

affecting the application of the funds placed at your disposal you are to decide on your own responsibility and your decision will be final.

3. As far as practicable you should endeavour to visit the various centres of distress, and as there are believed to be relief committees at work both in St. John's and the outports, you will no doubt find it convenient to place yourself in communication with them, and satisfy yourself as to how far, if at all, they might be trusted with the distribution of relief, and you will, of course, be careful to avoid anything calculated to discourage or diminish the efforts of such committees in obtaining and distributing relief from private sources.

4. Should you think it undesirable to avail yourself of the services of those committees or any of them, you may appoint other committees or agents, for the distribution of relief in their several districts, and as far as possible you will control and supervise their action, and will determine the classes of persons to be relieved, the limits of relief in individual cases, and the form of relief, whether in food, clothes, stores, or money.

5. The relief should be confined to cases of actual distress, and, in the case of able-bodied men, should be directed as far as possible to enable them to get work, to maintain themselves and their families while engaged in the fishery, and to provide themselves with stores and implements required for the fishery.

6. In many cases the assistance required may be an immediate advance of money or stores rather than charity, and you will in such cases make general arrangements for the repayment of such advances and for obtaining security for them, should you think that this could usefully be required.

7. In case any of the stores which you may find it desirable to have at your disposal are such as could be obtained from Naval or Military stores, you may find it convenient to arrange for obtaining them from the depôt at Halifax, with the understanding that the cost of replacing them will be charged to the relief vote.

8. You will at your discretion make advances of money or stores to the several committees or agents from time to time; and in the case of existing committees their receipts will be a sufficient discharge for you as it is contemplated that the Vote will be taken, as far as possible, as a grant in aid of other funds locally raised with the same object, but in the event of your making a purchase of stores you should, of course, obtain receipts in the usual form.

9. In the case of any local committee or agent appointed by you, they should also be required to forward to you weekly an account of their disbursements, whether in money or stores, with such vouchers as it may be possible to procure, and these accounts and vouchers should be transmitted by you with your account to the Accounting Officer of this Department.

10. You will report your proceedings to this Department from time to time, sending requisitions by telegraph as to the amount of your pecuniary requirements, which will be met through the branch of the Bank of Montreal at St. John's.

11. While engaged on this mission you will receive your actual travelling expenses and an allowance of 30s. a night (while on the mail steamer, 10s. a night) and a sum of 50% for such outfit as may be required by the severity of the climate, and you will also be allowed such sum as you may consider necessary for clerical assistance and the examination of accounts.

12. You will probably be unable to visit the various parts of the Treaty Shore and the Labrador Coast, but the Commodore of the Fishery Squadron, Captain The Honourable A. G. Curzon-Howe, will be instructed to place himself in communication with you, and you will probably be able to make satisfactory arrangements for the distribution of relief in these districts through the agency of him and his officers.

13. A collection of printed papers relating to the financial crisis is enclosed, and you will see from it that the Colonial Government has applied to Her Majesty's Government for assistance to the Government Savings Bank upon which there has been for some time a continuous run.

14. Her Majesty's Government have felt unable to entertain this application, but, should the institution be unfortunately compelled to close its doors during your stay in the Island, you will be at liberty to consider how far it may be practicable and advisable to make advances to necessitous depositors on the security of their deposits, and it may be of assistance to you in the discharge of your mission to obtain a list of the depositors and the sums standing to their credit from the Colonial Government, who control, and are responsible for, the Savings Bank.