

# INCENDIARY "MOLLY MAGUIRES."

## GROWING POPULARITY OF THE DIVERSION OF BURNING COAL BREAKERS—A THIRD ATTEMPT YESTERDAY MORNING.

*Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.*

POTTSVILLE, Penn., Oct. 8.—Three incendiary fires on three successive nights, at collieries located in widely-separated sections of this coal region, have aroused public apprehensions of the existence of a new and dangerous course of action on the part of the secret band of desperadoes known as "Molly Maguires." The first was on Tuesday night, when a splendid new breaker attached to Graeber & Kemble's colliery at Locust Gap, in Northumberland County, was burned to the ground, causing a loss of \$100,000. The second, on Wednesday night, was an attempt to burn the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company's breaker, at West Brookside Colliery in the western end of this county. The blacksmith and carpenter shops, oil house, and fan house were burned, but by great exertions the breaker was saved.

The third fire occurred about 3 o'clock this morning at the William Penn Colliery, Shenandoah, also owned by the Philadelphia and Reading Company. Advantage was taken of the absence of the watchman in another part of his beat, and a fire started in a saw mill attached to the colliery. The watchman discovered the flames, but owing to the great quantity of inflammable material in the mill, was unable to check them single-handed. He therefore sounded the whistle and called out the workmen, who succeeded in saving the breaker. The mill was destroyed, causing a loss of about five thousand dollars.

In all these instances the fires were started at points where no fire had been used during the day, and the almost unanimous opinion in the several localities is that the "Molly Maguires" are carrying out an organized scheme of arson, while suspending, for the time being, their more desperate work of murder.

---

**The New York Times**

Published: October 9, 1875

Copyright © The New York Times