

Enclosure No 11 in Duplicate Despatch

No 162 of the 20th Decr 1854 Government Offices, Melbourne, 4th December 1854 Sir, I do myself the honor to transmit an account of an outbreak at Ballarat, which has assumed a character beyond that of an ordinary riot, and rendered it necessary for me to direct the Major General, to move all his available

His Excellency Sir W. Denison &c &c &c available force to that gold field.

The insurgents are principally foreigners, well drilled, and said to be well commanded. They have been as you will perceive completely routed, and may I hope now be discouraged from assembling again in force. But with the numerous gold fields, and the uncertain population which inhabit them, it is impossible to say from hour to hour, whether disaffection may not show itself in some other quarter.

And I am therefore obliged to request that you will allow as many companies of the 99th Regiment as can be spared to proceed to Melbourne forthwith, bringing with them any available field pieces. I regret Official Despatches from Ballarat not having arrived; I am led to fear they have been interrupted, but I see no reason to doubt the truth of the accompanying statement.

The conduct of the insurgents is the less to be upheld inasmuch as they were aware that a commission had been named, composed of gentlemen favourable to the mining interests, for the avowed purpose of inquiring into the whole administration of law on the gold fields, but instead of waiting for the report, they flew to arms, because I refused to release the three prisoners who had been convicted of taking part in burning the Eureka Hotel.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obed Servt (Signed) Chas. Hotham