

A Long Fight Ended.

Forest Reserves in Appalachian and White Mountains now assured.

For years past the advocates of forestry in the United States have been endeavoring to secure legislation through which forest reserves could be created in the Eastern United States, chiefly in the White Mountains and in the Appalachians. The effort has all along met with vigorous and persistent opposition, but in February last a bill, known as the 'Weeks' bill, was finally passed through Congress, and received the assent of President Taft on March 1st.

The members of the Canadian Forestry Association present their hearty congratulations to their U. S. confreres on this successful ending of one of the biggest fights ever waged in forestry annals on this continent, and trust that their highest anticipations may be realized in regard to the reserve.

The Act does not directly create forest reservations in the Appalachian region. In fact it is so general in character that under its provisions action might be taken in any part of the United States. A good general idea of the nature and scope of the Act may be gained from its title: 'An Act to enable any State to co-operate with any other State or States, or with the United States, for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams, and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers.'

The first section of the Act enables any State of the Union to enter into agreement with any other State or States 'for the purpose of conserving the forests and the water supply of such States.'

The next section puts in the hands

of the Secretary of Agriculture the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of co-operating 'with any State or group of States, when requested to do so, in the protection from fire of the forested watersheds of navigable streams.' This authorization limits the amount of federal money expended in any State in any given year to the amount appropriated by that State for the same purpose during the same year.

The most significant sections of the Act are those which provide for the establishment of forest reserves. The first element in this provision is an appropriation of \$2,000,000 a year for five years ending with June 30, 1915, 'for use in the examination, survey and acquirement of lands located in the headwaters of navigable streams or those which are being, or which may be, developed for navigable purposes.' The expenditure of money under this provision of the Act is conditioned (1) upon investigation by the Secretary of Agriculture, (2) examination and approval by the Geological Survey, (3) recommendation for the purchase of lands and fixing of price by the National Forest Reservation Commission, and finally (4) actual purchase by the Secretary of Agriculture, with approval as to payments and land title by the Attorney General of the United States.

The National Forest Reservation Commission created by this Act is to consist of seven members, including the Secretaries of War, of the Interior and of Agriculture, two members of the Senate (chosen by the President of the Senate), and two members of the House of Representatives (chosen by the Speaker). This commission is to re-