

have been so acquired, shall be initiated or perfected, except as in this section provided.

Lands purchased under the provisions of this Act are to be administered as 'national forest lands' under Sec. 24 of the Congressional Act, approved March 3, 1891, and various supplemental Acts. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to divide any lands purchased 'into such specific national forests' as may to him appear best for administrative purposes.

The Act provides that five per cent. of any money received during the fiscal year from each of the national forests thus created shall be paid into the treasury of the State in which any such forest is located, 'to be expended as the State Legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such national forest is situated.' No county, however, is to receive an amount in excess of forty per cent. of its total income from all other sources.

Finally, the Act appropriates \$25,000 per year for the expenses of the National Forest Reservation Commission, the money to be immediately available.

Lands may be bought only in the States whose legislatures have consented to the acquisition of land by the United States for the purpose of preserving the navigability of streams. The States which have already taken the necessary action are Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia. The first lands to be examined for purchase will be in the Appalachian and White Mountains, which because of their altitude, steepness and lack of protection are in a class by themselves. Careful examinations which have been going on for the last ten years have proved that the conditions which affect stream-flow to an extreme extent are to be found in relatively limited

areas, which are scattered more or less widely. By careful selection it is believed that much can be done for the permanent improvement of the watersheds with the purchase of a relatively small part of the land.

Timbered lands may be bought either with the timber standing on them or with reservation by the owner of the right to cut the timber under certain rules to provide for perpetuation of the forest. These rules will form a part of the agreement for the purchase of the land. Since, however, the government can not pay high prices, it is not regarded as probable that much land bearing a heavy stand of merchantable timber can be bought. Culled and cut-over lands may be bought, as well as land covered with brush which is useful for watershed protection, burned land and abandoned farm land, whether cleared or partially or wholly covered by young timber growth. Good agricultural lands will not be considered.

Hon. Jas. Wilson, Secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture, indicates that the policy of the Commission will be to make the money available go as far as possible. 'For the most part,' he says, 'we shall have to buy cut-over lands or lands without much merchantable timber. I want to make it plain at the start that I shall recommend this class of land only when it is offered very cheap. The lands acquired by the Government will be held as National Forests. They will be protected from fire and the growth of the timber will be improved as much as possible. The lands will not be game preserves, but will continue to be open to the public for hunting and fishing in accordance with the laws of the State in which they are situated. All their resources will be available for the public under reasonable conditions. Another point which I wish to emphasize is that we are not going to take from people their homes in order to put the lands into National Forests.'