

SCIENCE

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THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES¹

EDUCATION and research in the interests of agriculture have become important factors in the daily thought and activities of this nation. Those of us who saw the beginnings of the great educational movement which had its inception during the Civil War now contemplate its magnitude and influence with a feeling akin to that of amazement. More than one hundred land grant colleges and agricultural experiment stations are now in active operation, which were manned under pre-war conditions by over 7,000 administrative officers, teachers and investigators, using a combined income of over twenty-five million dollars and instructing between forty and fifty thousand students, besides carrying on extensive lines of research. More than all this, as a by-product of the Land Grant Act of 1862, a great system of popular education has been organized and Farm Bureau agents and extension teachers are now in touch with a large majority of our farming people.

This new movement in education, generally spoken of as vocational, which was regarded in its earliest days as a dangerous innovation, has not only attained a remarkable development, but has without question exercised a modifying influence over the educational policy and methods of the older universities and colleges.

That these institutions have performed

¹ Vice-presidential address before Section M. American Association for the Advancement of Science.