

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire, at a Meeting held in the City Council Chamber at Quebec, on the 9th June 1845.

Resolved,—THAT an application be made by this Committee to his Excellency the Governor-general, requesting his Excellency to bring under the view of Her Majesty's Government in England the calamity which has lately befallen this city, and to solicit Her Majesty's Government to take into consideration the expediency of some aid being given on the part of the Imperial Government for the relief of the inhabitants of Quebec, whom this disaster has reduced to destitution.

Civil Secretary's Office, Montreal,
20 June 1845.

Sir,

HAVING laid before the Governor-general your letter of the 10th instant, together with the copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Committee for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire which accompanied it, on the subject of applying for aid to the Imperial Government, I am directed to inform you that the Governor-general will forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of that resolution, and entertains no doubt of the anxious desire of Her Majesty's Government to relieve the distress of those who have suffered from that dreadful calamity.

But, in order to prevent the disappointment which might otherwise arise, his Excellency deems it right that the Committee should be made aware that Her Majesty's Government have no means of meeting such an application, except by a proposition to the Imperial Parliament, and that he has no recollection of any instance in which Parliamentary aid has been granted on the occasion of a similar calamity.

You will be pleased to assure the Committee of the cordial co-operation of the Governor-general in the humane and charitable task that has devolved upon them, in consequence of the awful affliction with which it has pleased Providence to visit the city of Quebec, and of the sincere sympathy and sorrow felt by him for the severe suffering to which so many of its inhabitants have been exposed.

E. L. Montizambert, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. M. Higginson.

(No. 311.)

Government House, Montreal,
9 July 1845.

My Lord,

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the occurrence, on the night of the 28th ultimo, of another extensive conflagration in the city of Quebec, by which many of the inhabitants have been reduced to extreme distress. The enclosed copies of communications from Major-general Sir James Hope, in command of the district, to the Commander of the Forces, detail the particulars of this and the preceding dreadful calamity during the progress of the fire, and the accompanying sketch of the city shows the portions of the suburbs destroyed on both lamentable occasions.

I also submit for your Lordship's information copies of a letter from the Mayor, and of resolutions passed at a public meeting of the citizens, soliciting the interposition of the Government in behalf of the sufferers, and of the reply which I directed to be made to the application. If the measure for raising a loan in Great Britain should be adopted, it will become my duty to address your Lordship again upon the subject.

The unremitting and well-directed exertions of the troops in garrison, under the command of Sir James Hope, may be considered to have saved those parts of the city which have escaped destruction.

The Right honourable Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Metcalfe.

Sir,

Quebec, 30 May 1845.

It is with great regret I have to communicate to your Excellency that a fire broke out about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 28th instant, in a tannery at the foot of Abraham's Hill, on the road leading to Scott's Bridge. This accident, I am informed, occurred from the bursting of some of the steam apparatus. Owing to a strong gale of wind from the west, the fire not only communicated to the contiguous houses, but broke out at intervals of several hundred yards, and before 3 o'clock, P.M., the flames had reached St. Roch's Church, which was consumed, and had spread over, I should think, five-sixths of the suburbs of St. Roch, and only stopped in their progress by the river St. Charles.

I am sorry to report to your Excellency that the whole of the wood-yard was consumed; and I herewith enclose a report from Mr. Assistant Commissary-general Milliken. The fire proceeded up Abraham's Hill, skirting the St. John suburbs, to the glacis of the town, and also extended along the foot of the hill to the street immediately below the Artillery Barracks.