

Miss Newcomb's Home at Drysdale and following Mr. Oddie's advice, he operated amongst some rocks where he dug the gold out with long knives. It yielded many hundreds of pounds.

The diggers were so numerous, and they were getting so much gold that the Government decided to double the licence with a view to making the people leave the goldfields, and take to harvesting in order to ward off starvation, but the protestations of the diggers prevailed, and the extra penalty was withdrawn. Wheat and flour arrived from Chili and all indications of a famine vanished. Events meanwhile developed fast and furious. The Government officials ruled with much determination and those without licences were often cruelly treated. The surface gold was disappearing and was consequently harder to get, many indeed could not get it at all and numbers did not take out licences. The officials demanded the collection of the licence at the point of the bayonet, and the trouble which culminated at Eureka practically commenced.

Mr. Oddie's next move was to Bendigo where he found Mr. Thos. Bath with a very payable surface claim. Here he obtained plenty of gold. His only reading matter was the "Argus" at the end of the week, which cost him 2/6 a copy.

Returning to Ballarat Mr. Oddie commenced Store-keeping. About this time his brother and some friends arrived, and Mr. Oddie located them near the place where some monster nuggets weighing 134ozs., 96ozs., 120ozs., etc. were found. The lead in which they were found developed into that fabulous treasure trove "The Jeweller's Shop." The "Gravel pits" lead was also opened up - all the best mines being on these two leads. A third lead of a very profitable nature ran in the direction of the present School of Mines, past the site of the Dana Street School, and then out towards Sebastopol and the gold obtained from these leads was prodigious.

The diggers were commonly spoken of, in Melbourne and elsewhere, as "rogues and vagabonds" but they, in opening up these rich fields were doing magnificent work for the Empire at a time when it was sorely in need of gold.