

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the year 1861 the Congress of the United States, having in view the importance of encouraging the development and progress in that country of the two great departments of industry, passed an Act which provided for the endowment of a college of agriculture and mechanic arts in each State of the Union, by making a large grant of public lands for that purpose. The quantity apportioned to each State was equal to 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in Congress to which such State was respectively entitled by the apportionment under the census of 1860. The Act provided that the whole of the money received from the sale of these lands should be invested in safe securities, and the interest only used for the maintenance of the several institutions. The States were required to furnish the necessary land for the colleges, and no portion of the fund could be spent in the purchase, erection or repair of any building or buildings. These must be supplied by the State or by the liberality of the towns and cities near which the institutions were to be located.

In this way the foundation was laid for the providing of a substantial and permanent fund for the maintenance of each college; 9,600,000 acres of land were appropriated, from the sale of which a fund of nearly \$9,000,000 has accumulated, with a considerable quantity of land still unsold. The aggregate of the value of grounds, buildings and apparatus was given in 1882 at \$6,531,844, making a grand total of over fifteen and a-half millions of dollars devoted to furthering the development of these great national industries.

ALABAMA.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama is situated near Auburn. The quantity of land occupied is 100 acres. The cost of the Main Building was \$65,000. There are separate structures for chemical laboratory, workshops, &c., the total value of grounds buildings and apparatus being \$100,000. Endowment fund from sale of public lands, \$253,500. Total revenue \$22,500; expenses about the same.

Practical agriculture is taught in all its different branches, and an experimental field of twenty acres is devoted to the testing of fertilizers and experiments in the cultivation of field crops, fruits and flowers. The course of study covers four years, but very few of the students remain long enough to graduate. The students in the scientific and mechanical departments greatly outnumber those pursuing agriculture.

ARKANSAS.

The Industrial University of Arkansas, designed for imparting instruction in agriculture and mechanic arts is located near the town of Fayetteville. The