

past twelve months, and all indications point to still more desirable settlers coming here during 1908. Speaking of the local situation generally from a commercial point of view the past year has been a satisfactory one and I have every confidence that Nelson will run along all right during 1908."

Mr. G. A. Spink, the Nelson, B.C., manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, laid stress upon the permanent character of the work accomplished locally last year in obtaining a good class of settlers for the ranching lands. "There has only been one assignment during the year," said Mr. Spink, "and the general results, commercially speaking have been satisfactory. With the good settlement of all labor problems in the Boundary country in East Kootenay and at Rossland, by mediation and arbitration, the outlook for 1908 has been markedly cleared and improved. I have every confidence that during the coming year a reasonable advance will be made. Nelson as a city has filled up and expanded and should go on prospering."

FIRE RANGING IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

The Dominion forest service was fortunate during the past year in getting through the season with very little loss by fire. This result is partially due to the late and wet summer, but also to the vigilance of Canada's fire rangers. The early part of the summer was dry, and conditions favorable for the spreading of fires. In British Columbia several conflagrations started, but the rangers were able to keep them in check, and little damage resulted. The protective service was extended during the year to the Athabasca River and the Lesser Slave Lake district, where three rangers were placed. Mr. Stewart, former superintendent of forestry, showed that the Mackenzie basin, had valuable timber in a large part of the district, important to the future settlers, and this was in serious danger of destruction. All the forest reserves are being protected by permanent rangers, and this service will be extended as rapidly as possible.

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