

## A BILL.

### For Acquiring National Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and White Mountains.

Editor News:—

I enclose you an exact copy of bill introduced in Congress December 19th, 1907, to establish a National Forest in the South, &c., which will explain itself. As there is great interest in this bill among our mountain people. I wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture for a copy, and ask you to publish it, that our people may know just what it contains. I do not see how any one can oppose the bill in as much as it means so much to our section of the country. You will notice all lands must be "acquired by purchase or gift." No one parts with his lands without his free and voluntary consent.

Very truly,

M. N. HARSHAW,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed, in his discretion, to acquire for national forest purposes, by purchase or gift, lands more valuable for the regulation of stream flow than for other purposes and situated on the watersheds of navigable streams in the Southern Appalachian Mountains within the States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and in the White Mountains within the States of New Hampshire and Maine. Such acquisition may in any case be conditioned upon the exception and reservation to the owner from whom title passes to the United States of the minerals and of the merchantable timber, or either or any part of them, within or upon such lands at the date of the conveyance, but in every such case such exception and reservation and the time within which such timber shall be removed and the rules and regulations under which the cutting and removal of such timber and the mining and removal of such minerals shall be done, shall be expressed in the written instrument of conveyance, and thereafter the mining, cutting, and removal of the timber, and minerals so excepted and reserved shall be done only under and in obedience to the rules and regulations so expressed.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall advertise in the several States named in section one for lands to be acquired under the provisions hereof: and as between lands of equal value the lowest bids shall be accepted: Provided, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the right to reject any and all bids.

Sec. 3. That no deed or other instrument of conveyance shall be accepted or approved by the Secretary of Agriculture under this Act until the legislature of the State in which the land lies shall have consented to the acquisition of such lands by the United States for national forest purposes.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of Agriculture may do all things necessary to secure the safe title in the United States to the lands to be acquired under this Act; but no payment shall be made for any such land until the title shall be satisfactory to the Attorney-General and shall be vested in the United States.

Sec. 5. That the sum of five million dollars is hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act, out of any moneys in the

Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and said sum shall be available immediately and until expended for said purpose: Provided, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall each year make a detailed report to Congress on the lands acquired under this Act and the cost thereof.

Sec. 6. That whereas small areas of land chiefly valuable for agriculture may of necessity or by inadvertence be included in tracts acquired under this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may in his discretion and he is hereby authorized, upon application or otherwise, to examine and ascertain the location and extent of such areas as, in his opinion, may be occupied for agricultural purposes without injury to the forests and which are not needed for public purposes, and may list and describe the same by metes and bounds, or otherwise, and offer them for sale as home steads, at their true value to be fixed by him, to actual settlers in tracts not exceeding eighty acres in area under such joint rules and regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe. And no right, title, interest, or claim in or to any lands acquired under this Act or the waters thereon, or the products, resources, or use thereof after such lands shall have been so acquired, shall be initiated or perfected except as in this section provided. And the Secretary of Agriculture may, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him, authorize the sale of any products of the lands acquired under this Act and the use of any such land or the resources thereof consistent with its reservation for forest purposes.

Sec. 7. That, subject to the provisions of the last preceding section, the lands acquired under this Act shall be permanently reserved, held, and administered as national forest lands under the provisions of section twenty four of the Act approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one (volume twenty-six, Statutes at Large, page eleven hundred and three), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory thereof. And the Secretary of Agriculture may from time to time divide the lands acquired under this Act into such specific national forests and so designate the same as he may deem best for administrative purpose.

Sec. 8. That the jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, over persons upon land acquired under this Act shall not be affected or changed by their permanent reservation and administration as national forest lands, except so far as the punishment of offenses against the United States is concerned: the intent and meaning of this section being that the State wherein any such land is situated shall not, by reason of such reservation and administration lose its jurisdiction, nor the inhabitants thereof their rights and privileges as citizens, or be absolved from their duties as citizens of the State.

Sec. 9. That ten per centum of all money received during any fiscal year from each national forest into which the lands acquired under this Act may from time to time be divided shall be paid at the end of such year by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State in which such national forest is situated, to be expended as the State legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the county or counties in which such national forest is situated: Provided, That when any national forest is in more than one State or county the distributive share to each from the proceeds of such forest shall be proportional to its area therein: Provided further,

That there shall not be paid to any State for any county an amount equal to more than forty per centum of the total income of such county from all other sources.

Sec. 10. That the Secretary of Agriculture may, for the further protection of the watersheds of said navigable streams, in his discretion, and he is hereby authorized, on such conditions as he deems wise, to stipulate and agree to administer and protect, for a definite term of years, any private forest lands situated upon any watershed whereon lands may be permanently reserved, held, and administered as national forest lands under the provisions of this Act; but such stipulations or agreement shall provide that the owner of such private lands shall cut and remove the timber thereon only under rules and regulations to be expressed in the stipulation or agreement, for the protection and conservation of the forest thereon; and such stipulation or agreement may in any case provide that the private lands so administered protected shall during such term be subject to all the provisions of this Act and of the laws, rules, and regulations governing national forests so far as the same may be applicable, and in that case the said private lands shall, during such term, be so subject to all such provisions, laws, rules, and regulations.

### Improvidence Gone Mad.

Charlotte Observer.

In an article copied yesterday from the Wilkesboro correspondence of The Industrial News it was stated that in recent years Wilkes county has not raised enough food products from home consumption but has annually sent out thousands of dollars for corn, flour, bacon and other necessities. Instead of making these the people have devoted themselves to getting lumber and tan-bark. It might have been added that they realize for these, and for hauling them to railroad stations, just about day wages, and the tan-bark peelers cut down the trees for the bark and leave the trees to rot on the ground. Thus the lands are stripped of their timber, without any adequate compensation, and the money received is sent off for food supplies. In this matter Wilkes is not exceptional among western counties: there are others that pursue the same wasteful, poverty-inviting policy. A citizen of Alexander county said to the writer, eighteen months ago, that in his opinion his county is worse off financially than it was twenty years ago: that his people are cutting their timber, selling it for a song, for hardly more than it is worth to haul it to market, buying provisions for the money they get and while their wood land their chief asset in natural wealth, is disappearing, their stock and wagons are running down. Those people need an Appalachian reserve or something to save them from themselves. North, it may be added, has derived this benefit from the panic: that it has so reduced the demand for lumber that saw-mill men will not not pay for it even the starvation prices at which they have been buying it and the destructive work of the axe and the saw-mill has been at least temporarily suspended.

The Democrat says that Jim Ray, colored, is in jail at Marion to answer for the killing of Will Lyle, also colored, at a railroad camp at Vein Mountain, McDowell county, on the 6th. The negroes were throwing powder cans at each other for sport. Ray was drinking and got mad. Securing an axe he struck Lyle a blow which proved fatal.—Statesville Landmark.

### OLD SOLDIERS EXPERIENCES.

Incidents Recorded From 1861 to 1865.

#### How Admiral Evans Saved His Legs.

The adventurous career of "Fighting Bob" Evans in Current Literature, there is especially one incident which is characteristic of the man's mettle. In the attack upon Fort Fisher, Midshipman Evans was shot. He was hit three times before he fell. Then he was shot a fourth time as he lay on the sand, and saw the sharpshooter getting ready for a fifth shot. Bob felt that the proceedings were becoming monotonous, and he addressed a few emphatic remarks to that effect to the sharpshooter. As the remarks seemed insufficient, he did a little sharpshooting that ended the matter. But a fate worse than death to Bob soon seemed imminent, for he was taken to the hospital at Norfolk and he overheard the surgeon in charge say to his assistant: "Take both legs off in the morning." Bob slipped a revolver under his pillow and waited with set teeth for the morning. He was only eighteen and he felt that he had use for those legs. When the assistant came to prepare him for the operation, Bob at first protested earnestly, but in vain. Then he pulled his revolver from under the pillow, and told the doctor that it had six cartridges and that if anybody entered the place with a case of instruments six men would be killed before the operation began. The legs were saved.

We remember another man doing very much as Evans did. He was shot in the left arm at the battle of Frazier's Farm. The bone of the arm was shattered all to pieces, he went to the field hospital, when the doctor examined his arm and put him in a small room, saying he would take it off as soon as he got through with some other work he was doing. The wounded man lay down on a eight inch bench and slept there until sun-up next morning and then ran away and went to Richmond. His brother, who was a physician, was wounded next day, and came to Richmond and looked up his brother and spent a short time with him. Before leaving, he said, "Brother these d— doctors will want to take your arm off, don't let them do it, unless you find your arm or your life one must go, then let the arm go. I will leave my pistol with you, if necessary use it." The doctors came to him every morning for two weeks begging him to let them take the arm off. He did not do it. He still has his arm. Thanks to a brother doctor. Hundreds of arms and legs were taken off that could have been, and ought to have been, saved.

#### Notice.

The annual meeting of the Baptist School Association of Caldwell County will convene with King's Creek church on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in March, 1908, at 10 a. m., and will continue through Sunday. All the churches and Sunday Schools are earnestly requested to send delegates. Each church and each Sunday School is entitled to one delegate in addition to the Pastor and Superintendent. Program will appear later. J. W. CURTIS, For Committee.

Mrs. B. L. Beall, of Greensboro, who has been very sick, is much improved at this writing.

## BORROWING

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THE LEROIR NEWS.

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