

# DISORDER AT THE MINES; COLLIERIES UNDER FIRE

State Police Threaten to Burn  
Homes of Italian Strikers.

REFUSE TO SURRENDER ARMS

Band of Armed Miners Stop Work at  
a Colliery and Threaten to  
Kill Workers.

*Special to The New York Times.*

WILKESBARRE, Penn., April 4.—Striking miners living near the Fernwood breaker of the Hillside Coal Company have resorted to firearms, and for two nights a force of fifty workmen and twelve guards inside a stockade have been under a fire that was heavy at times.

The bullets have come from East Boston, a mining settlement near by, most of the 300 residents of which are Italians. Nobody has been hurt, but the laborers became so alarmed that it was decided to call for assistance from the State constabulary.

Sergt. Garwood and two troopers who rode to the colliery on patrol this morning were asked to disarm the villagers. The attitude of the Italians was so threatening that Garwood reported to his headquarters, and reinforcements were sent. Sergt. Dimon with ten troopers soon arrived and started a house to house search for weapons. While they were getting three guns in the first house the people from the other house ran into the woods with their weapons.

The search was then given up, but before he went away Sergt. Dimon issued this threat through an interpreter:

"If there is any more shooting at the Fernwood colliery during the night I will return with my troopers in the morning and burn down this village."

It was not an idle threat, for the coal company owns the houses, and has authorized the troopers to burn them.

About seventy-five Italians, armed with guns and pistols, drove away the workers at the colliery attached to the West End breaker at Mercanaqua this morning. According to Supt. Fillmore they threatened to shoot any man who refused to quit. Then they marched to the top of a culm bank, planted a red flag, opened a keg of beer, and held a jollification. He and three other officials visited them, and they told him they would shoot any man who tries to work at the washery to-morrow morning.

Officials of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company have received reports of other disturbances. A miners' train at Minersville was partly destroyed by fire during the night. The Burnside breaker at Shamokin was stoned by breaker boys. A stick of dynamite was found beneath the wheel of a cabin car which stood on a siding at an ash pit.