

In order to provide the requisite shelter, the Executive Committee think it would be desirable that they should be authorized to procure suitable buildings, or, if necessary, to construct sheds (of considerable extent, and partitioned off, so as to serve as temporary residences for separate families) in suitable locations close to or within the limits of the burnt district. Such sheds, it is submitted, should be so built as to admit, if necessary, of being fitted up at a moderate expense, for winter occupation; as it is hardly to be hoped that the occasion for them will wholly have gone by before the setting in of next winter.

Unless such buildings or sheds are supplied, the Executive Committee are apprehensive that it will be found practically impossible to prevent the running up of numbers of shanties, of the worst construction, over the burnt district, and their occupation in a manner highly prejudicial, not merely to the re-building of the district, but even to the health of their inmates and of the city generally. The Emigrant sheds and the tents at present occupied, cannot, for obvious reasons, long serve to shelter any considerable proportion of our unhoused population.

Should the construction of the proposed sheds be determined on, the Executive Committee would recommend their being erected on ground belonging either to the public or to proprietors who may be willing to place their land for that purpose unreservedly at the service of the public. It is presumed that the Corporation would readily engage to take them so far under its charge, as may be requisite for all purposes of police and internal discipline.

It remains to consider the position of the second class of sufferers; and the question what steps are to be taken *hereafter* for their relief.

The Executive Committee are deeply impressed with the feeling that it is most important to limit the description of aid above recommended for the third or utterly destitute class of sufferers within the narrowest limits consistent with the effective relief of real destitution. To do more than relieve their pressing wants would be to encourage pauperism, with all its attendant evils. The whole machinery they have suggested with this view:—the efficient and prompt relief of these urgent wants, *and no more*.

So feeling, the Executive Committee consider, that it would be most mischievous to come to any resolution of devoting the whole of the Relief Fund to this one end; as they believe not only that more will be raised, but that more ought to be raised, than ought to be exclusively so devoted. The second of the three classes of sufferers above referred to, are those who have really lost most, and whose suffering is of the kind to last the longest, and be felt in the end the most. They are, besides, as a class, the most deserving. Of the first class, or merely destitute, a good many were destitute, or nearly so, before; and will continue so after their temporary relief, shall have been withdrawn. Others, the better and larger portion, as soon as their present necessities shall have been relieved, will find themselves again in employment, and as well off as before. But the class essentially reduced in condition by their losses, cannot hope to recover their lost position otherwise than slowly, and by painful effort. The object of aiding them in such effort, within reasonable and proper limits, and under due precaution, is one which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, ought by no means to be set aside, or lost sight of.

Till more shall have been ascertained as to the probable amount of the expected Loan Fund, and the rules and manner of its intended distribution, and also as to the total amount of the Relief Fund to be at the disposal of your Body, the extent of the immediate relief which will have to be given from it to the absolutely destitute, and the amount and nature of the varying demands to be made

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