

so small that all lines of work prescribed by the law could not of necessity be taken up, its field of operations from the first being limited to special investigations relating particularly to the conditions of labor in the state and to those industrial statistics which especially refer to the wage-earners.

Reports have been made by the Bureau upon the public roads and the importance of their more systematic construction, also upon the coal statistics of the western counties. The last statement embraces a description of the George's Creek Basin and the conditions of coal production, together with tables showing the shipments from Maryland mines and a "Table of the Strata of the Potomac and George's Creek Coal Basin." Five annual reports have been prepared for the years 1893-97.

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.—The Bureau of Immigration was organized by the General Assembly of 1896¹ and is intended to supply information to people without the state regarding the desirability of Maryland as a place of residence. Already much active work has been done along these lines, and a report upon the material advantages of Maryland has been published. This report, which is entitled "The State of Maryland: the Advantages it offers to Immigrants, especially Farmers, Manufacturers and Capitalists," contains a brief description of the physical features of the state, including the physiography, climate and mineral resources, based largely upon the statements contained in the World's Fair Book.

OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN MARYLAND.²

The U. S. Geological Survey, which was organized in 1879 by the consolidation of existing surveys, initiated work in Maryland in 1883. The investigations of that year embraced a geologic reconnaissance of a portion of the state, but attention was directed more particularly in the beginning to the preparation of a topographic map of the region

¹ Laws of Maryland, 1896, Chapter 295.

² Prepared under the supervision of the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey.