

Date 20 Dec

J54/14221

Regis 23 1854

Resident Commissioner Ballarat in reply to letter carrying instructions for collecting License Fee.

Ballaarat

Dec 20/54

Sir,

In answer to your letter dated the 18th December in which His Excellency commands that I should enforce the licence fee with certain precautions.

I have the honour to state that whatever precautions I may take, it lays entirely with the miners and their conduct to determine whether, this duty can be carried out without enquiry the cooperation of the military. I

[To the Honourable the Col. Secretary

[Melbourne should recommend that the License Fee be enforced so long as the law stands, but I am reluctant to risk the consequences of a possible collision without first informing His Excellency of my opinions and work respectfully requesting His Excellency's further instructions - . should the police be effectually assisted I must call out the military and whatever the consequences may be, the law must be enforced or it would show a palpable weakness on the part of the authorities . I would inevitably be taken account up for.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient servant

Robert Rede

XXX Received

December 22/54 XX