

**Land-Grant Act**

# End of Centennial Approaches

In several weeks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Land-Grant Act will be history.

Authored by Sen. Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, the act provided each state with 30,000 acres of land for each representative and senator representing the state. That land allotment could then be sold by the state and the funds invested.

THE INCOME from the investment was used to establish and

endow an institution of higher learning. This University is one of the 68 institutions which was established as a result of the act signed by President Abraham Lincoln on April 1, 1862.

Penn State started with four faculty members and 119 students in 1855.

Now with a new name, a faculty of 2,000 and an enrollment of 23,000 students, Penn State ranks eighth among the 68 land-grant colleges and universities and 13th

nationally in enrollment. ABOUT 20 per cent of the country's college student population — more than 600,000 students — are now enrolled in land-grant colleges and universities.

The Morrill Act has embedded in it the possibilities for such accomplishments. Its purpose stipulates that the states were to "promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."



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