

QUEBEC.

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Expense of raising wooden Sheds or Shanties capable of accommodating Families for the next Eighteen Months, such Erections to be made in the cheapest Manner compatible with Health, Safety, and Comfort during the Winter Months; and that the Committee be authorized, if they shall deem it necessary, and to the Extent they shall deem it necessary, from Funds at their Disposal, to make such Erections forthwith, and to seek the most convenient and favourable Localities for them.

4. That in the Opinion of this Meeting it is expedient that a Sum of Money be obtained, if practicable, by way of Grant or Loan from the public Funds, as an Aid towards the Reconstruction of the Suburbs of St. Roch, St. John, and St. Louis on a new, enlarged, and improved Plan, and of such Materials as to afford the greatest practicable Security against the Recurrence of the Calamities lately suffered; such Loan to be effected by the Corporation under the Guarantee of the Legislature, and applied under their Direction.

Attested.

Quebec, 30th June 1845.

(Signed) F. X. GARNEAU,  
City Clerk.

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Enclosure 5. in No. 56.

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Provincial Secretary's Office, Montreal,  
4th July 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the Honour, by Command of the Governor General, to inform you, that his Excellency has had under Consideration, in Council, your Letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the Second disastrous Fire at Quebec, which took place during the Night of the 28th ultimo, and also the Resolutions on the Subject adopted at the Public Meeting of the Citizens of Quebec held on the 30th.

His Excellency commands me now, in reply, to assure you, and through you the Citizens of Quebec, that he most deeply sympathizes with them in the Magnitude and distressing Circumstances of this Calamity, in the individual Loss and Suffering it has caused, and in the general Injury it is calculated further to inflict. With this Feeling he has anxiously considered in what Manner public Aid can be legitimately afforded, and what Steps can be taken for the Prevention of such fearful Disasters hereafter.

To aid in the Erection of temporary Buildings (having in view the Impossibility of a sufficient Number of permanent Buildings being prepared before next Winter) and also in the affording of necessary Relief to Persons otherwise destitute, his Excellency has been pleased in Council to direct that Advances may be made from the Public Chest, as required from Time to Time by yourself, as Mayor of the City, or by the Committee of Relief, to the Extent of 5,000*l.* Currency, to be submitted for the Approval of the Provincial Parliament at the next Session.

For the permanent rebuilding of the destroyed Suburbs his Excellency will be prepared to recommend to Parliament to authorize the Negotiation of a Loan in England on the Security of the Province for the Sum of 100,000*l.* Currency, payable with Interest, in a fixed Number of Years; the Monies so to be raised to be employed in granting to Owners of Land within the Limits of the Fires, to aid them in building thereon, Loans on as favourable Terms as may be found practicable without ultimate Loss to the Province; the Sums so loaned to be secured on the Lands of the Borrowers, and perhaps made a privileged Claim thereon, and further Security where required to be taken; each Loan to any Individual and the Security offered by him to be approved by the Attorney General for Lower Canada; and all other necessary Precautions taken to secure the Expenditure of all Monies so loaned on the Erection of Buildings of specified Materials and Character.

For the Prevention of such Disasters hereafter, his Excellency will further be prepared to recommend to Parliament to confer on the Corporation of the City very extensive Powers for the Regulation of the Mode of building within the City Limits and for the widening of Streets, on making Compensation for Land taken.

Upon the many Details of the Measures above suggested, his Excellency is desirous to receive Suggestions from yourself and the Corporation; and I am accordingly to assure you that any Representations which that Body or yourself may make in regard to them will not fail to receive his most attentive Consideration.

Hon. R. E. Caron, Mayor,  
Quebec.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) D. DALY.

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