

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## NEW EASTERN NATIONAL FORESTS

PRESIDENT WILSON has issued a proclamation establishing three new national forests in the East—the White Mountain, in Maine and New Hampshire, the Shenandoah, in Virginia and West Virginia, and the Natural Bridge, in Virginia.

Proclaiming the forests is the final step in carrying out the law for building up eastern national forests through the purchase of lands in the mountains. Ever since the law was passed in 1911 the government has been engaged in acquiring lands about the headwaters of the principal rivers, both in New England and in the southern Appalachians. As the lands are bought or contracted for, they are put under administration as "Purchase Areas" pending the time when their accumulation has reached a point justifying the proclamation which gives the lands their final status. The Pisgah National Forest, in North Carolina, and the Alabama National Forest, in Alabama, are the only eastern areas which had received this status before the new proclamations were issued.

The White Mountain National Forest is located in Grafton, Carroll and Coos counties, N. H., and Oxford county, Me. The government has actually taken title to about 267,000 acres and in addition about 124,000 acres more have been approved for purchase, making a total of about 391,000 acres under federal protection. This forest protects in part the watersheds of the Androscoggin, Saco, Connecticut and Ammonoosuc rivers. The White Mountain region has great value not only for the protection of streamflow and the production of timber but also as a public playground.

The Shenandoah National Forest is situated in Rockingham, Augusta, Bath and Highland counties, Va., and Pendleton county, W. Va. The government has acquired to date slightly in excess of 100,000 acres, and an additional area of approximately 65,000 acres has been approved for purchase, making a total of approximately 165,000 acres under federal protection. The forest is for the most part on the watershed of the Shenandoah River and it also

protects a portion of the watersheds of the Potomac and the James.

The Natural Bridge National Forest is situated in Rockingham, Nelson, Amherst, Botetourt and Bedford counties, Va. The federal government has actually acquired title to a little over 73,000 acres, and an additional area of approximately 29,000 acres has been approved for purchase. The forest, which protects a portion of the watershed of the James River, does not include the Natural Bridge, but this scenic feature is within three or four miles of the boundary.

## ALASKA FISHERY AND FUR PRODUCTS IN 1917

*The Fisheries Service Bulletin* states that although final figures showing the value of the fishery products of Alaska in 1917 are not yet obtainable, the statistics are practically complete so that a reasonably accurate statement of production can now be made. Compilations indicate that the total value of such products was \$51,405,260 in 1917. Of this amount 93 per cent., or \$47,778,081, represents the value of the salmon products which consist of 5,947,286 cases of canned salmon, valued at \$46,304,090, and 16,347,367 pounds of mild-cured, pickled, dry-salted, fresh and frozen salmon, valued at \$1,473,991. The halibut fisheries rank second with an output of products valued at \$1,120,226. In the order of production, the herring fisheries come next, with a yield of products valued at \$767,729. The value of the cod products was \$744,976. Whaling operations returned products worth \$653,852. The production of miscellaneous fishery products including clams and other shellfish aggregated \$340,396 in value.

This unprecedented yield of fishery products in Alaska at a time when the world is in need of food is called an achievement for which the country may justly feel gratified.

The fur products of Alaska are also of considerable importance and value, as evidenced by the fact that in the year from November 16, 1916, to November 15, 1917, shipments from that territory reached an aggregate value of \$1,031,638, exclusive of fur-seal skins and fox skins shipped by the government from the