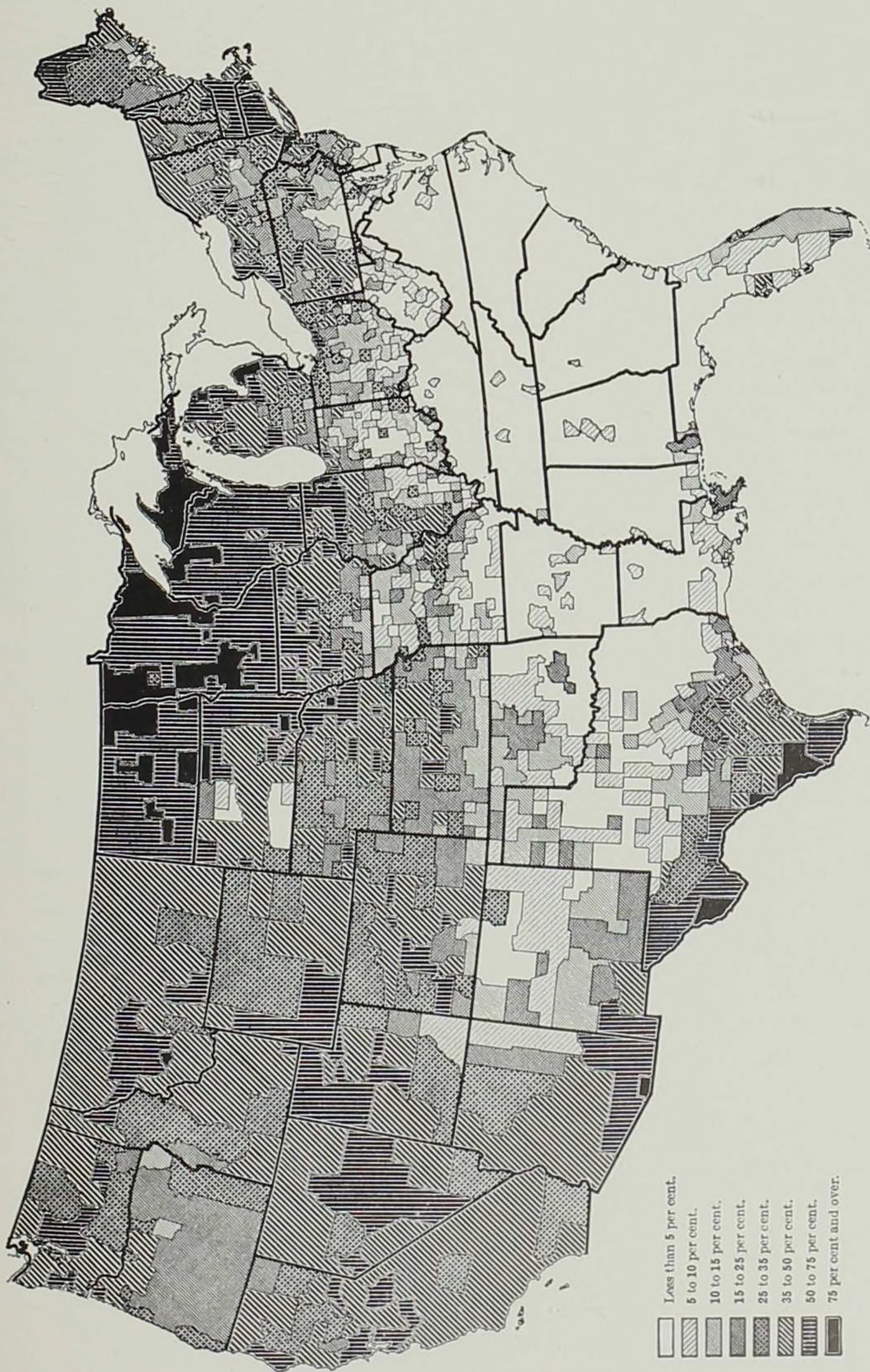


Explanation of the Statistics

Immigration figures (cf. p. 147) are hazardous tools to use. There are wide discrepancies between the United States statistics and those of the emigration reports of a foreign country. This is particularly true from 1850 to 1865 for the Scandinavians whose destination was the Middle West. Thousands landed at Quebec and continued their journey on the Great Lakes. United States immigration regulations at the Canadian border were very lax, consequently no record of these arrivals in the United States was kept. For the decades 1860-1890, the most significant ones for watching the expansion of specific settlements, namely by counties, the task of tracing the three groups is difficult. The federal census for 1860 does not give the specific nativity of foreign-born by county. The 1870 and 1880 federal censuses combine the figures for Swedes and Norwegians. The Iowa state census for the same period, that of 1875, gives the native country of the *voters* in each county. Since large numbers of foreigners had not been naturalized, these figures are of little value in determining the strength of the Scandinavian colonies. The manuscript schedules, therefore, are the only source for an accurate picture. For the Norwegians this source has been used by Carlton Qualey who compiled tables for the decades 1850, 1860, and 1870 and published them in his volume, *Norwegian Settlement in the United States*. The fact that care must be exercised in using census figures is well illustrated in the following set of figures for 1870 for Clayton County. In the Qualey count from the manuscript report he finds 1,363 Norwegian-born residents; the official federal census figures for *both* Norwegians and Swedes is 1,327! Before the days of adding machines and adequate proofreading this sort of presumable error could easily occur. Since, however, the official federal census returns are more readily accessible, these are the figures that have been used in the tables.



- Less than 5 per cent.
- 5 to 10 per cent.
- 10 to 15 per cent.
- 15 to 25 per cent.
- 25 to 35 per cent.
- 35 to 50 per cent.
- 50 to 75 per cent.
- 75 per cent and over.

Distribution by counties of the foreign-born and natives of foreign parentage in the United States in 1910.