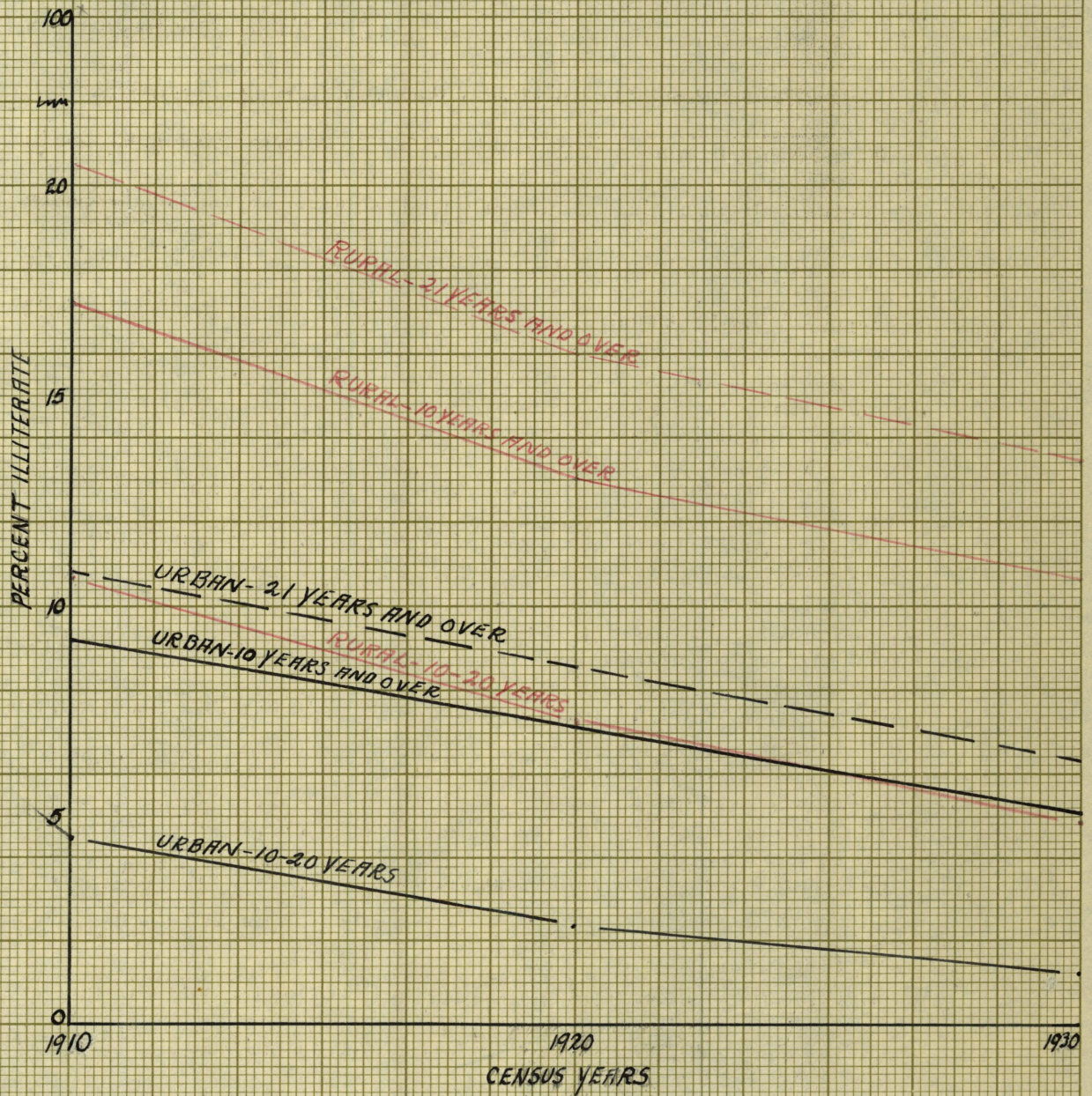
Illiteracy Trends In The Regions of Virginia From
1910 to 1930

The regional classification used in this study was devised by Dr. L. B. Tate. Figure 6 shows the counties which go to make up each of the ten different regions. It is also to be noted that the independent cities are considered a part of each region. The percentage of illiteracy ranges from 4.7 percent in the Alleghany Ridges to 12.3 percent in the Northern Neck. The Alleghany Ridges, the Shenandoah Valley, the Northern Piedmont, and the James York Peninsula have the lowest percentages of illiteracy. The fact that the James York Peninsula has such an excellent ranking is probably accounted for by its large urban population and the influence of William and Mary College. With this exception, it may be said that the north and northwest sections of Virginia have a low percentage of illiteracy, while the southwest, the south, and the eastern sections of Virginia have a high percentage of illiteracy.

In Southwest Virginia there are very few negroes and illiteracy is mainly a native white problem.

FIGURE 4

Illiteracy Trends In The Urban and Rural Population of Virginia From 1910 to 1930, Classified According to Age Groups. (Based on Table II, Appendix A)



In the Southern and Eastern sections of the state where a large part of the state's illiteracy is concentrated, we find a large illiterate negro population, as well as a large percentage of illiterate whites.

In the North and Northwest sections of the state, where illiteracy is the lowest, there are not as many negroes and the white population is mainly of the middle class type. There is a distinctly different type of people in these sections.

It can be seen from Figure 5 that there has been very little change in the rank of regions according to percentage of illiteracy since 1910. It may be said that those regions which ranked high in 1910 maintained this ranking in 1930, but the low ranking regions did not improve their rating.

Illiteracy Trends In The Counties of Virginia From 1910 to 1930

There has been a decrease in the percentage of illiteracy in all of the counties of Virginia from 1910 to 1930 with the exception of Craig and Dinwiddie. Craig's percentage of illiteracy was 1.9 percent in 1910 and 7.6 percent in 1930. Dinwiddie's percentage increased from 19.5 in 1910 to 20.7 percent in 1930.

From 1920 to 1930 eleven counties showed an increase in the percentage of illiteracy; two remained exactly as they were; and eighty-seven showed a reduction in the percentage of illiteracy. The increases were not very noticeable except in Charlotte County where the percentage increased from 10.3 percent in 1920 to 16.7 percent in

FIGURE 5

Illiteracy in Virginia, 1910, 1920 and 1930 By Regions
 (Based on Table IV, Appendix A)

REGIONS

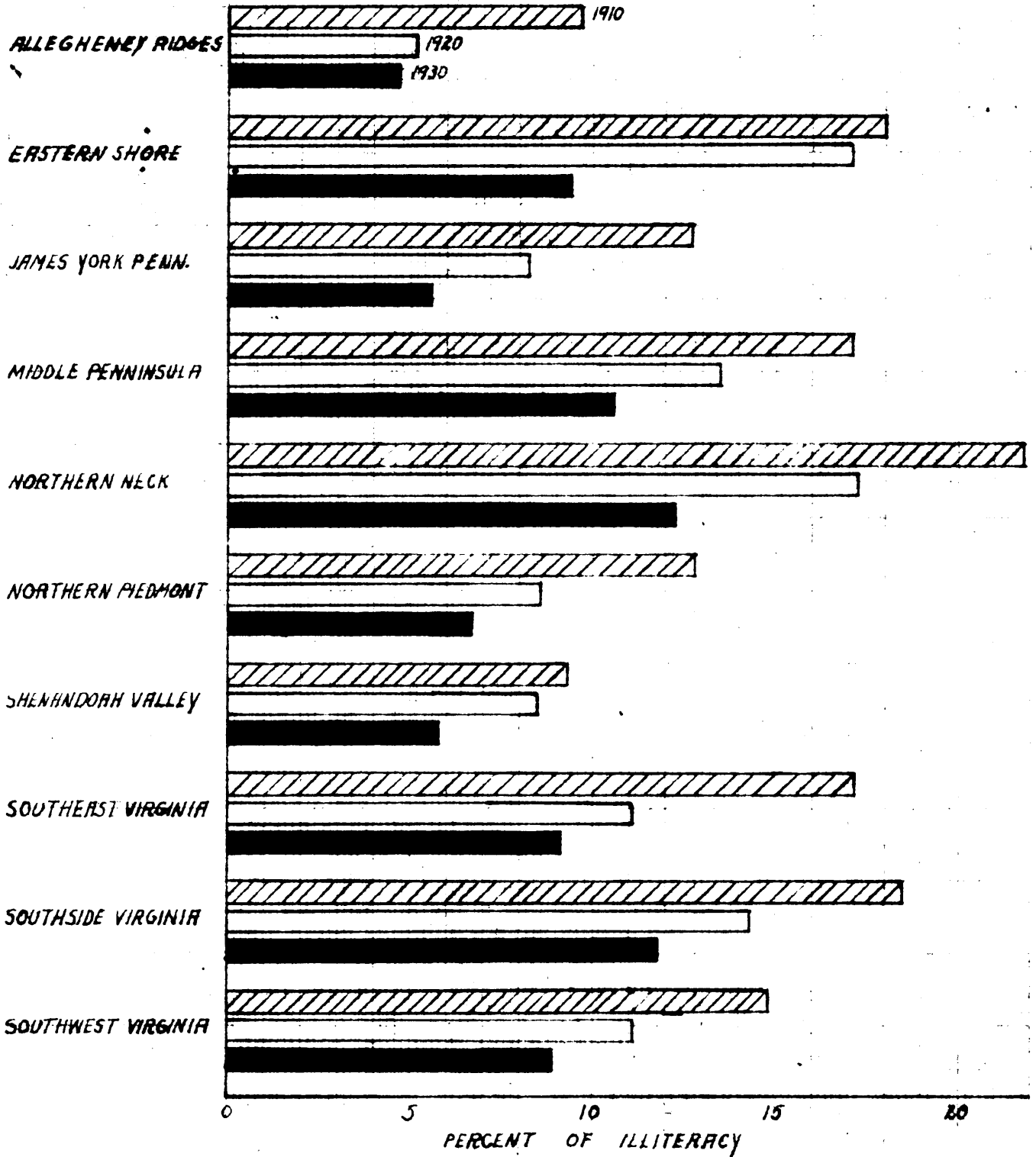
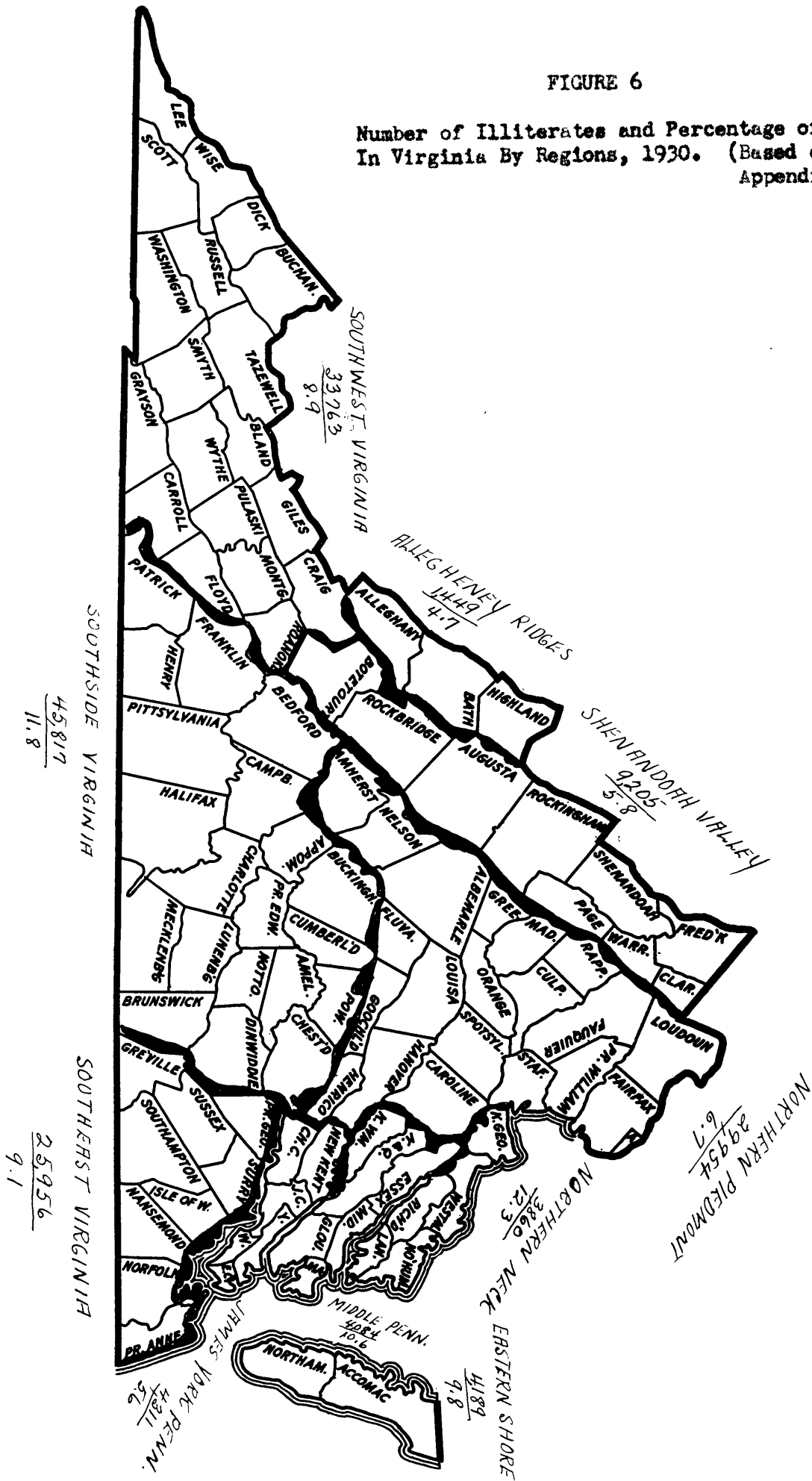


FIGURE 6

Number of Illiterates and Percentage of Illiteracy In Virginia By Regions, 1930. (Based on Table IV, Appendix A)



1930. The other increases ranged from 0.3 in Loudoun County to 3.1 percent in Patrick County. The percentage of illiteracy remained stationary in Bath and Craig counties from 1920 to 1930.

The counties with the smallest number of illiterates are Craig (208), Highland (257), Clarke (269), Bland (297), and James City (341). Those counties with the largest number of illiterates are Pittsylvania (5,991), Halifax (4,115), Wise (3,915), Southampton (3,312), and Mecklenburg (3,174).

Counties with a high ranking based on the lowest percentage of illiteracy are Arlington, 1.7 percent; Fairfax and Shenandoah, 3.7 percent; Alleghany and Elizabeth City, 4.3 percent. Those with the highest percentages of illiteracy are Sussex, 21.6 percent; Dinwiddie, 20.7 percent; Greenville, 20.5 percent; Cumberland, 19.5 percent; and Rappahannock, Greens and Buckingham, 17.9 percent.

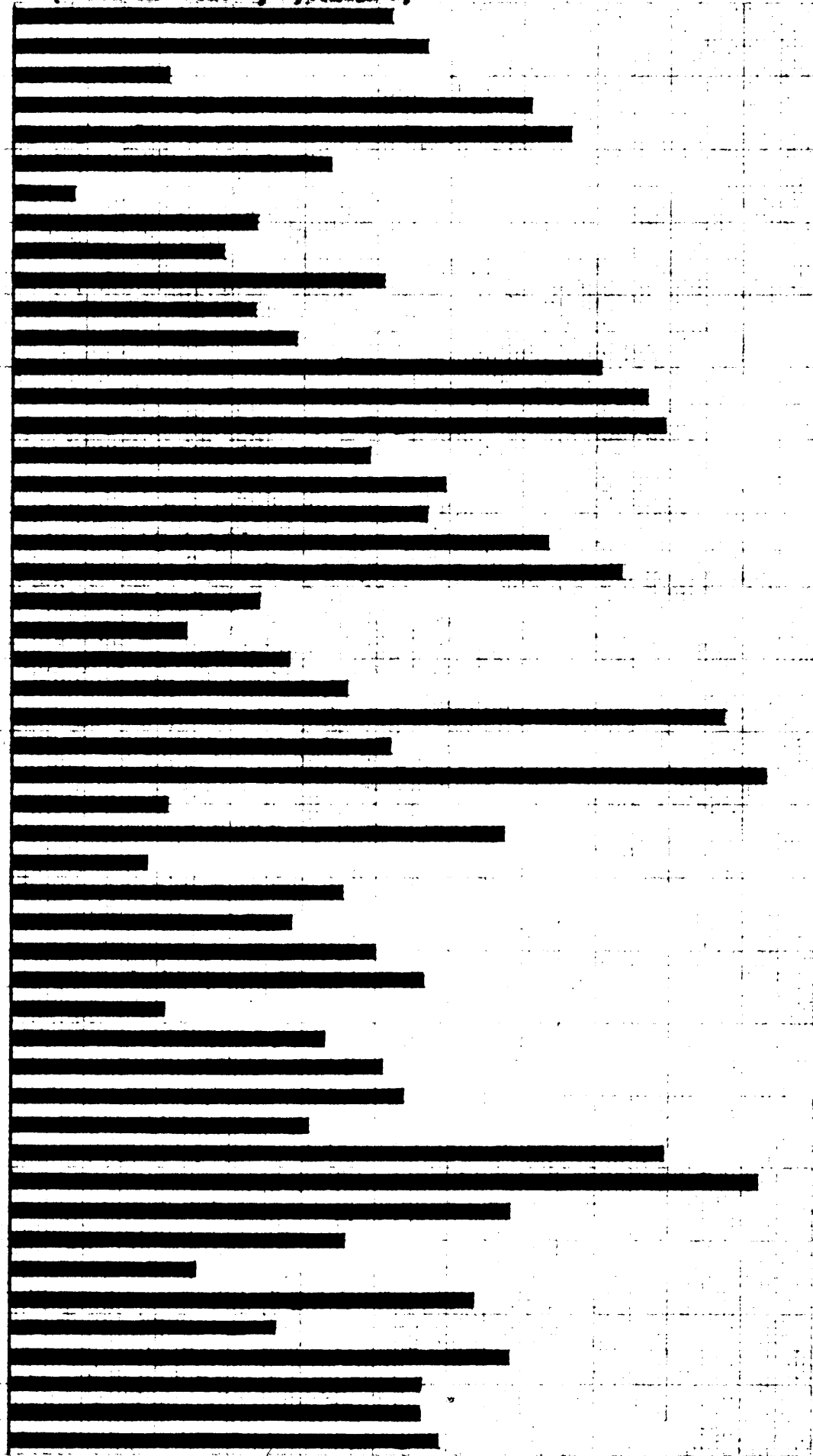
Table VI, Appendix A, shows that the following counties have the highest number of negro illiterates: Pittsylvania (3801), Halifax (2967), Dinwiddie (2892), Southampton (2833) and Mecklenburg (2723). Those with the least number of negro illiterates are: Craig (1), Highland (21), Bland (28), Buchanan (30), Carroll (47), Dickenson (54), and Frederick (55).

Counties with the highest percentage of negro illiteracy are: Patrick (33.3), Dinwiddie (32.8), Cumberland (32.5), Charlotte (32.3), Greenville (31.8), and Richmond (31.1). The counties with the smallest percentage of negro illiteracy are: Craig (1 illiterate), Clarke (7.0), Arlington (9.9), Alleghany (10.4) and Fairfax (11.1).

Illiteracy in Virginia, 1930, by Counties
 (Based on Table V, Appendix A)

COUNTIES

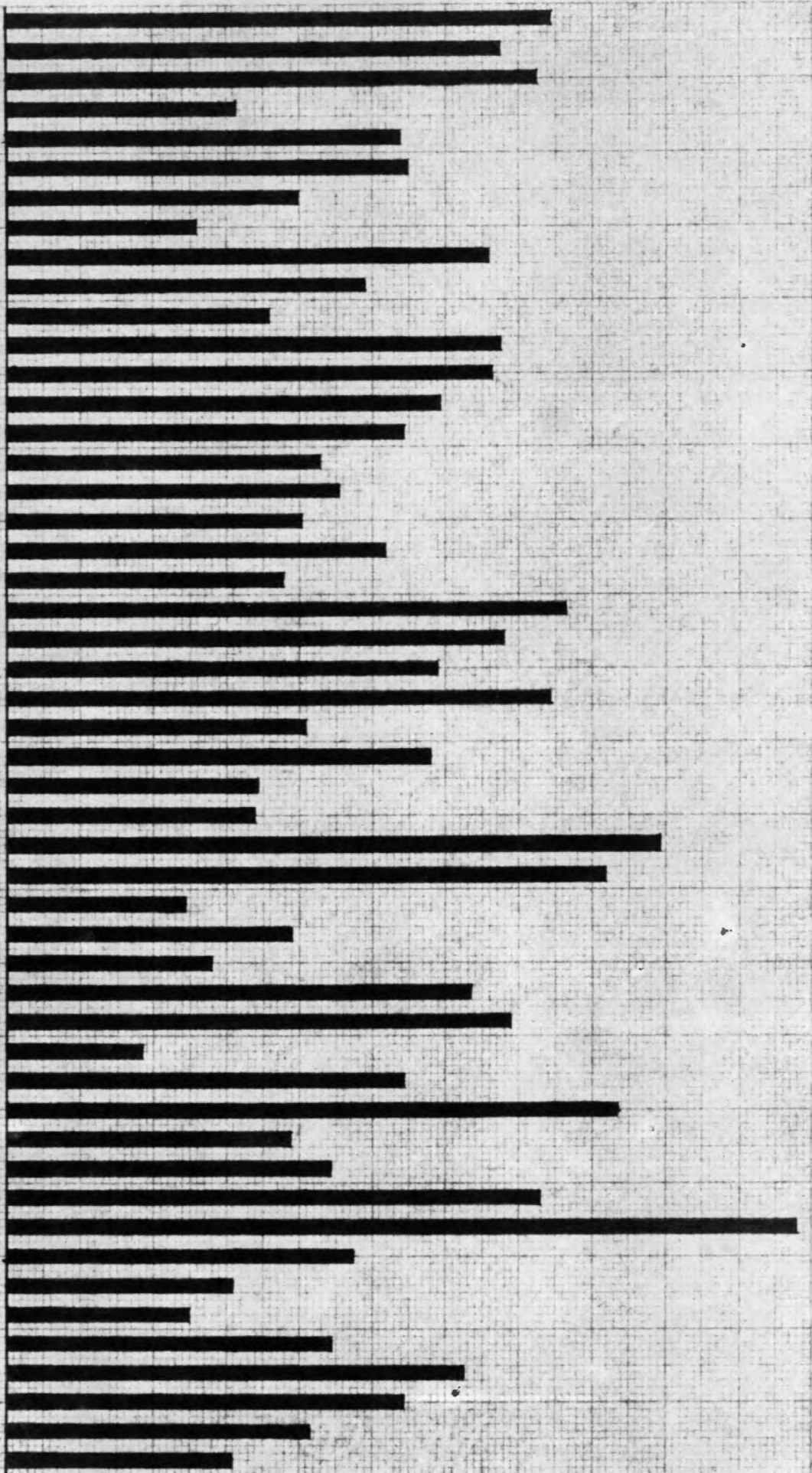
- ACCOMAC
- ALBEMARLE
- ALLEGHENY
- AMELIA
- AMHERST
- APPOMATTOX
- ARLINGTON
- AUGUSTA
- BATH
- BEDFORD
- BLAND
- BOTETOURT
- BRUNSWICK
- BUCHANAN
- BUCKINGHAM
- CAMPBELL
- CAROLINE
- CARROLL
- CHARLES CITY
- CHARLOTTE
- CHESTERFIELD
- CLARKE
- EMIG
- GULPEPER
- CUMBERLAND
- DICKENSON
- WINN-DIXIE
- ELIZABETH CITY
- ESSEX
- FAIRFAX
- FAUQUIER
- FLOYD
- FLUVANNA
- FRANKLIN
- FREDERICK
- GILES
- GLOUCESTER
- GOOCHLAND
- GRAYSON
- GREENE
- GREENSVILLE
- HALIFAX
- HANOVER
- HENRICO
- HENRY
- HIGHLAND
- ISLE OF WIGHT
- JAMES CITY
- KING AND QUEEN
- KING GEORGE



0 5 10 15 20
 PERCENT OF ILLITERACY

COUNTIES

- KING WILLIAM
- LANCASTER
- LEE
- LOUDOUN
- LOUISA
- LUNENBURG
- MADISON
- MATHEWS
- MECKLENBURG
- MIDDLESEX
- MONTGOMERY
- HANSEMOND
- NELSON
- NEW KENT
- NORFOLK
- NORTHAMPTON
- NORTHUMBERLAND
- NOTTOWAY
- ORANGE
- PAGE
- PATRICK
- PITTSYLVANIA
- POWHATAN
- PRINCE EDWARD
- PRINCE GEORGE
- PRINCESS ANNE
- PRINCE WILLIAM
- PULASKI
- RAPPAHANNOCK
- RICHMOND
- ROANOKE
- ROCK BRIDGE
- ROCKINGHAM
- RUSSELL
- SCOTT
- SHENANDOAH
- SMYTH
- SOUTHAMPTON
- SPOTSYLVANIA
- STAFFORD
- SURRY
- SUSSEX
- TAZEWELL
- WARREN
- WARWICK
- WASHINGTON
- WESTMORELAND
- WISE
- WYTHE
- YORK



0 5 10 15 20

PERCENT OF ILLITERACY

Illiteracy Trends In The Independent Cities of Virginia From 1910 to 1930

There are twenty-four independent cities in the State of Virginia. They are not considered a part of the county in which they are located. Therefore, in order to get a complete picture of the illiteracy situation in Virginia, it is necessary to consider the independent cities separately. Some of these cities have been made independent in recent years. This accounts for the absence of illiteracy data during the years 1910 and 1920 for some of the cities.

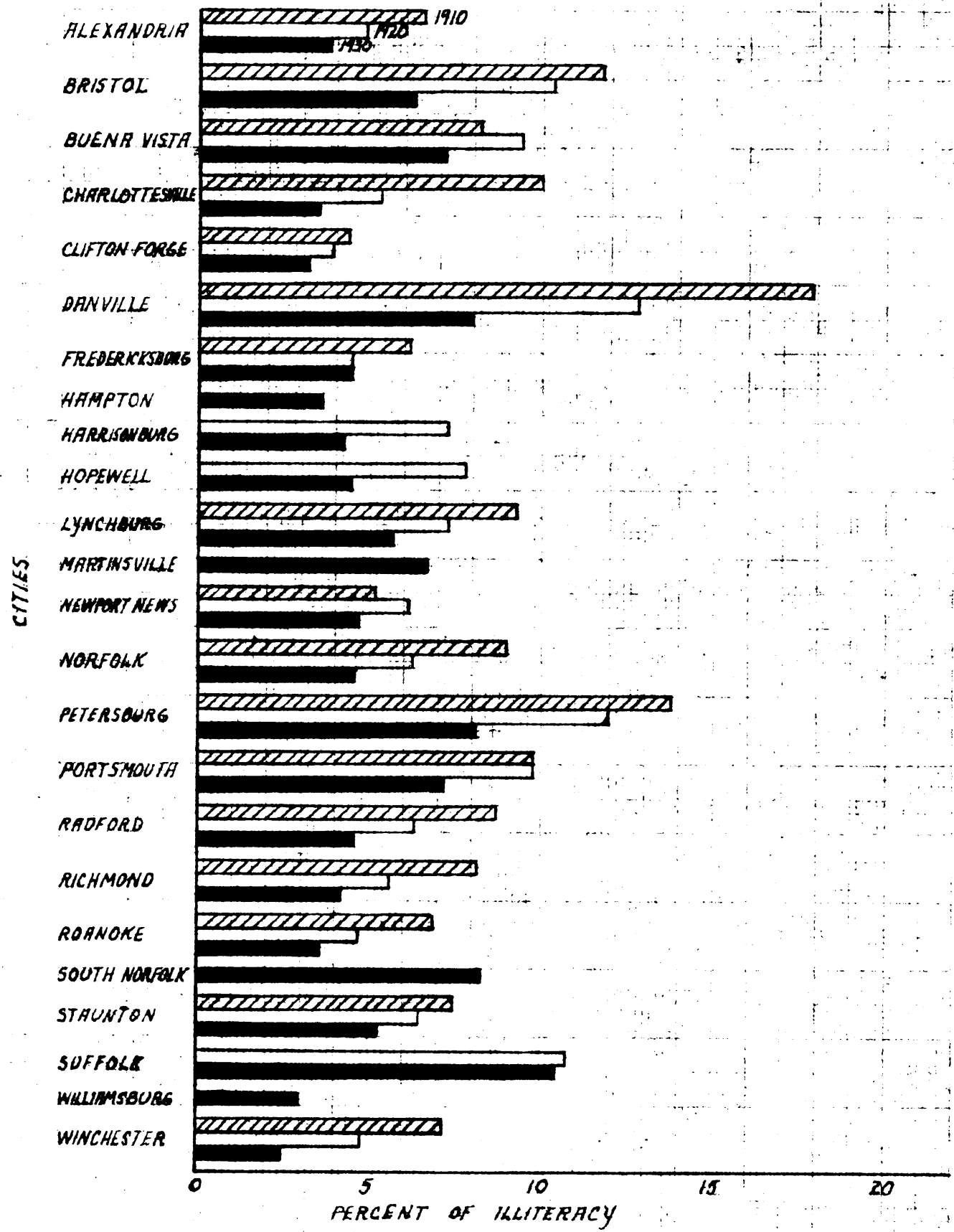
The cities with the highest percentages of illiteracy are: Petersburg (8.2), Danville (8.0), Suffolk (10.5), and Buena Vista (7.2). The cities with the lowest percentages of illiteracy are: Winchester (2.5), Williamsburg (3.0), Roanoke (3.5), Clifton Forge (3.2), Charlottesville (3.5), and Alexandria (3.8).

It is generally thought that illiteracy is a rural phenomena, but it is to be noted that there is a great deal of illiteracy in some of our cities. Therefore, we should not lost sight of our urban illiteracy in our eagerness to alleviate the rural situation.

Comparison of Illiteracy In Virginia With That In The South and The United States

In general.-- According to Figure 8, illiteracy in Virginia during the period studied has always been higher than in the United States for each of the several age groups. However, the differences in percentages were much greater in 1880 than in the recent census years. For example, in 1880 of all those 10 years of age and over in the United States, 17 percent were illiterate, and in Virginia 40.6 percent of

FIGURE 8
Illiteracy In Virginia Cities, 1910, 1920 and 1930
(Based on Table VI, Appendix A)



those of the same age were illiterate. In 1930 illiteracy in the United States for this group had dropped to 4.3 percent, and in Virginia to 8.7 percent.

The differences were about the same for the other age groups. Since 1910 the rate of decline in illiteracy for Virginia has been about the same as that for the United States.

Virginia's rank among eleven southern states has remained unchanged from 1910 to 1930. Virginia ranks fifth among the southern states considered. Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida and Tennessee rank ahead of Virginia. Below Virginia come Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The rate of decrease in illiteracy has been about the same for all of the southern states considered. Those which had a high ranking in 1910 maintained this ranking in 1930. The status of those with a low ranking also remained unchanged from 1910 to 1930. In other words, illiteracy has been decreasing in all of the southern states, but there have been no outstanding examples of achievement.

Based on percentage of illiteracy, Virginia now ranks forty-first among the states of America. On the basis of the total number of illiterates, she ranks fortieth. No Virginian can look with pride to this ranking. Virginia should discard her passive acceptance attitude and do something to alleviate this major social problem.

On the basis of sex.- From 1880 to 1900 illiteracy in Virginia was higher among the female than the male population. Since 1900 the situation has reversed, and there is now more illiteracy among the male population.

FIGURE 9

Illiteracy In The United States and Virginia By Age Groups From 1880 to 1930. (Based on Table I, Appendix A; and Table VII, appendix B).

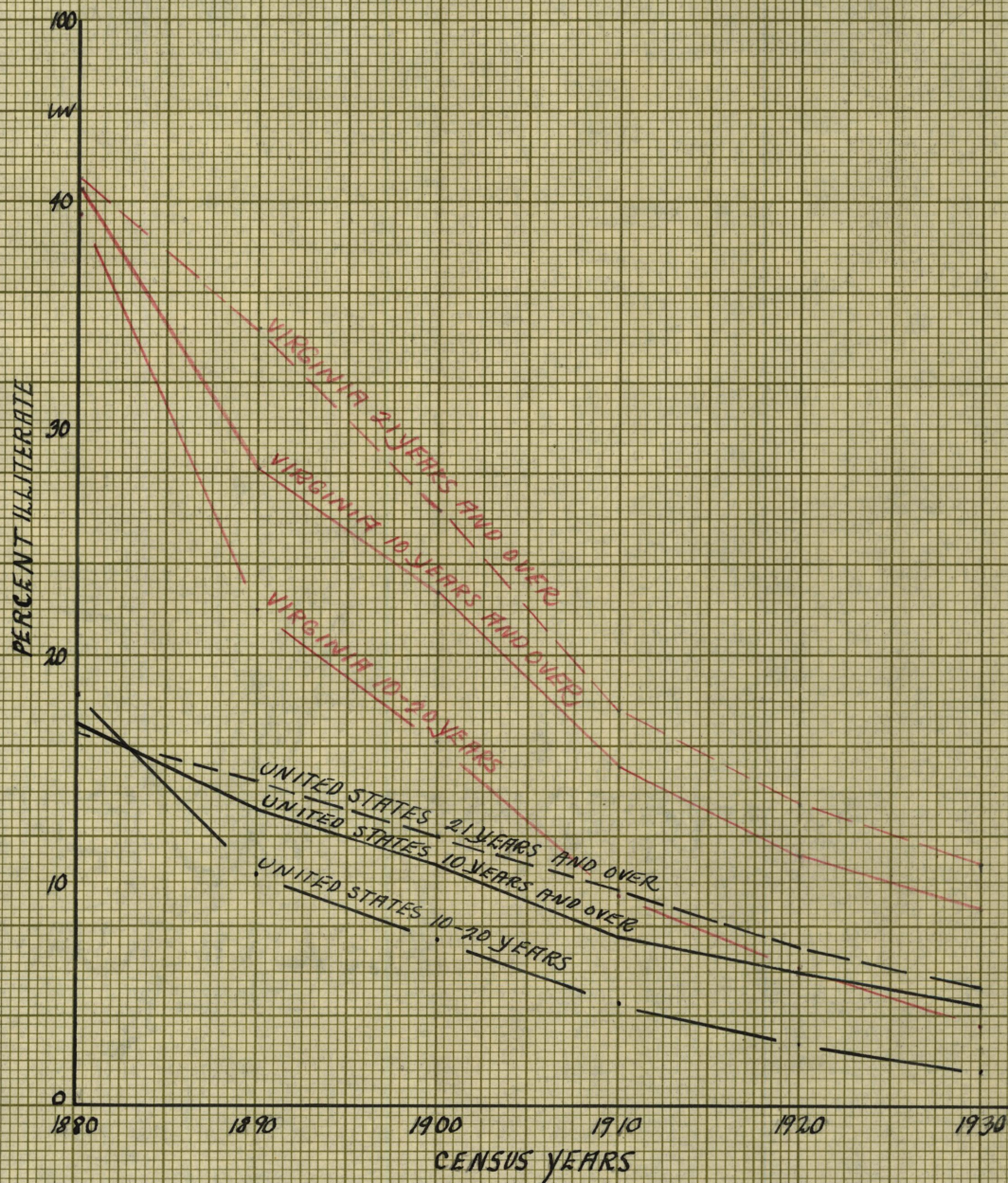


FIGURE 10

Illiteracy In Eleven Southern States and The United States
For 1910, 1920, and 1930

(Based on Tables I and VII, Appendix B)

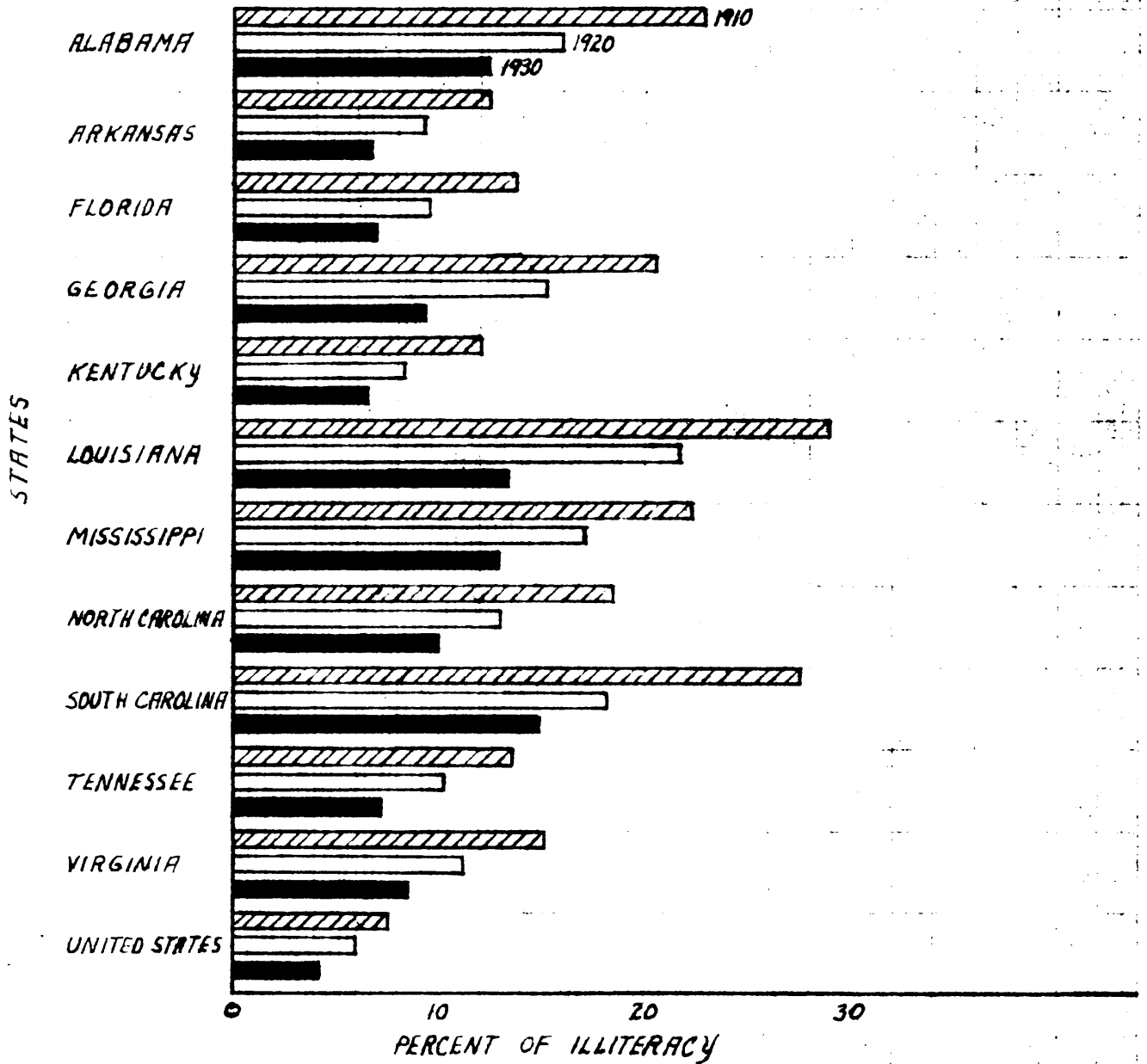
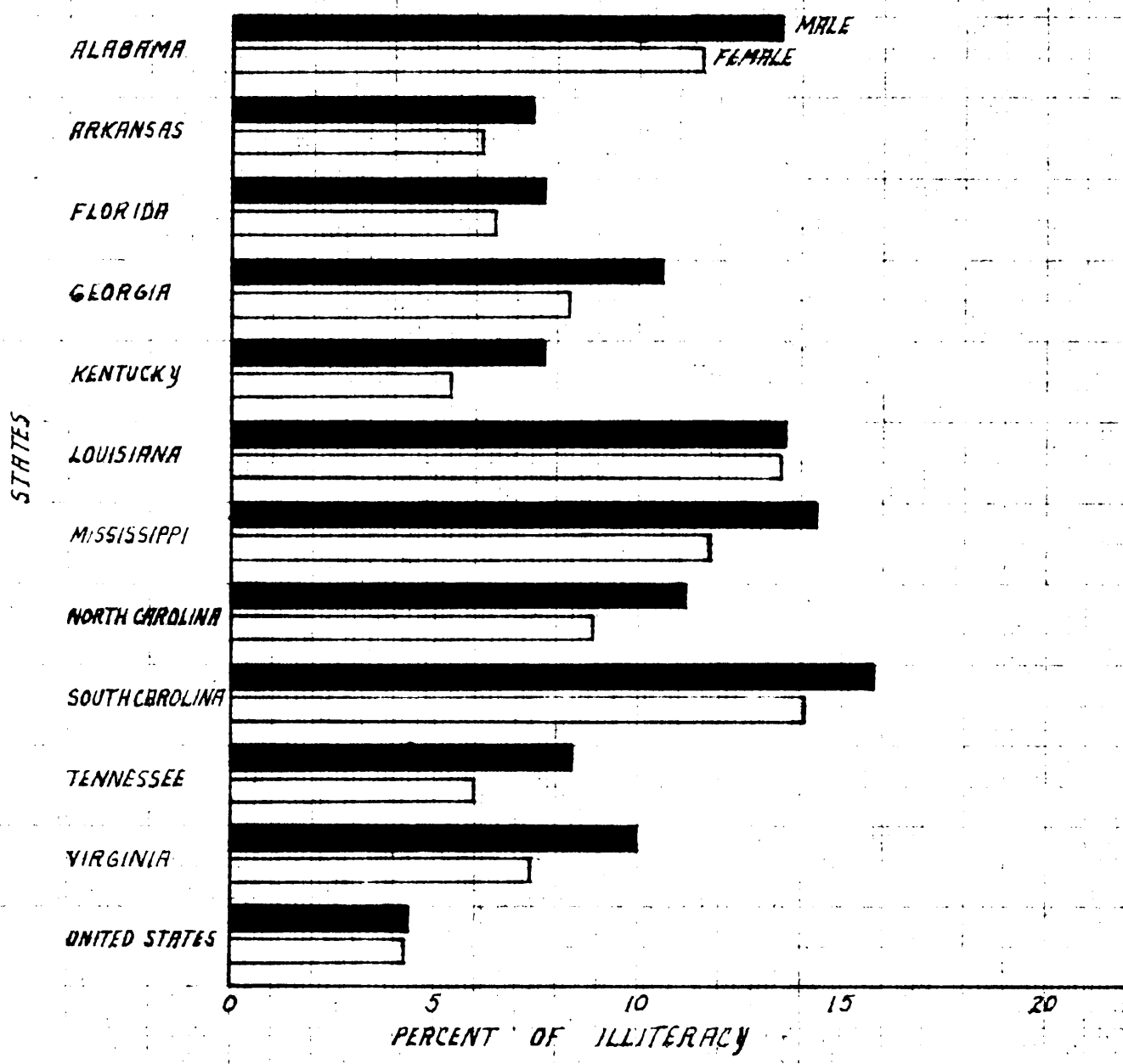


FIGURE 11
Illiteracy In The Male and Female Population of Eleven Southern States
and the United States for 1930

(Based on Tables II, III and VII, Appendix B)



In the United States up to about 1915 there was more illiteracy in the female than the male population. However, since 1915 the females have constituted a smaller proportion of the total number of illiterates. That is, there is now more illiteracy in the male than in the female population.

In all of the southern states there is more illiteracy at the present time in the male than in the female population.

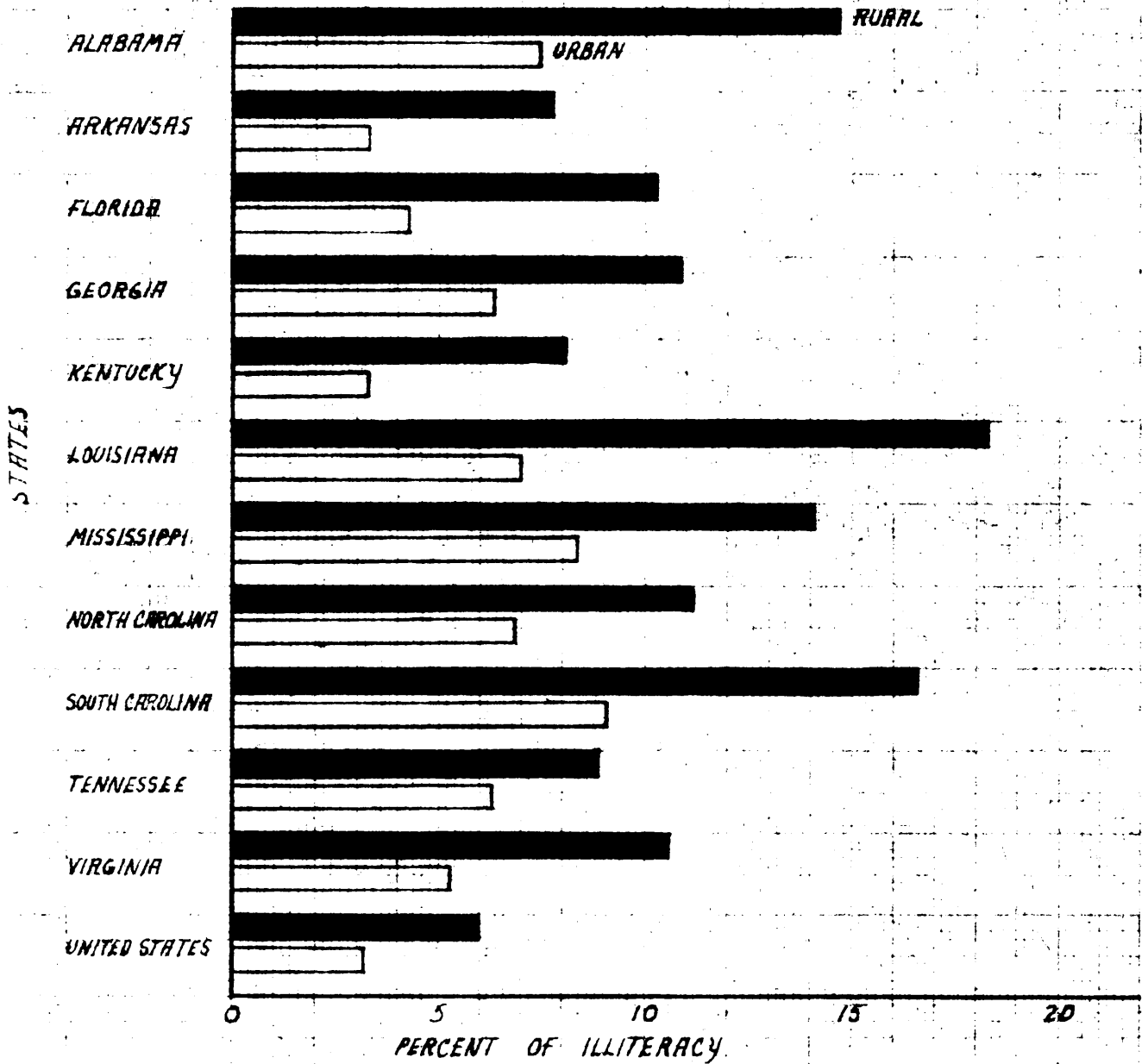
According to urban and rural areas.- In Virginia illiteracy is highest in the rural areas. This also holds true for all of the Southern States and the United States. In 1930 there were 1,574,386 illiterates in the rural population of the south as compared with 355,748 in the urban population. In Virginia there were 130,101 rural illiterates as compared with 32,457 urban illiterates. During the period of this study, (1910-1930) this situation has remained unchanged in the South and in the United States. This condition is largely accounted for by the lack of educational opportunity in the rural areas.

According to nativity.- Table VI, Appendix B, shows clearly that in the southern states selected for comparison, the native white and the negro population account for the main portion of illiteracy. It may be safely said that in the South over 95 percent of the total illiteracy is accounted for by these groups. In Virginia these groups account for over 98 percent of the total illiteracy. In the South the only foreignborn illiteracy of any consequence is in Florida and Louisiana. These two states account for almost two-thirds of the total number of foreignborn illiterates in the South.

FIGURE 12

Rural and Urban Illiteracy In Eleven Southern States
and The United States for 1930

(Based on Tables IV, V and VIII, Appendix B)



Taking the United States as a whole, the situation is quite different. The foreignborn white population supplies almost one-third of the total number of illiterates in the United States.

Illiteracy In Virginia Compared With That In Certain
Foreign Countries

✓ The most literate people today are found in the north and western sections of Europe. The least illiterate people in Europe are those of Tuetonic or mixed Tuetonic stock. The Protestant revolt made great headway among these people and it was thought that one's salvation would be aided if the words of God could be read, and if there could be participation in the church service. Therefore, it may be said that the least illiterate people today are found among the Tuetonic nations (the German states, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland), and in the mixed Tuetonic nations (Switzerland, Scotland, the Netherlands and in England).

Illiteracy is high in the southern and eastern portions of Europe. It reaches its highest points in Spain and Portugal in the south, and in Russia, Servia and Roumania in the east.

The percentage of illiteracy in Europe ranges from 0.11 in Germany to 68.9 in Portugal.

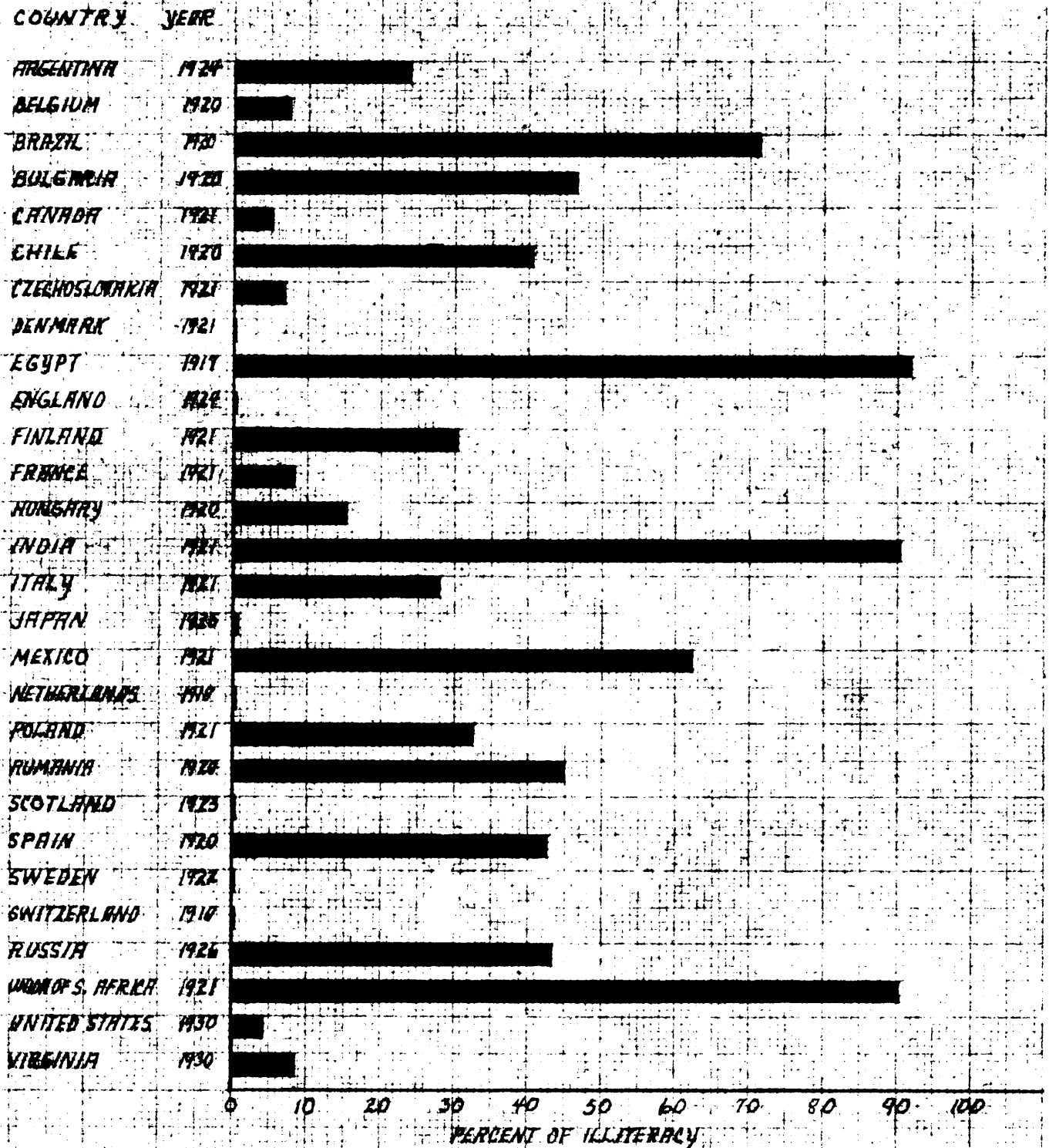
There is a high percentage of illiteracy among the Asiatic, the African and the South American nations. In India over ninety percent

✓ Monroe, Paul. Cyclopedia of Education. MacMillan Company, 1912.
Page 382.

FIGURE 13

Illiteracy By Nations Compared With That In Virginia

(Based on Table II, Appendix B)



of the people are illiterate. About seventy percent of the people in the Union of South Africa are illiterate. In South America the percentage of illiteracy ranges from 40.8 percent in Chile to 71.2 percent in Brasil.

Virginia does not have a very favorable ranking when compared with the most enlightened nations of the world. Practically all of the countries ~~of~~ the north and west of Europe rank ahead of Virginia on the basis of percentage of illiteracy.

We concern ourselves about the education of people in other countries and at the same time fail to recognize the significance of the illiteracy problem at home.

The Sociological Significance of Illiteracy

The relation between illiteracy and farm tenancy.- Although farm tenancy may have some desirable features, it is for the most part an undesirable social phenomena. It is one of the farm problems which the government has been trying to solve for a number of years.

The following table compares illiteracy in those counties having more than the average percentage of tenancy in the state, with those having less than the state average.

Table 2. - The Relationship Between Illiteracy and Farm Tenancy In Virginia, 1930

Number of counties	Percent of farm operators who are tenants	Average percentage of illiteracy
70	Under 28.1 percent	8.6
30	Over 28.1 percent	13.2

This table serves to show that in those portions of the state where illiteracy is high there is also a high percentage of farm tenancy. Generally speaking, it is also true that in those portions of the state where there is a low percentage of illiteracy there is a low percentage of tenancy. In other words, the extreme forms of these undesirable social phenomena seem to go hand in hand.

These two factors are so inter-related that it would be difficult to say which is the causative factor. In fact, it would probably be better to say that they are both causative factors. Since illiteracy is obviously related to farm tenancy, any program designed to alleviate the farm tenancy situation should include an attack on the illiteracy problem.

Why offer a tenant economic opportunity if he does not have sufficient education to take advantage of the possibilities?

The relation between illiteracy and size of families.- I have determined the size of the average county family in the state and have determined the average percentage of illiteracy in the counties above and below this norm. This information is shown here in tabular form.

Table 3.- Relationship Between The Size of County Families and Percentage of Illiteracy In Virginia, 1930

Number of counties	Size of Family	Average percentage of illiteracy
49	Under 4.77	8.3
51	Over 4.77	12.1

This table serves to show that where there is a high percentage of illiteracy the families are usually large and where there is a low percentage of illiteracy the families are usually small.

Since the major portion of our illiteracy is in the adult population, it may be said that there are a large number of adult illiterates in the large families. This gives rise to the belief that there are a large number of people under the influence of adult illiterates.

It is unfortunate that in the cultured class of our population the families are small and in our less cultured class the families are small. This tends to make for less quality and character among our population.

We must see to it that educational opportunity is had by all of the people. This is the only way we can hope to bring about the improvement of those who are brought up under illiterate situations. It is our duty to see to it that education reaches out to all of these large families where illiteracy prevails.

The relation between illiteracy and relief.- Relief is a tremendous burden to the public. Therefore, any condition which tends to bring about this situation should be remedied. Studies have shown that those on relief are either illiterate or poorly educated.

^{1/}A Study of the relief problem in Dallas County, Missouri was published in Social Forces, May, 1936. In this intensive study Caldwell found that most of those on relief were very poorly educated.

^{1/} Caldwell, M. G. and S. M. "Dependency In The Osarks". Social Forces, May, 1936. pp. 553-558.

The following table compares illiteracy in those counties where the relief rate is higher than the state average, with those where the relief rate is less than the state average.

Table 4.- Relationship Between Emergency Relief and Illiteracy In Virginia (Relief Figures for 1935 and Illiteracy Figures for 1930)

Number of counties	Percent of population on emergency relief	Average percentage of illiteracy
53	Under 7.67	10.2
39	Over 7.67	10.9

The relief data used in this table were based on Rural Relief Series Number 1 of the Works Progress Administration, entitled "Magnitude of The Emergency Relief Program, Rural Virginia, 1933-1935". This study includes only those on emergency relief and thus does not give a picture of the total relief burden. Eight counties are not recorded in this report, because they did not have an emergency relief organization.

On the basis of the above table, it can be seen that in localities where the percent of population on emergency relief was high there was also a high percentage of illiteracy. This differentiation is probably not as clear cut as it would be if the normal relief load were considered. This is an abnormal picture, and comparatively speaking, puts the educated class in a less favorable position.

However, granting these difficulties the relationship between illiteracy and the relief load can still be seen. Generally speaking, high relief rates tend to be associated with high illiteracy rates.

We should discard the attitude that "whatever is must be" and adopt a constructive and forward looking viewpoint. Illiteracy has been shown to be one of the causative factors in high relief rolls, so why shouldn't we expect a decline in the relief load as a result of the eradication of illiteracy.

We must realize that illiteracy is related to a large number of social factors and that the furthering of education tends to bring about an improvement in our society.

The relation between illiteracy and low purchasing power.-

Mrs. Cora Stewart, ^{1/}Chairman of the Executive committee working under the advisory committee on National Illiteracy in 1931 brought out clearly the relationship between illiteracy and purchasing power. She said "that only five percent of the illiterates deposit money in banks and only ten percent of them pay any taxes other than the poll tax. Iowa, the least illiterate state, has more farmers who own their farms than any other state, while Louisiana, the most illiterate state in 1920, has the fewest farm owners. There is also a dearth of farm implements in illiterate rural sections as revealed by assessors' reports. Vehicles of all kinds are lacking and even such farm animals as milch cows and work horses are scarce. Illiterate localities are the poorest purchasers of paint, for not even the houses are painted. Assessors also list very little jewelry, silver-

^{1/} Cooper, W. N. School Life. Vol. 17, September, 1931.

ware, and clocks in the homes of the illiterate. Moreover, state assessors' reports show that in illiterate counties, merchants carry meager stocks of goods and these consist of the poorer and coarser qualities. These facts serve to show that there is a high correlation between education and purchasing power."

Franklin Lane, ^{1/} when Secretary of the Interior, estimated that the economic value of an illiterate is fifty cents a day less than a literate individual. On this basis it can be seen that illiteracy is a real economic liability to the country.

Statements of Certain Outstanding Educational and
Political Leaders As To The Importance of
Illiteracy

We can go back in history to the very beginning of our democracy and find statements by outstanding public men as to the importance of a literate and enlightened population.

Those who set up our government after the American Revolution realized that education was indispensable to a system of popular government. They established a system of government by popular verdict and then turned to education as a guarantee that this type of government would survive. They realized that knowledge and high moral standards were essential if democracy was to be a constructive force.

George Washington, ^{2/} wrote as follows in his farewell address: "In proportion as the structure of government gives force to public

^{1/} Fitzpatrick, F. B. Modern Education. Roanoke Printing Company, Incorporated. 1936. Page 225.

^{2/} Education Policies Commission - The Unique Function of Education In American Democracy. National Education Association, 1937. Pages 18-19.

opinion it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened. Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge."

^{1/}In his first message to Congress, Washington said, "knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. In one in which the measures of government receive their impressions so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours, it is proportionally essential." He thought that education was essential to prepare individuals for public and private life.

We find that Thomas Jefferson was a great believer in public education. In a letter to George Wythe in 1786, he wrote as follows: ^{2/} "No other sure foundation can be devised for preservation of freedom and happiness. Preach a crusade against ignorance; establish and improve the law for educating the common people. Let our countrymen know that the people alone can protect us against the evils of misgovernment." Jefferson thought that all of the people should have the opportunity of an education. Those that were not able to go should be sent at the public's expense.

Horace Mann, ^{3/}one of the foremost educators of the past, placed great hope in public education and he offered it as the supreme hope for wise and just decisions. He thought that education was the best insurance against mobocracy, confiscatory legislation, threats to judicial supremacy, etc.

^{1/} Education Policies Commission - The Unique Function of Education In American Democracy. National Education Association, 1937, P.18-19.

^{2/} The University of Virginia News Letter - December 15, 1932.

^{3/} Education Policies Commission. The Unique Function of Education In American Democracy. National Education Association, 1937.

Sam Houston thought that education generally diffused throughout the country were essential to the preservation of a free government.

It can thus be seen that some of the foremost men during the early period of American democracy thought that education was very essential if our democratic government was to survive.

I have given the opinions of some of the most famous men up to the twentieth century. We might now inquire as to what recognized educational men of today think of the problem.

The late Dr. Charles Gilmer Maphis ^{1/} of the University of Virginia summed up our educational responsibilities in the following manner:

"We believe that an educated citizen is more valuable to a commonwealth and to the nation than an ignorant one, and that the only justification for the imposition of school taxes and the spending of public money for schools is that an educated citizen is generally an economic and social asset and an ignorant one more generally a liability. As evidence of this faith, we maintain state systems of public schools for both negroes and whites. If we make our schools more efficient we shall solve the problem of illiteracy for future generations, but our present large group of illiterates are mostly beyond the limits of compulsory education."

In 1912, Paul Monroe ^{2/}, Professor of History of Education at Columbia University, wrote in the Encyclopedia of Education as follows:

^{1/} Maphis, Dr. Charles G. The Veil of Ignorance. University of Virginia - Manuscript.

^{2/} Monroe, Paul. Encyclopedia of Education. MacMillan Company, 1912. Page 383.

"The idea of free schools for all is an expression of the fear of an ignorant citizenship. As the problems of government increase in number and complexity, and as the franchise is extended to new peoples and in new directions, the national peril of an ignorant and an untrained citizenship is felt with increasing force. The good of the community and of the state, as much as of the individual, demand as high a general level of intelligence on the part of the masses as is within reasonable attainment, and nowhere is this more forcibly pushed upon the attention of statesmen than in a democracy such as our own."

Sanford Winston ^{1/}, Associate Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State College, gives the following reasons for studying illiteracy: "First, illiteracy is important because it is a form of isolation. The illiterate is unable to communicate with his fellows in written symbols and hence is largely restricted to his immediate social groups for many forms of social stimuli. Illiteracy is a definite form of isolation. Second, modern culture is dependent upon written symbols to an important extent. Third, the illiterate person is handicapped in his reactions to stimuli and situations to the extent that these phenomena utilize the written word. More fundamental than these, however, is the fact that his range of stimuli is limited to those stimuli which are not conveyed by means of written symbols. Fourth, illiteracy is one of the factors in societal phenomena."

^{1/} Winston, Sanford. Illiteracy in the United States. University of North Carolina Press, 1930. Page 4.

Dr. R. T. Hill ^{1/} is quoted as follows: "The federal census on illiteracy emphasizes the fact that the extension of popular education is a matter of national concern. Otherwise such a census would not be taken. Popular literacy is something of both national and local concern. It may be safely said that in the United States, notwithstanding the extent of illiteracy in many quarters, the educational ideal of the nation is universal literacy. The general tendency and desire is to make literacy one of the universal folkways and a definite part of the fabric of American culture. This is humanly desirable, possible and, from the standpoint of democratic institutions, essential."

The foregoing excerpts are illustrative of the outstanding thought of the day on the illiteracy problem.

^{1/} Hill, Dr. R. T. "Making The People Literate". School and Society. Volume 35, April, 1932. pp. 488-492.

SUMMARY

1. Illiteracy in Virginia is confined largely to the native white and the negro population. They account for 98 percent of the State's illiterate population. Five percent of the native white population is illiterate and they constitute 40 percent of the total illiterate population. About 19 percent of the negro population is illiterate and they furnish 58.5 percent of the total illiterate population.

2. Statistics show that the older the age group the higher is the percentage of illiteracy. There are also more illiterate adults than young people. More progress toward the eradication of illiteracy is being made in the young than in the old sections of the population.

3. Illiteracy is more prevalent among the male than the female population.

4. Illiteracy in Virginia is largely a rural problem. The percentage of illiteracy in rural areas is almost twice as great as that in urban areas.

5. With the exception of the James-York Peninsula, it may be said that the north and northwest sections of Virginia have a low percentage of illiteracy, while the southwest, the south and the eastern sections of Virginia have a high percentage of illiteracy.

6. Arlington County has the lowest percentage of illiteracy (1.7), while Sussex County with 21.6 percent has the highest percentage among the counties of Virginia. There has been a decrease in the percentage of illiteracy in all the counties of Virginia since 1910 with the exception of Craig and Dinwiddie.

7. Winchester has the lowest percentage of illiteracy (2.5) among the independent cities, while Petersburg has the highest percentage (8.2). All of the cities have shown a decline in the percentage of illiteracy since 1910.

8. The percentage of illiteracy in Virginia has always been greater than that in the United States for all of the different age groups. Virginia ranks forty-first among the forty-eight states of the union and fifth among the eleven southern states.

9. All of the southern states and the United States show a higher percentage of illiteracy in the male than in the female population.

10. Illiteracy is greater in the rural than in the urban regions of both the southern states and the United States.

11. In Virginia and the south illiteracy is mainly concentrated in the native white and the negro population. These two groups account for over 95 percent of the south's illiterate population. However, when we consider the United States as a whole, the foreign-born population constitutes almost one-third of the total number of illiterates.

12. A number of countries in western Europe have lower percentages of illiteracy than does Virginia. In fact, most of the progressive nations of the world have a better rating than Virginia.

13. A definite relationship exists between illiteracy and certain social factors. In Virginia high illiteracy is associated with high tenancy, large families and high relief rates. It has also been shown that illiteracy has a definite relationship to low purchasing power.

14. Outstanding educational and political leaders of the past and the present believe that illiteracy is a major problem and that its eradication will bring about an improvement in our civilization and will help perpetuate our type of society.

15. Illiteracy in Virginia is on the decline, but it still constitutes a major problem which should be eradicated as soon as possible.

APPENDIX - A

Table 1.- Illiteracy In Virginia, 1910 to 1930, By Age Groups

Divisions of population	Census year	Population of groups	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Total	1880	1,059,034	430,352	40.6
Population	1890	1,211,934	365,736	30.2
10 years	1900	1,364,501	312,120	22.9
And over	1910	1,536,297	232,911	15.2
	1920	1,748,868	195,159	11.2
	1930	1,872,838	162,588	8.7
Male	1880	516,395	207,562	40.2
10 years	1890	598,677	177,043	29.6
And over	1900	679,440	157,890	23.2
	1910	770,504	121,329	15.7
	1920	886,493	107,374	12.1
	1930	938,649	93,666	10.0
Female	1880	542,639	222,790	41.1
10 years	1890	613,257	188,693	30.8
And over	1900	685,061	154,230	22.5
	1910	765,793	111,582	14.6
	1920	862,375	87,785	10.2
	1930	934,189	68,922	7.4
Total	1880	692,836	285,344	41.1
Population	1890	801,606	275,081	34.3
21 years	1900	900,358	237,340	26.3
And over	1910	1,042,005	186,080	17.9
	1920	1,207,074	162,376	13.5
	1930	1,300,893	140,450	10.8
Total	1880	366,198	145,008	39.5
Population	1890	410,328	90,655	22.0
10 to 20	1900	464,143	74,780	16.1
Years	1910	494,292	46,831	9.4
	1920	541,794	32,783	6.1
	1930	571,945	22,138	3.9

1890 Census listed population 20 years old and over instead of 21 years old and over.

Table II.- Urban and Rural Illiteracy In Virginia, 1910 to 1930. By Age Groups

Divisions of population	Census year	Population of groups	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Urban 10 Years And over	1910	385,258	35,277	9.2
	1920	547,463	38,621	7.1
	1930	643,286	32,487	5.1
21 years And over	1910	284,052	30,642	10.8
	1920	411,555	35,339	8.6
	1930	482,878	30,624	6.3
10 to 20 years	1910	101,206	4,635	4.5
	1920	135,908	3,282	2.4
	1930	160,408	1,863	1.2
Rural 10 Years And over	1910	1,151,039	197,634	17.2
	1920	1,201,405	156,538	13.0
	1930	1,229,552	130,101	10.6
21 years and over	1910	757,953	155,438	20.5
	1920	795,519	127,037	16.0
	1930	818,015	109,326	13.4
10 to 20 Years	1910	393,086	42,196	10.7
	1920	405,886	29,501	7.3
	1930	411,537	20,275	4.9

Table III.- Illiteracy In Virginia, 1910 to 1930, According to Nativity

Divisions of population	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons illiterate		Percentage of total illiteracy in state
		Number	Percent	
1910				
Native White				
Native parentage	985,058	81,105	8.2	34.9
Foreign or mixed parentage	28,636	352	1.2	0.1
Foreign born white	25,639	2,368	9.2	1.0
Negro	496,418	148,950	30.0	63.9
Other classes	546	136	24.9	0.1
Total - Virginia	1,536,297	232,911	15.2	100.0
1920				
Native White				
Native parentage	1,156,561	70,081	6.1	35.9
Foreign or mixed parentage	40,359	394	1.0	0.2
Foreign born white	30,325	2,190	7.1	1.1
Negro	526,657	122,322	23.5	63.7
Other classes	966	212	21.9	0.1
Total - Virginia	1,748,868	195,159	11.2	100.0
1930				
Native White				
Native parentage	1,308,282	65,114	5.0	40.0
Foreign or mixed parentage	45,514	368	.8	0.3
Foreign born white	23,617	1,738	7.4	1.0
Negro	494,429	95,148	19.2	58.5
Other classes	996	220	22.0	0.2
Total - Virginia	1,872,838	162,588	8.7	100.0

Table IV.- Percent of Illiteracy In The White and Negro Population of Virginia From 1880-1930

Census year	Percent of native white population illiterate	Percent of foreign born white population illiterate	Percent of negro population illiterate
1880	18.5	5.4	73.7
1890	14.0	10.1	57.2
1900	6.7	10.9	44.6
1910	4.7	9.2	30.0
1920	3.5	7.1	23.5
1930	4.8	7.4	19.2

Table 7.- Illiteracy In Virginia, 1910 to 1930, By Regions

Region	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alleghany Ridges	1910	23,573	2,286	9.7
	1920	24,595	1,285	5.2
	1930	30,523	1,449	4.7
Eastern Shore	1910	39,452	7,135	18.0
	1920	40,093	6,869	17.1
	1930	42,855	4,189	9.8
James-York-Peninsula	1910	56,135	7,140	12.7
	1920	77,432	6,420	8.3
	1930	76,234	4,311	5.6
Middle Peninsula	1910	42,372	7,261	17.1
	1920	41,459	5,624	13.5
	1930	38,285	4,084	10.6
Northern Neck	1910	32,101	7,031	21.9
	1920	33,198	5,770	17.3
	1930	31,211	3,860	12.3
Northern Piedmont	1910	360,203	46,341	12.8
	1920	405,178	34,971	8.6
	1930	443,376	29,954	6.7
Shenandoah Valley	1910	143,596	13,368	9.3
	1920	137,551	11,755	8.5
	1930	157,857	9,205	5.8
Southeast Virginia	1910	210,686	36,365	17.2
	1920	284,100	31,658	11.1
	1930	284,697	25,956	9.1
Southside Virginia	1910	341,444	63,436	18.5
	1920	379,468	54,380	14.3
	1930	388,775	45,817	11.8
Southwest Virginia	1910	286,735	42,548	14.8
	1920	325,764	36,427	11.1
	1930	379,025	33,763	8.9

Table VI.-- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930*

Counties	Census year	Population of age 10 years and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Accomac	1910	27,207	5,106	18.8	56
	1920	26,697	4,852	18.2	87
	1930	28,337	2,935	10.4	50
Albemarle	1910	21,971	3,330	15.2	37
	1920	19,507	1,841	9.4	22
	1930	20,468	2,342	11.4	62
Alleghany	1910	10,255	1,285	12.5	21
	1920	11,323	591	5.2	4
	1930	15,192	646	4.3	5
Amelia	1910	6,472	1,570	24.3	89
	1920	7,225	949	13.1	55
	1930	6,658	946	14.2	81
Amherst	1910	13,506	2,761	20.4	66
	1920	14,416	2,351	16.3	77
	1930	14,441	2,209	15.3	87
Appomattox	1910	6,433	668	10.4	17
	1920	6,645	624	9.4	22
	1930	6,405	599	8.7	37
Arlington	1910	-	-	-	-
	1920	12,601	473	3.8	1
	1930	21,284	353	1.7	1
Augusta	1910	24,354	2,074	8.5	6
	1920	25,988	2,019	7.8	16
	1930	29,417	1,971	6.7	17
Bath	1910	4,905	476	9.7	10
	1920	4,819	279	5.8	6
	1930	6,351	370	5.8	13
Bedford	1910	21,533	3,420	15.9	44
	1920	22,580	2,608	11.6	43
	1930	22,437	2,284	10.2	48
Bland	1910	3,777	386	10.2	14
	1920	4,095	251	6.1	8
	1930	4,422	297	6.7	17

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Botetourt	1910	12,968	1,280	9.9	11
	1920	12,384	1,334	10.8	35
	1930	11,703	907	7.8	27
Brunswick	1910	13,551	2,794	20.6	70
	1920	14,689	3,629	24.7	99
	1930	14,906	2,399	16.1	89
Buchanan	1910	7,958	2,723	34.2	99
	1920	10,151	2,788	27.5	100
	1930	11,285	1,969	17.4	93
Buckingham	1910	11,082	2,412	21.8	75
	1920	10,736	2,250	21.0	90
	1930	9,822	1,761	17.9	94
Campbell	1910	16,461	3,002	18.2	55
	1920	19,344	2,134	11.0	36
	1930	16,824	1,648	9.8	45
Caroline	1910	11,924	2,831	23.7	86
	1920	11,584	1,716	14.8	67
	1930	11,316	1,347	11.9	67
Carroll	1910	14,602	2,474	16.9	49
	1920	15,149	1,875	12.4	49
	1930	16,035	1,834	11.4	62
Charles City	1910	3,781	953	25.2	93
	1920	3,427	608	17.7	82
	1930	3,642	535	14.7	84
Charlotte	1910	11,359	2,406	21.2	72
	1920	12,772	1,317	10.3	32
	1930	11,668	1,944	16.7	91
Chesterfield	1910	15,828	2,337	14.8	34
	1920	15,233	1,746	11.5	41
	1930	20,341	1,384	6.8	19
Clarke	1910	5,625	766	13.6	28
	1920	5,361	520	9.7	25
	1930	5,661	269	4.8	7

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Craig	1910	3,537	66	1.9	1
	1920	3,127	239	7.6	14
	1930	2,744	208	7.6	24
Culpeper	1910	10,075	1,432	14.2	30
	1920	10,080	1,016	10.1	30
	1930	10,404	962	9.2	42
Cumberland	1910	6,528	1,599	24.5	90
	1920	6,726	1,447	21.5	92
	1930	5,586	1,091	19.5	97
Dickenson	1910	5,947	916	15.4	39
	1920	8,958	1,213	13.5	59
	1930	10,768	1,118	10.4	50
Dinwiddie	1910	11,064	2,155	19.5	60
	1920	13,260	3,176	24.0	96
	1930	14,532	3,013	20.7	99
Elizabeth City	1910	17,670	1,663	9.4	8
	1920	20,716	1,316	6.4	10
	1930	16,607	709	4.3	5
Essex	1910	6,626	1,258	19.0	58
	1920	6,325	958	15.1	68
	1930	5,436	733	13.5	74
Fairfax	1910	15,755	1,268	8.0	4
	1920	17,365	755	4.3	2
	1930	20,249	740	3.7	2
Fauquier	1910	16,870	2,148	12.7	24
	1920	16,442	1,612	9.8	26
	1930	16,254	1,473	9.1	40
Floyd	1910	10,056	1,200	11.9	19
	1920	9,580	875	9.1	20
	1930	8,873	682	7.7	26
Fluvanna	1910	6,254	1,132	18.1	53
	1920	6,478	811	12.5	50
	1930	5,726	570	10.0	47

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Franklin	1910	18,621	3,941	21.2	72
	1920	18,557	2,636	14.2	65
	1930	17,924	2,023	11.3	59
Frederick	1910	9,774	674	6.9	3
	1920	9,650	441	4.6	3
	1930	10,182	427	4.2	4
Giles	1910	8,251	1,142	13.8	29
	1920	8,508	1,066	12.5	50
	1930	9,487	818	8.6	35
Gloucester	1910	9,068	1,849	20.4	66
	1920	8,953	1,298	14.5	66
	1930	8,693	891	10.2	48
Goochland	1910	6,763	1,555	23.0	84
	1920	6,499	1,161	17.9	86
	1930	6,037	649	10.8	53
Grayson	1910	14,017	2,117	15.1	36
	1920	14,263	1,217	8.5	19
	1930	14,942	1,221	8.2	32
Greena	1910	4,842	1,491	30.8	97
	1920	4,608	1,108	24.0	96
	1930	4,574	818	17.9	94
Greensville	1910	8,423	2,110	25.1	92
	1920	8,379	2,027	24.2	98
	1930	9,738	2,001	20.5	98
Halifax	1910	28,411	6,300	22.2	80
	1920	29,407	4,927	16.8	78
	1930	29,966	4,115	13.7	78
Hanover	1910	12,848	2,060	16.0	46
	1920	13,437	1,820	13.5	59
	1930	13,408	1,227	9.2	42
Henrico	1910	17,745	1,758	9.9	11
	1920	14,467	1,148	7.9	17
	1930	23,817	1,217	5.1	10

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Henry	1910	13,019	2,838	21.8	75
	1920	14,510	2,354	16.2	76
	1930	14,454	1,840	12.7	70
Highland	1910	3,984	329	8.3	5
	1920	3,722	230	6.2	9
	1930	3,501	257	7.3	23
Isle of Wight	1910	10,780	2,792	25.9	95
	1920	10,727	1,643	15.3	71
	1930	10,216	1,402	13.7	78
James City	1910	5,047	1,023	20.3	64
	1920	4,939	549	11.1	38
	1930	3,005	341	11.3	59
King and Queen	1910	6,948	1,527	22.0	77
	1920	6,645	873	13.1	55
	1930	5,764	650	11.3	59
King George	1910	4,762	951	20.0	62
	1920	4,305	752	17.5	80
	1930	4,054	479	11.8	65
King William	1910	6,273	968	15.4	39
	1920	6,446	989	15.3	71
	1930	6,124	915	14.9	85
Lancaster	1910	7,220	1,745	24.2	88
	1920	7,433	1,196	16.1	75
	1930	6,829	929	13.5	74
Lee	1910	16,365	3,333	20.4	66
	1920	17,751	2,403	13.5	59
	1930	21,427	3,099	14.5	82
Loudoun	1910	16,406	1,690	10.3	15
	1920	15,950	959	6.0	7
	1930	15,656	987	6.3	16

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population of age 10 years and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low and high)
			Number	Percent	
Louisa	1910	12,115	1,959	16.2	49
	1920	12,650	1,644	13.0	54
	1930	10,901	1,178	10.8	53
Lunenburg	1910	9,259	1,754	18.9	57
	1920	11,040	1,531	13.9	63
	1930	10,486	1,154	11.0	58
Madison	1910	7,274	1,481	20.4	66
	1920	7,218	959	13.3	58
	1930	6,928	556	8.0	30
Mathews	1910	6,870	613	8.9	7
	1920	6,849	450	6.6	11
	1930	6,608	341	5.2	11
Mecklenburg	1910	20,755	4,198	20.2	63
	1920	22,421	3,982	17.8	84
	1930	23,996	3,174	13.2	72
Middlesex	1910	6,587	1,046	15.9	44
	1920	6,241	1,056	16.9	79
	1930	5,660	554	9.8	45
Montgomery	1910	12,669	1,593	12.6	22
	1920	13,733	1,508	11.0	36
	1930	14,972	1,083	7.2	22
Nansemond	1910	20,090	4,509	22.4	81
	1920	14,960	2,624	17.5	80
	1930	17,295	2,339	13.5	74
Nelson	1910	11,868	2,555	21.5	74
	1920	12,509	1,485	11.9	44
	1930	11,990	1,594	13.3	73
New Kent	1910	3,484	811	23.3	85
	1920	3,294	618	18.8	88
	1930	3,251	386	11.9	67

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Norfolk	1910	39,482	7,071	17.9	52
	1920	45,397	4,434	9.8	26
	1930	22,824	2,486	10.9	55
Northampton	1910	12,245	2,029	16.6	48
	1920	13,396	2,017	15.1	68
	1930	14,518	1,254	8.6	35
Northumberland	1910	7,915	1,134	14.3	31
	1920	8,510	1,175	13.8	62
	1930	8,558	783	9.1	40
Northway	1910	10,127	1,359	13.4	27
	1920	10,502	1,102	10.5	33
	1930	11,354	915	8.1	31
Orange	1910	9,990	1,425	14.3	31
	1920	10,038	1,076	10.7	34
	1930	9,372	976	10.4	50
Page	1910	10,366	1,121	10.8	18
	1920	10,998	1,338	12.2	46
	1930	11,210	855	7.6	24
Patrick	1910	11,617	2,102	18.1	53
	1920	11,621	1,412	12.2	46
	1930	11,250	1,735	15.3	87
Pittsylvania	1910	35,842	8,543	23.8	87
	1920	39,640	7,029	17.7	82
	1930	44,191	5,991	13.6	77
Powhatan	1910	4,507	914	20.3	64
	1920	4,858	867	17.8	84
	1930	4,792	565	11.8	65
Prince Edward	1910	10,629	1,677	15.8	43
	1920	10,994	1,668	15.2	70
	1930	11,006	1,639	14.9	85
Prince George	1910	5,606	1,237	22.1	78
	1920	9,631	950	9.9	28
	1930	7,774	639	8.2	32

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Princess Anne	1910	8,568	1,810	21.1	71
	1920	10,171	1,253	12.3	48
	1930	12,628	1,461	11.6	64
Prince William	1910	8,958	1,162	13.0	25
	1920	10,591	810	7.6	14
	1930	11,113	763	6.9	21
Pulaski	1910	12,508	1,933	15.5	41
	1920	12,433	1,231	9.9	28
	1930	15,379	1,043	6.8	19
Rappahannock	1910	5,927	1,332	22.5	82
	1920	5,960	1,320	22.1	95
	1930	5,780	1,033	17.9	94
Richmond	1910	5,422	1,673	30.9	98
	1920	5,431	1,064	19.6	89
	1930	5,273	867	16.4	90
Roanoke	1910	14,525	1,395	9.6	9
	1920	16,713	1,354	8.1	18
	1930	26,477	1,296	4.9	8
Rockbridge	1910	15,650	2,034	13.0	25
	1920	15,463	1,462	9.5	24
	1930	15,896	1,241	7.8	27
Rockingham	1910	26,205	2,582	9.9	11
	1920	22,660	1,636	7.2	13
	1930	22,787	1,287	5.6	12
Russell	1910	16,369	3,165	19.3	59
	1920	18,586	2,885	15.5	73
	1930	18,343	2,323	12.7	70
Scott	1910	16,623	3,234	19.5	60
	1920	17,617	1,985	11.3	39
	1930	17,801	2,449	13.8	80

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Continued

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Shenandoah	1910	15,988	959	6.0	2
	1920	16,181	918	5.7	5
	1930	16,367	602	3.7	2
Smyth	1910	14,455	2,199	15.2	37
	1920	15,928	1,800	11.3	39
	1930	18,635	2,024	10.9	55
Southampton	1910	18,625	5,232	28.1	96
	1920	19,751	4,311	21.8	93
	1930	19,798	3,312	16.7	91
Spotsylvania	1910	7,206	1,220	16.9	49
	1920	7,762	783	10.1	30
	1930	7,642	597	7.8	27
Stafford	1910	6,064	947	15.6	42
	1920	6,024	792	13.1	55
	1930	6,159	551	8.9	38
Surry	1910	7,048	1,557	22.1	78
	1920	6,792	1,065	15.7	74
	1930	5,482	801	14.6	83
Sussex	1910	9,866	2,464	25.0	91
	1920	9,309	2,046	22.0	94
	1930	9,211	1,993	21.6	100
Tazewell	1910	17,711	2,560	14.5	33
	1920	19,882	2,360	11.9	44
	1930	23,461	2,239	9.5	44
Warren	1910	6,484	666	10.3	15
	1920	6,641	617	9.3	21
	1930	6,445	402	6.2	14
Warwick	1910	4,438	1,129	25.4	94
	1920	9,157	633	6.9	12
	1930	6,958	346	5.0	9

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Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia,
1910 to 1930* - Concluded

Counties	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Washington	1910	23,434	3,485	14.9	35
	1920	23,475	2,690	11.5	41
	1930	25,101	2,244	8.9	38
Westmoreland	1910	6,782	1,528	22.5	82
	1920	7,519	1,583	21.1	91
	1930	6,437	802	12.5	69
Wise	1910	23,548	4,119	17.5	51
	1920	32,244	4,165	12.9	53
	1930	36,029	3,915	10.9	55
Wythe	1910	14,816	1,757	11.9	19
	1920	14,837	1,874	12.6	52
	1930	15,318	1,274	8.3	34
York	1910	5,733	725	12.6	22
	1920	6,125	854	13.9	63
	1930	5,953	370	6.2	14

*The independent cities are not included in the county data.

Table VII.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia, 1930,
According to Nativity*

Counties	Native White Illiterates		Negro Illiterates		Foreign-Born White Illiterates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Accomac	809	4.5	2,123	20.8	3	.03
Albemarle	1,315	8.4	1,027	22.0	-	-
Alleghany	480	3.5	161	10.4	5	-
Amelia	99	3.1	847	24.9	-	-
Amherst	914	9.1	1,188	28.7	-	-
Appomattox	163	3.5	396	23.0	-	-
Arlington	69	0.4	264	9.9	19	2.3
Augusta	1,464	5.5	506	18.1	1	.8
Bath	267	5.1	103	10.7	-	-
Bedford	1,101	6.4	1,180	22.5	-	-
Bland	268	6.2	28	25.2	1	-
Botetourt	594	5.9	312	19.0	1	-
Brunswick	502	7.3	1,897	23.6	-	-
Buchanan	1,938	17.4	30	23.8	1	-
Buckingham	546	9.7	1,215	29.3	-	-
Campbell	524	4.4	1,121	23.4	2	-
Caroline	338	6.0	1,000	18.1	9	-
Carroll	1,786	11.3	47	17.1	1	-
Charles City	18	2.2	510	18.7	-	-
Charlotte	430	6.2	1,514	32.3	-	-
Chesterfield	360	2.5	1,012	18.4	12	3.1
Clarke	185	4.2	84	7.0	-	-
Craig	207	7.6	1	7.1	-	-
Culpeper	254	3.5	708	22.1	-	-
Cumberland	83	3.4	1,007	32.5	1	-
Dickenson	1,053	10.0	54	25.4	11	-
Dinwiddie	117	2.1	2,892	32.8	4	3.4
Elisabeth City	118	1.0	570	13.2	20	2.5
Essex	75	3.0	658	22.7	-	-
Fairfax	307	1.9	430	11.1	3	0.7
Fauquier	580	5.1	893	19.1	-	-
Floyd	592	7.0	90	23.3	-	-
Fluvanna	106	2.9	464	22.1	-	-
Franklin	1,302	8.6	721	26.3	-	-
Frederick	373	3.8	55	15.4	1	-
Giles	714	7.9	101	22.6	-	-
Gloucester	335	6.4	556	16.2	-	-
Goochland	74	2.5	573	18.9	2	-
Grayson	1,095	7.6	125	24.9	1	-
Greene	632	16.9	186	22.8	-	-
Greensville	181	4.6	1,815	31.8	5	4.9
Halifax	1,144	6.9	2,967	22.3	1	-

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Table VII.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia, 1930,
According to Nativity* - Continued

Counties	Native White Illiterates		Negro Illiterates		Foreign-Born White Illiterates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hanover	295	3.4	927	19.6	5	-
Henrico	278	1.5	892	17.8	46	6.3
Henry	761	7.5	1,079	25.0	-	-
Highland	236	7.0	21	16.2	-	-
Isle of Wight	232	4.5	1,170	23.3	-	-
James City	31	2.2	304	19.9	6	-
King and Queen	74	2.7	572	18.9	2	-
King George	149	5.6	330	24.1	-	-
King William	73	2.5	729	25.4	109	54.8
Lancaster	142	3.7	785	26.1	2	-
Lee	2,951	14.1	129	31.1	18	-
Loudoun	379	3.1	604	18.4	4	2.9
Louisa	296	4.5	881	20.3	1	-
Lunenburg	121	2.0	1,029	23.4	4	-
Madison	239	4.7	317	17.6	-	-
Mathews	107	2.2	234	14.5	-	-
Mecklenburg	447	3.8	2,723	22.3	3	-
Middlesex	93	3.0	460	18.3	1	-
Montgomery	853	6.4	228	14.8	2	-
Nansemond	203	3.5	2,134	18.7	2	-
Nelson	783	9.0	811	25.1	-	-
New Kent	42	3.1	331	18.1	13	-
Norfolk	264	2.1	2,193	22.2	28	7.5
Northampton	143	2.1	1,103	14.8	7	-
Northumberland	200	3.9	580	17.1	3	-
Nottoway	64	1.0	851	17.7	-	-
Orange	348	5.4	626	22.0	2	-
Page	725	6.8	130	23.6	-	-
Patrick	1,413	13.6	322	33.3	-	-
Pittsylvania	2,189	7.4	3,801	25.9	1	-
Powhatan	56	2.3	508	21.6	1	-
Prince Edward	229	4.2	1,409	25.7	1	-
Prince George	75	1.8	527	17.1	37	8.7
Princess Anne	288	4.2	1,164	20.5	9	6.5
Prince William	385	4.3	363	19.2	14	6.2
Pulaski	778	5.7	263	15.0	2	-
Rappahannock	657	15.1	376	26.5	-	-
Richmond	259	7.8	608	31.1	-	-
Roanoke	901	3.8	386	15.3	8	5.2
Rockbridge	990	7.1	250	13.8	1	-
Rockingham	1,136	5.1	149	22.7	1	-
Russell	2,184	12.4	121	21.2	18	18.0

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Table VII.- Illiteracy In The Counties of Virginia, 1930,
According to Nativity* - Concluded

Counties	Native White Illiterates		Negro Illiterates		Foreign-Born White Illiterates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Scott	2,383	13.6	64	28.7	2	-
Shenandoah	525	3.3	77	18.3	-	-
Smyth	1,938	10.7	79	15.2	7	-
Southampton	464	5.7	2,833	24.5	14	-
Spotsylvania	247	4.7	349	15.1	1	-
Stafford	336	6.7	207	19.7	8	-
Surry	49	2.2	747	23.8	5	-
Sussex	64	2.0	1,927	32.8	2	-
Tazewell	1,802	8.5	370	18.0	67	36.2
Warren	321	5.6	80	12.9	1	-
Warwick	36	0.7	302	15.9	8	3.5
Washington	2,099	8.6	185	16.3	-	-
Westmoreland	139	3.8	663	24.0	-	-
Wise	3,087	9.3	717	28.7	110	30.8
Wythe	1,100	7.7	173	16.2	1	-
York	43	1.2	324	14.4	3	-

*The Independent Cities are not included in the County Data.

Table VIII.- Illiteracy In The Independent Cities of Virginia, 1910 to 1930

Cities	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alexandria	1910	12,443	818	6.6
	1920	14,765	726	4.9
	1930	19,460	740	3.8
Bristol	1910	4,810	569	11.8
	1920	5,298	545	10.3
	1930	7,069	442	6.3
Buena Vista	1910	2,349	193	8.2
	1920	2,819	264	9.4
	1930	3,005	217	7.2
Charlottesville	1910	5,496	548	10.0
	1920	8,612	458	5.3
	1930	12,431	437	3.5
Clifton Forge	1910	4,429	196	4.4
	1920	4,731	185	3.9
	1930	5,479	176	3.2
Danville	1910	15,187	2,566	16.9
	1920	17,249	2,214	12.8
	1930	17,879	1,432	8.0
Fredericksburg	1910	4,726	293	6.2
	1920	4,843	216	4.5
	1930	5,643	255	4.5
Hampton	1910	-	-	-
	1920	-	-	-
	1930	5,367	192	3.6
Harrisonburg	1910	-	-	-
	1920	4,637	338	7.3
	1930	5,812	251	4.3
Hopewell	1910	-	-	-
	1920	1,029	81	7.9
	1930	8,945	403	4.5

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Table VIII.- Illiteracy In The Independent Cities of Virginia, 1910 to 1930 - Continued

Cities	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Lynchburg	1910	23,715	2,195	9.3
	1920	24,354	1,776	7.3
	1930	33,045	1,891	5.7
Martinsville	1910	-	-	-
	1920	-	-	-
	1930	5,952	400	6.7
Newport News	1910	15,982	836	5.2
	1920	29,774	1,842	6.2
	1930	28,043	1,329	4.7
Norfolk	1910	55,424	4,966	9.0
	1920	96,693	6,111	6.3
	1930	108,223	5,001	4.6
Petersburg	1910	19,444	2,686	13.8
	1920	25,073	3,002	12.0
	1930	23,301	1,914	8.2
Portsmouth	1910	26,774	2,617	9.8
	1920	43,998	4,326	9.8
	1930	37,839	2,710	7.2
Radford	1910	3,127	271	8.7
	1920	3,472	217	6.3
	1930	4,728	217	4.6
Richmond	1910	105,141	8,641	8.2
	1920	140,804	7,931	5.6
	1930	152,323	6,380	4.2
Roanoke	1910	27,630	1,911	6.9
	1920	39,966	1,886	4.7
	1930	55,729	1,968	3.5
South Norfolk	1910	-	-	-
	1920	-	-	-
	1930	6,214	515	8.3

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Table VIII.- Illiteracy In the Independent Cities of Virginia, 1910 to 1930 - Concluded

Cities	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Staunton	1910	3,983	676	7.5
	1920	7,090	593	6.5
	1930	10,407	554	5.3
Suffolk	1910	-	-	-
	1920	7,263	787	10.8
	1930	8,510	893	10.5
Williamsburg	1910	-	-	-
	1920	-	-	-
	1930	3,408	103	3.0
Winchester	1910	4,850	343	7.1
	1920	5,679	275	4.8
	1930	8,865	222	2.5

Table IX.- Illiteracy In The Independent Cities of Virginia, 1930, According to Nativity

Cities	Native White Illiterates		Negro Illiterates		Foreign-Born White Illiterates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alexandria	124	0.8	575	14.6	37	7.9
Bristol	340	5.7	101	10.2	-	-
Buena Vista	175	6.3	42	19.4	-	-
Charlottesville	132	1.5	287	8.8	17	8.7
Clifton Forge	19	0.4	157	16.5	-	-
Danville	357	2.7	1063	24.1	12	6.3
Fredericksburg	123	2.7	125	13.0	6	-
Hampton	9	0.3	177	7.6	3	2.9
Harrisonburg	180	3.5	71	10.7	-	-
Hopewell	157	2.1	199	18.7	47	9.6
Lynchburg	412	1.7	1468	18.7	11	3.2
Martinsville	106	2.4	294	19.2	-	-
Newport News	88	0.6	1119	10.5	117	7.9
Norfolk	460	0.7	4135	11.4	371	8.6
Petersburg	220	1.7	1671	16.4	23	7.5
Portsmouth	176	0.8	2467	16.2	58	6.7
Radford	158	3.7	59	12.8	-	-
Richmond	707	0.7	5389	12.5	269	6.7
Roanoke	652	1.5	1251	12.5	65	7.9
South Norfolk	140	2.9	374	27.6	1	-
Staunton	347	4.0	195	13.2	9	6.2
Suffolk	101	1.9	784	25.2	7	-
Williamsburg	2	0.1	101	14.3	-	-
Winchester	125	1.6	96	11.3	1	0.8

APPENDIX B

Table I.- Illiteracy In Eleven Southern States, 1910 to 1930

State	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate		Rank by percent (low to high)
			Number	Percent	
Alabama	1910	1,541,575	352,710	22.9	9
	1920	1,730,421	278,082	16.1	8
	1930	2,000,653	251,095	12.6	8
Arkansas	1910	1,134,087	142,954	12.6	2
	1920	1,302,905	121,837	9.4	2
	1930	1,419,945	96,818	6.8	2
Florida	1910	564,722	77,816	13.8	4
	1920	751,787	71,811	9.6	3
	1930	1,174,252	83,242	7.1	3
Georgia	1910	1,885,111	389,775	20.7	7
	1920	2,150,230	328,838	15.3	7
	1930	2,238,192	210,736	9.4	6
Kentucky	1910	1,722,644	208,084	12.1	1
	1920	1,837,434	155,014	8.4	1
	1930	2,005,492	131,545	6.6	1
Louisiana	1910	1,213,576	352,179	29.0	11
	1920	1,366,066	299,092	21.9	11
	1930	1,622,868	219,750	13.5	10
Mississippi	1910	1,293,180	290,236	22.4	8
	1920	1,338,612	229,734	17.2	10
	1930	1,526,128	199,761	13.1	9
North Carolina	1910	1,578,595	291,457	18.5	6
	1920	1,844,673	241,603	13.1	6
	1930	2,352,014	236,261	10.0	7
South Carolina	1910	1,078,161	276,980	27.7	10
	1920	1,219,316	220,667	18.1	9
	1930	1,292,939	192,878	14.9	11
Tennessee	1910	1,621,179	221,071	13.6	3
	1920	1,770,762	182,629	10.3	4
	1930	2,028,109	145,460	7.2	4
Virginia	1910	1,536,297	232,911	15.2	5
	1920	1,748,868	195,159	11.2	5
	1930	1,872,838	162,588	8.7	5

Table II.— Illiteracy In The Male Population of Eleven
Southern States, 1910 to 1930

State	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alabama	1910	773,415	173,726	22.5
	1920	861,344	140,991	16.4
	1930	988,879	133,645	13.5
Arkansas	1910	588,133	71,243	12.1
	1920	667,972	63,959	9.6
	1930	720,472	53,666	7.4
Florida	1910	299,109	39,482	13.2
	1920	386,150	37,252	9.6
	1930	589,617	45,151	7.7
Georgia	1910	939,791	196,026	20.9
	1920	1,069,254	173,254	16.2
	1930	1,097,891	115,869	10.6
Kentucky	1910	874,306	109,877	12.6
	1920	933,175	86,495	9.3
	1930	1,012,802	77,834	7.7
Louisiana	1910	612,534	171,423	28.0
	1920	684,958	148,081	21.6
	1930	806,656	109,745	13.6
Mississippi	1910	651,391	145,702	22.4
	1920	668,513	120,773	18.1
	1930	761,128	109,341	14.4
North Carolina	1910	781,434	142,108	18.2
	1920	917,883	125,302	13.7
	1930	1,161,810	130,482	11.2
South Carolina	1910	531,692	133,126	25.0
	1920	604,224	110,425	18.3
	1930	629,187	99,523	15.8
Tennessee	1910	817,174	112,986	13.8
	1920	885,952	98,852	11.2
	1930	1,006,704	84,489	8.4
Virginia	1910	770,504	121,329	15.7
	1920	886,493	107,374	12.1
	1930	938,649	93,666	10.0

Table III.- Illiteracy In The Female Population of Eleven Southern States, 1910 to 1930

State	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alabama	1910	763,160	178,984	23.3
	1920	869,077	137,091	15.8
	1930	1,011,774	117,450	11.6
Arkansas	1910	545,954	71,711	13.1
	1920	634,933	57,878	9.1
	1930	699,473	43,152	6.2
Florida	1910	265,613	38,334	14.4
	1920	365,637	34,559	9.5
	1930	584,635	38,091	6.5
Georgia	1910	945,320	193,749	20.5
	1920	1,080,976	155,584	14.4
	1930	1,140,301	94,867	8.3
Kentucky	1910	348,338	98,207	11.6
	1920	304,259	68,519	7.6
	1930	992,690	53,711	5.4
Louisiana	1910	601,042	180,756	30.1
	1920	681,108	151,011	22.2
	1930	816,212	110,005	13.5
Mississippi	1910	641,789	144,533	22.5
	1920	670,099	109,001	16.3
	1930	765,000	90,420	11.8
North Carolina	1910	797,161	149,389	18.7
	1920	926,790	116,301	12.5
	1930	1,190,204	105,779	8.9
South Carolina	1910	546,469	143,854	26.3
	1920	615,092	110,242	17.9
	1930	663,752	93,355	14.1
Tennessee	1910	804,005	108,085	13.4
	1920	884,810	83,777	9.5
	1930	1,021,405	60,971	6.0
Virginia	1910	765,793	111,582	14.6
	1920	862,375	87,785	10.2
	1930	934,189	68,922	7.4

Table IV.- Illiteracy In The Rural Population of Eleven Southern States, 1910 to 1930

State	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alabama	1910	1,247,732	314,559	25.2
	1920	1,321,730	235,764	17.8
	1930	1,400,652	205,924	14.7
Arkansas	1910	971,564	132,376	13.6
	1920	1,067,388	110,233	10.3
	1930	1,103,529	86,350	7.8
Florida	1910	389,213	63,130	16.2
	1920	461,881	56,129	12.2
	1930	546,239	56,386	10.3
Georgia	1910	1,454,567	338,018	23.2
	1920	1,557,373	272,253	17.5
	1930	1,507,090	164,301	10.9
Kentucky	1910	1,263,100	177,465	14.0
	1920	1,311,681	128,266	9.8
	1930	1,346,595	109,717	8.1
Louisiana	1910	815,858	309,749	38.0
	1920	853,225	252,523	29.6
	1930	943,004	172,434	18.3
Mississippi	1910	1,128,426	268,740	23.8
	1920	1,142,874	207,520	18.2
	1930	1,248,820	176,498	14.1
North Carolina	1910	1,331,875	260,752	19.6
	1920	1,461,006	205,932	14.1
	1930	1,714,978	192,459	11.2
South Carolina	1910	900,992	249,277	27.7
	1920	984,702	196,510	20.0
	1930	997,434	166,043	16.6
Tennessee	1910	1,259,643	188,859	15.0
	1920	1,268,861	147,555	11.6
	1930	1,293,043	114,173	8.8
Virginia	1910	1,151,039	197,634	17.2
	1920	1,201,405	156,538	13.0
	1930	1,229,552	130,101	10.6

Table V.- Illiteracy In The Urban Population of Eleven
Southern States, 1910 to 1930

State	Census year	Population 10 years of age and over	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Alabama	1910	293,843	38,151	13.0
	1920	408,691	42,318	10.4
	1930	600,001	45,171	7.5
Arkansas	1910	162,523	10,758	6.5
	1920	235,517	11,604	4.9
	1930	316,416	10,468	3.3
Florida	1910	175,509	14,686	8.4
	1920	289,906	15,682	5.4
	1930	628,013	26,856	4.3
Georgia	1910	430,544	51,757	12.0
	1920	592,857	56,585	9.5
	1930	731,102	46,435	6.4
Kentucky	1910	459,544	30,619	6.7
	1920	525,753	26,748	5.1
	1930	658,897	21,828	3.3
Louisiana	1910	397,718	42,430	10.7
	1920	512,841	46,569	9.1
	1930	679,864	47,316	7.0
Mississippi	1910	164,754	21,495	13.0
	1920	195,738	22,214	11.3
	1930	277,308	23,263	8.4
North Carolina	1910	246,920	30,745	12.5
	1920	383,667	35,671	9.3
	1930	637,036	43,802	6.9
South Carolina	1910	177,169	27,703	15.6
	1920	234,614	24,157	10.3
	1930	295,505	26,835	9.1
Tennessee	1910	361,536	32,212	8.9
	1920	501,901	35,074	7.0
	1930	735,066	31,287	4.3
Virginia	1910	365,258	35,277	9.2
	1920	547,463	38,621	7.1
	1930	643,286	32,487	5.1

Table VI.- Illiteracy In The Most Illiterate and The Least Illiterate States of the South and In The United States, 1930, According to Nativity

Divisions of Population	Population of Group (10 years and over)	Persons Illiterate		Percentage of total illiteracy
		Number	Percent	
<u>United States</u>	98,723,047	4,283,753	4.3	100.0
Native White				
Native Parentage	53,876,411	986,469	1.8	23.0
Foreign or Mixed Parentage	20,887,328	116,665	0.6	2.7
Foreign Born White	13,216,928	1,304,084	9.9	30.4
Negro	9,292,556	1,513,892	16.3	35.4
Other Classes	1,449,824	362,643	25.0	8.5
<u>Kentucky</u>	2,005,492	131,545	6.6	100.0
Native White				
Native Parentage	1,707,149	100,763	5.9	76.6
Foreign or Mixed Parentage	90,846	932	1.0	0.7
Foreign Born White	21,722	1,267	5.8	1.0
Negro	185,629	28,553	15.4	21.7
Other Classes	146	30	20.5	.0
<u>South Carolina</u>	1,292,939	192,878	14.9	100.0
Native White				
Native Parentage	694,638	36,143	5.2	18.8
Foreign or Mixed Parentage	11,188	103	0.9	0.1
Foreign Born White	5,239	297	5.7	0.1
Negro	581,085	156,065	26.9	80.9
Other Classes	789	270	34.2	0.1

Table VII.- Illiteracy In The United States, 1880 to 1930,
By Age Groups

Divisions of Population	Census year	Population of group	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Total Population 10 years and over	1880	36,761,607	6,239,958	17.0
	1890	47,413,559	6,324,702	13.3
	1900	57,929,825	6,180,069	10.7
	1910	71,580,270	5,515,163	7.7
	1920	82,739,385	4,931,905	6.0
	1930	98,725,047	4,283,753	4.3
Male 10 years and over	1880	18,735,980	2,966,421	15.8
	1890	24,352,659	3,008,222	12.4
	1900	29,928,804	3,055,056	10.2
	1910	37,027,558	2,814,950	7.6
	1920	42,289,969	2,540,209	6.0
	1930	49,949,798	2,198,293	4.4
Female 10 years and over	1880	18,025,627	3,273,537	18.2
	1890	23,060,900	3,316,840	14.4
	1900	28,295,796	3,191,801	11.3
	1910	34,552,712	2,701,213	7.8
	1920	40,449,446	2,391,696	5.9
	1930	48,773,249	2,085,460	4.3
Total population 21 years and over	1880	25,453,277	4,204,383	16.7
	1890	33,723,477	4,929,460	14.5
	1900	40,762,007	4,886,676	12.0
	1910	51,554,905	5,570,017	8.9
	1920	60,886,520	4,333,111	7.1
	1930	72,943,624	3,863,215	5.3
Total population 10 to 20 years	1880	11,308,330	2,035,575	18.1
	1890	13,690,072	1,395,242	10.2
	1900	17,167,817	1,293,393	7.7
	1910	18,190,000	818,550	4.5
	1920	21,852,795	598,794	2.7
	1930	25,799,423	420,538	1.6

Table VIII.- Illiteracy In The Urban and Rural Population of
The United States, 1910 to 1930, By Age Groups

Divisions of population	Census year	Population	Persons Illiterate	
			Number	Percent
Urban 10 years and over	1910	34,278,790	1,748,830	5.1
	1920	43,798,576	1,955,112	4.4
	1930	57,117,322	1,800,694	3.2
21 years and over	1910	25,837,435	1,575,684	6.1
	1920	33,939,092	1,867,441	5.5
	1930	43,896,714	1,734,741	4.0
10 to 20 years	1910	8,441,355	173,146	2.1
	1920	10,039,484	87,671	0.9
	1930	13,220,608	65,863	0.5
Rural 10 years and over	1910	37,301,480	3,767,333	10.1
	1920	38,760,739	2,796,793	7.7
	1930	41,605,725	2,483,149	6.0
21 years and over	1910	25,717,473	2,994,333	11.6
	1920	26,947,428	2,465,670	9.1
	1930	29,046,910	2,128,474	7.3
10 to 20 years	1910	11,584,000	773,000	6.8
	1920	11,813,311	511,123	4.3
	1930	12,538,815	354,675	2.8

Table IX.- Percentage of Illiteracy In Virginia Compared With That in Representative Countries of the World

Political Division	Date	Group Covered	Percentage of Illiteracy
<u>VIRGINIA</u>	1930	10 years of age and over, unable to write in any language.	8.7
<u>EUROPE</u>			
Belgium	1920	8 years of age and over, unable to read or write	7.9
Bulgaria	1920	10 years of age and over, unable to read or write	46.7
Czechoslovakia	1921	7 years of age and over, unable to read or write	7.0
Denmark	1921	Of school age and over, unable to read or write	0.1
England and Wales	1924	Signing the marriage register by mark	0.3
Finland	1921	15 years of age and over, unable to read or write	30.1
France	1921	10 years of age and over, unable to read or write	8.2
Hungary	1920	6 years of age and over, unable to read or write	15.2
Italy	1921	Over 6 years of age, unable to read	28.0
Netherlands	1918	Signing the marriage register by mark	0.3
Poland	1921	10 years of age and over, unable to read	32.8
Rumania	1920	10 years of age and over, unable to write	45.0
Scotland	1923	Signing the marriage register by mark	0.3
Spain	1920	10 years of age and over, unable to read and write	42.9
Sweden	1921-22	Liable to military service, unable to read and write	0.2
Switzerland	1906-10	Signing marriage register by mark	0.4
Russia	1926	Above 7 years of age, unable to read and write	43.3
<u>North America</u>			
Canada	1921	10 years of age, unable to read	5.1
Mexico	1921	All ages, unable to read and write	62.2
United States	1930	10 years of age and over, unable to write in any language	4.3
<u>South America</u>			
Argentina	1913-24	Average of conscripts and enlisted men	24.0
Brazil	1920	5 years of age and over, unable to read and write	71.2
Chile	1920	5 years of age and over, unable to read	40.8

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Table IX - continued

<u>Political Division</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Group Covered</u>	<u>Percentage of Illiteracy</u>
<u>Asia</u>			
India	1921	10 years of age and over, unable to read and write a short letter	90.5
Japan	1925	Conscripts unable to write and figure	0.9
<u>Africa</u>			
Egypt	1917	5 years of age and over, unable to read and write	92.0
Union of S. Africa	1921	All ages, unable to read and write	90.3

Sources: Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, Vol. 9, page 522.