

protested against the considerable increase in the licence fee.¹ He records "... Monster diggers Meeting advertised today in placards pasted and nailed to the trees calling the population to assemble at the Commissioners Camp to protest against the Government raising the licence fee, which is at present 30s. per month. The evening was a general festival apparently by all the mining population – tents and stores decorated with flags of all nations and patterns – guns and pistols were firing in every direction, skyrockets and various fireworks enlivening the scene, Music in the evening, we had some splendid illuminations – a memorable night – this in the Australian forests. – the diggers had received intelligence that the licence fee would remain as formerly."²

Not yet strong enough to become a miner himself he returned to Melbourne after a few weeks and was lucky enough to obtain a clerical position in the Post Office. Here his drafting ability was soon recognised and he was given an opportunity of preparing plans for an extension to the main Post Office building. "In course of time I had the satisfaction of seeing my designs carried out to a great extent."³ Three months later his salary was raised to £150 and he was asked by the Postmaster-General "to work out a design for a new office". Anderson claimed that his plans received the special approbation of Governor C. J. La Trobe. "The designs of the Colonial Architect did not meet the views of the Postmaster General and were pronounced by the Government far too expensive."⁴ His comments on the expansion of Melbourne and the cost of living at the height of the fever are of interest:

"Melbourne is extending in size for miles in all directions – and houses are scarcely to be had at any rent to accommodate the thousands pouring into Melbourne every week from all parts of the globe. A two roomed house is readily seized upon at £6 per week provisions and everything enormously dear, washing 10/- to 12/- per dozen [sic] water 10/- a load [;] wood £3.10/- to £5. Hundreds of people newly arrived emigrants sleep in the streets, and about the wharves ... thousands of people have taken up their quarters in tents and huts on the southern side of the Yarra over Prince's Bridge ... this place is ... designated by the name of 'Canvass Town' ... The people are finding great fault with the Government the management of the various Government Offices being shameful the post Office in particular; hundreds of people complaining of missing letters, one man posted a letter directed to himself every day regularly for two weeks ... out of twelve letters he only received two!! ..."

Anderson for a brief period prospered, his salary being raised to £600 per annum. He married after a trying and naively described courtship but trouble loomed. Sir Charles Hotham's efforts to cut down expenditure⁵ were fairly drastic and "nearly half the number of Government