

Coming south to the Lillooet District, the central district north of the railway, the reports show that this part of the country suffered severely. One agent states that this was the most deadly year since 1869, caused by an almost total absence of rain. A quotation may be made from his report. He says:—

“Bush fires commenced early on account of the extreme dryness of everything, and as a matter of fact I saw smouldering remains on Nov. 3rd, on my way to and from Lillooet the other day. Men—white, black, brown and yellow—are responsible for these fires, by the utter carelessness and want of thought that is inherent in nearly every human being. I tried for a conviction against three whites last August before two justices of the peace, but was met with the Scotch verdict “not proven” although they were the originators of a most dangerous fire without a doubt. High up in the mountains the Indian is responsible. He fires there for a crop of tender young grass in the fall for the deer. In the valley of the Fraser he fires, in accordance with the custom, to light the salmon on their way up the river. It does not appear that it has dawned on him to any extent that the paleface at the mouth of the river is responsible for their absence. With regard to the estimated destruction this year; that is simply beyond my power, to say nothing of the consequent destruction and loss, which may be approximately arrived at, in the event of a hard winter, next April by counting heads of dead and dying domestic animals on the various ranges which are already appallingly bare throughout the entire district.”

The mountains round the town of Lillooet were burned, in several places from base to summit, extending over large areas. At other places forest fires raged for a long time travelling long distances.

In the northern part of Yale District, being the central tract immediately south of the railway, the fires were not of serious proportions, the persons located in that district having evidently been trained to carefulness.

In the southern part of Yale the report from Grand Forks, near the international boundary, states that a vast extent of the country was run over by fires during the past season, in fact at