

setting out fires." The agent for Nanaimo District gives the same reason for there being no fires there. In the Newcastle District there was but one fire which was about 12 miles back of Ladysmith. It burned over a part of the ground that had been logged by the Victoria Lumber Co. in 1904, but it did little or no damage to standing timber.

On the mainland there were many fires in some districts, but none that destroyed a very wide extent of forest. For the Grand Forks District the agent reports: "Forest fires prevailed mostly in the latter part of July and up to the rainy weather in the beginning of September; they were not so destructive as those of the previous year on account of the breaks formed by the fires of the year before. The timber destroyed was mostly young, and consequently of small size. The most frequent origin of fires in this locality was the engines of the various railway lines, and as under the Act of last year there seems to be a difficulty in bringing a railway company to book they go merrily on with their destruction. Some of the fires were started by the Kootenay Power line-men, but after they had been given to understand that they would get into trouble, that source ceased. The estimate of loss by fires might be placed at about \$5,000."

In the Greenwood District, the first serious fire seemed to start in the Boundary Creek Valley near Anaconda. A few men were employed to prevent it from spreading, and at the same time protect the wagon-road bridges and culverts. In this they were to some extent successful, but soon a number of other fires were noticed in the mountains which quickly spread over a large area—about 10 square miles—which was particularly dry, owing to a long, hot summer and lack of rain. The police endeavored to trace the origin of the fires, but were unsuccessful.

The exceptional heat and dryness of the summer was generally thought to be the cause of the unusual number of forest fires in the Kootenay District where they caused more damage than for several years past. As the greater portion of the district is unsettled, it is impossible to arrive at any accurate estimate of the loss of timber, though it must have been considerable. Fires caused the destruction of government roads and bridges in this district to the extent of \$3,000. The efforts of the fire warden doubtless reduced the threatened fire losses. A system of supervision is recommended by the agent which will permit of officers getting early to the fire, and it is suggested that provincial police officers be authorized to make expenditures up to \$25, without waiting for special authority.

There were a good many small fires in the Okanagan District, but only one—near Peachland—that caused much destruction. In most cases the causes of their origin were investigated by the police, and there were several prosecutions. The agent there