

MYSTERIOUS FIRES

IS IT ARSON—OR THE ENEMY?

On Monday night, a few minutes after 10 o'clock, a hay stack in a fenced paddock at Cornwall road, Sunshine, was noticed to be burning. Mr. H. V. McKay, whose property it was, motored the Sunshine hand reel and men to the spot and the Footscray brigade soon followed. About 10 tons of hay were severely damaged by fire and water, but an adjoining stack of between 12 and 14 tons was saved.

There is an element of mystery about recent fires at Sunshine. They have all taken place between 9 and 10 o'clock at night, and they have been away from the more residential parts of the town. Sunshine people are a little perturbed; it would appear that the outbreaks are caused with a view of drawing residents away from their homes and so leaving the latter open to visits from light-fingered gentry."

The stack fire on Monday, close to the town, was of this nature. It had been started from the outside. It might be the carelessness of a passing swagman—or it might be a deliberate act. Three of the most recent Sunshine fires were at the station, the Mechanics' and the State school.