

The commerce of the old country had developed with such rapidity that it out-stripped the currency and Victoria's aid has amounted to something like £240,000,000; New South Wales also sent large supplies.

Esmond the original discoverer was given a mine by the Government, which he sold for a nominal sum. It turned out splendidly - Mr. Oddie himself collecting £600 a month in dividends for many years from it.

Mr. Oddie was storekeeping at Smythesdale in 1853-54. The storekeeper's licence was £50 per annum, and if a man shifted his store to a new "rush" even if it was only in the next gully, he had to take out a new licence. Mr. Oddie protested and refused to comply with the law - the result was he was fined £5 at the local court. The carriage on goods from Geelong to Smythesdale at this time was £75 per ton.

Mr. Oddie and his brother returned to Eureka in 1864, and witnessed the exciting incidents which led up to the Stockade. He was away when Bentley's Hotel was burned, but as he was returning with his mother and sister he met Bentley galloping away from the scene of his fame. He paused long enough to narrate what had happened, but fearing he would be overtaken and killed, his horse was soon at the gallop again. Mr. Oddie bought a building allotment in Ballarat and was still shifting there when the riot began. The troops were making a great show of arms, making things unpleasant and helping themselves to the stores. As he was about to retire about half past ten one night he was confronted by two men who demanded stores for the Commisarit Department. As they had no signed order, he refused to accede to their demands, when they drew their revolvers, but Mr. Oddie like a hero of old, stood firm, and after some forty minutes they went away "with curses loud and deep."

At half past three in the morning of December the 3rd 1854 Mr. Oddie heard the first shot fired at the Eureka Stockade. Looking through a ventilator, he saw the troops very active. Many people, not concerned in the riot were standing