

**CENSUS OF THE STATE OF
MICHIGAN, 1884. COMPILED
AND
PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE, VOL. I, VOL. II**

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VARIOUS

**CENSUS OF THE STATE OF
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Michigan - Department of state

CENSUS

OF THE

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

1884.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE APPROVED JUNE 5, 1888.

VOLUME I.

POPULATION; BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS; AND
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND LIBRARIES.



BY AUTHORITY.

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1886.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

MICHIGAN,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, }
Lansing, June 1, 1886.

HON. RUSSELL A. ALGER,

Governor of the State of Michigan:

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the Census of this State for the year 1884. I cannot do so, however, without commending in the most earnest manner the ability and unflagging industry of Mr. Robert L. Hewitt of this Department, who has superintended the entire work from its inception. Whatever merit it possesses is largely due to his untiring zeal.

I have the honor to remain yours respectfully,



Secretary of State.

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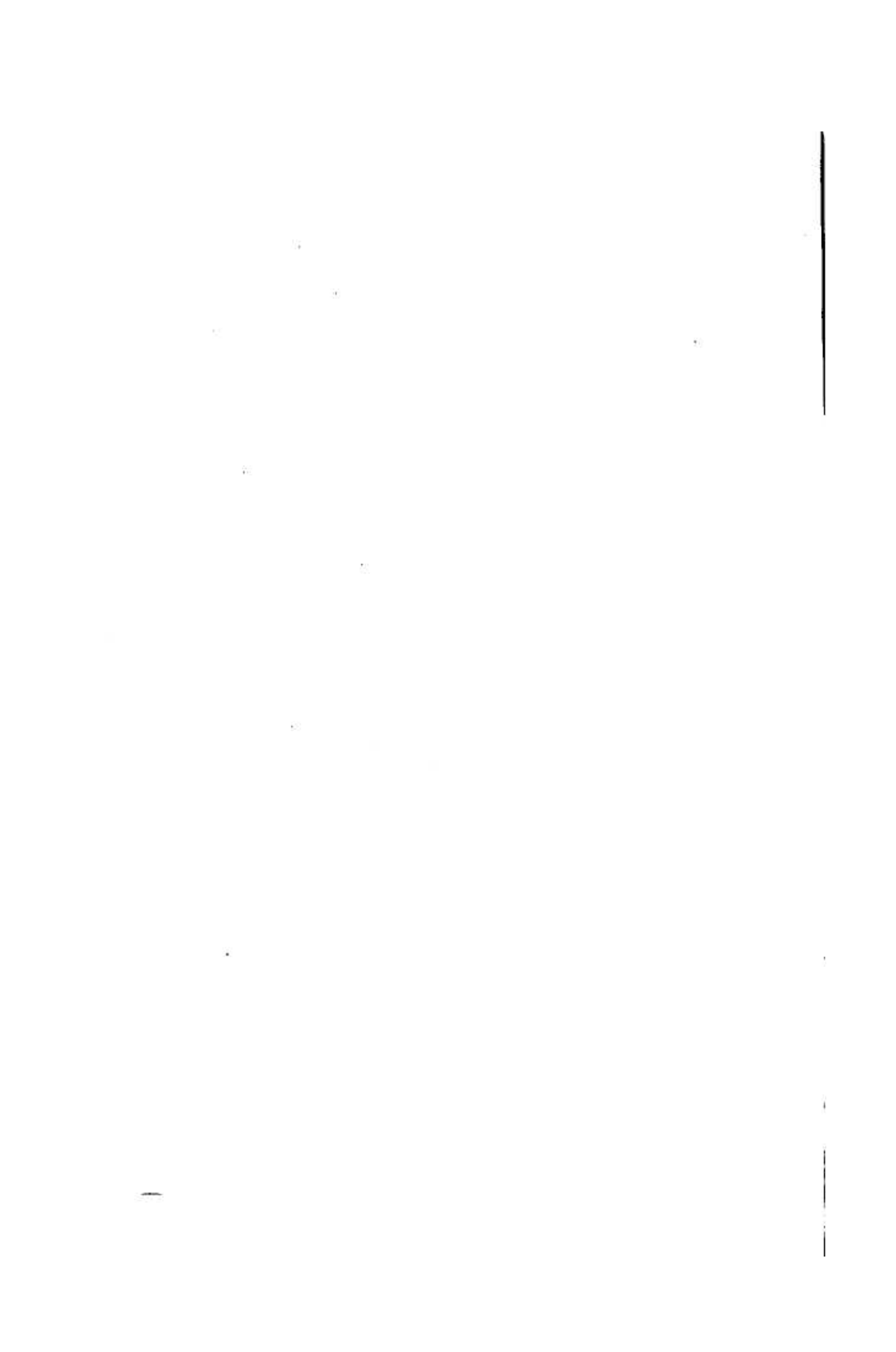
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INTRODUCTORY.

The census of 1884 has been taken and compiled pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 146, Laws of 1883. The method of collecting and compiling this census is different from that provided by the law under which the previous State census was taken, in that the enumeration was made in June, by persons appointed for that especial purpose, and the work of compilation all done in the office of the Secretary of State, while in 1874 the enumeration was made at the time of taking the assessment, by supervisors and assessors, and the first condensation made by these officers, the condensed statement alone being forwarded to the Secretary of State. It is clear that under the present law the amount of labor to be done in the office of the Secretary of State is vastly greater than was required by the law of 1873. The practice of having each enumerator condense the returns for his own enumeration district may possibly insure quick work, but has nothing else to recommend it, the condensations thus made having never proved satisfactory. It is now pretty well understood that accuracy in compilation is attained only by having the entire work done under one supervision.

By the provisions of section seven of the census law, the schedules, duly certified, were to be forwarded to the Secretary of State on or before the tenth day of July. Very few were forwarded previous to that date, but nearly all were received at this office before the first of August. They were properly arranged as speedily as possible, and on the tenth of September the result of the first count of the population was published by township and ward.

The law is by far the most comprehensive census law ever enacted in this State, and the present is the most complete census of Michigan ever taken, not excepting the U. S. census of 1880. The original schedules on which the enumeration was made comprise 130,000 pages, and, bound, make 244 volumes, each of which is as large as can be conveniently handled. The questions relating to each inhabitant were thirty-two in number, or 59,317,056 for the entire population. There were nineteen questions relating to decedents, one hundred and fourteen relating to agriculture, thirty-one to manufactures, six to churches, ten to each of the different kinds of schools, and two to libraries.

The enumeration, with few exceptions, seems to have been carefully and intelligently made, yet, as will always be the case so long as this kind of work is done by inexperienced men, all of the returns, when received, were more or less inaccurate and incomplete. The