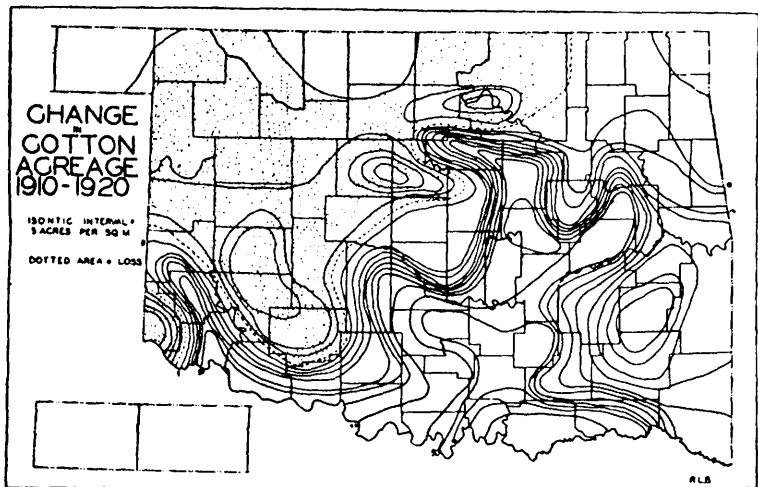


REGIONAL CHANGES IN COTTON ACREAGE IN OKLAHOMA BETWEEN 1910 AND 1920*

ROBERT LEEVERN BRITTON, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

THE two maps accompanying this paper show, by means of isontic lines, the changes in density of cotton acreage in Oklahoma between 1910 and 1920 and 1920 and 1925. These maps are based on the compendia for Oklahoma of the U. S. census for 1910, 1920, and a special bulletin issued by the census bureau for Oklahoma crops in 1925.

The difference in cotton acreage in each county, on the two dates, was divided by the area of the county in square miles. These figures, which



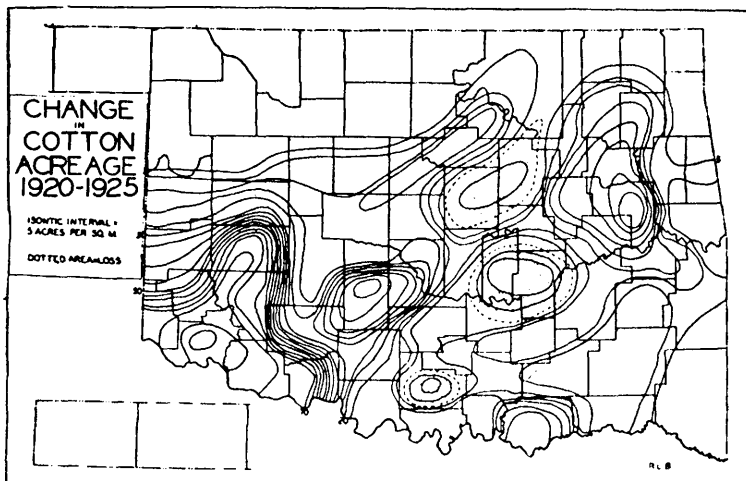
showed the change in density, were plotted in the geographical center of each county and isontic lines drawn at intervals of five acres per square mile.

The map of difference in cotton density between 1910 and 1920 shows a general decline along the northwest margin of the cotton belt which extends southwest to northeast across the western half of the state. Areas of greatest decrease in this marginal zone were in Harmon county, and an east and west belt in Logan and Kingfisher counties. The decrease in these areas was over 20 acres per square mile. Two areas of slightly less

*Contribution No. 6 from the Department of Geography, University of Oklahoma.

decrease were in Kiowa, Comanche, and Washita counties and in Pawnee and Osage counties, where the loss was over 15 acres per square mile.

Three areas of large increase also stand out on this map. A tongue of increase of 25 to over 30 acres per square mile extends northwestward across Jackson and Greer counties, between two areas of loss. The strip of largest increase in this decade, however, occurred in Bryan, Choctaw, and Mar-



shall counties, where the map shows an average gain of over 60 acres to every square mile. Another area of increased cotton acreage is found in Seminole, Okfuskee, and Creek counties, where a gain of over 45 acres per square mile was shown.

The 1920-1925 map of change in density of cotton average also shows clear cut regions of increase and decrease. The areas of loss for this period were not located along the margins of the cotton belt, as in the preceding decade, but are in the sandstone hills, a physiographic region. Declines of from 5 to over 10 acres per square mile occurred in Creek and Lincoln counties, in Seminole and Hughes counties, and in Carter county.

During this period gains were general along the margin of the cotton belt where, as has already been noted, losses were pronounced in the preceding ten years. An increase of over 85 acres per square mile occurred in Jackson county. Grady county showed a gain of over 50 acres. Gains of over 20 acres per square mile were also shown for Canadian, Kingfisher, Logan, Payne, and Pawnee counties. Bryan county, in southeastern Oklahoma, showed another increase during this period with a gain of over 30 acres per square mile. The other island of noticeable increase during this period is found in Muskogee and McIntosh counties, where the gain was over 40 acres per square mile.