Forest Reserves, Funds From. Funds From Forest Reserves, Distribution of.

The purpose of H. B. 153. (Chap. 26, Laws 1915), relating to the distribution of Forest Reserve moneys is to provide a method of distribution to and among the several counties entitled thereto of the moneys received from the Federal Government in conformity with the Federal laws on the subject, and to correct errors made in former distributions made by the State.

March 15, 1915.

Hon. R. H. Rutledge,
Acting District Forester,
Missoula, Montana.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 10th instant addressed to the Governor, has been referred to this office for a reply.

After carefully noting the contents of your letter, I beg leave to advise:

The purpose of House Bill No. 153 is to comply with the various acts of Congress relating to the distribution of forest reserve revenues The Act of 1909 provided a method of distribution at variance with the National legislation on the subject (Opinions of Attorney General, page 231 of Volume 5). The State Auditor followed the Act of 1909 in apportioning the moneys derived from the State, until 1912, when his attention was called to the variance between it and the federal acts, and no further distributions were made.

It is the purpose of Section 4 of House Bill No. 153 to have adjusted the errors due to previous distributions erroneously made, by equalizing the payments to and among the several counties, so each will eventually

get what it would have received, had distribution been always made in harmony with the federal acts.

To effectuate this purpose, it will be necessary for you to compile and furnish to the State Auditor data showing the locations and areas of forest reserves in the several counties of the State, together with the revenues received for distribution from each such reserve for each year from the beginning. That is to say, from and after the passage of the Federal Act of June 9th, 1906.

Yours very truly,

D. M. KELLY,

Attorney General.

(N. B.—Under separate cover copy of the opinion referred to herein is being sent you.)