

states that the bush fires were the most destructive since the year 1893. The area burned has been very extensive and the value of timber destroyed is probably not less than half a million dollars. The worst fires were in the northern part and are believed to have been due to the carelessness of prospectors, particularly persons prospecting for coal. Some fires arose from want of care on the part of persons clearing land, but the damage done in these cases was comparatively small. Five persons were prosecuted under the Bush Fires Act, and three persons were obtained. This report urges the appointment of fire wardens and that no person should be allowed to set out a fire without permission of the warden.

In Southern Vancouver Island the fires were numerous during the month of August when high winds prevailed. In some cases a great deal of valuable timber was burnt and bridges and buildings were also destroyed. There seems to be considerable carelessness in the handling of fire and the railways are responsible for their share. One report states that the fires are mainly due to sparks from locomotives used for hauling out the timber from the logging camps, and along the line of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway.

On the northern coast there were no fires at Port Simpson as the rainfall was heavy, but in the Atlin district there were several small fires due to prospectors. In regard to these the agent states that while these fires, as such, did not attain any great force or volume, a fire of any volume whatever is regrettable in such a sparsely timbered section and any damage whatever is serious.

In the Cariboo District, the central northern part of the Province, there were a number of small fires through the settled districts, and in nearly every case the fires originated from careless campers travelling; whites, Siwash and Chinese are all alike and equally careless in regard to camp fires, and it is about impossible to get and convict the right party. Forest fires were observed to the north and east burning for days but their cause and extent could only be conjectured. "Bush Fires Act" notices are posted through all the settled district.