

their proceedings, the Commissioners caused Blank forms of examination to be printed, one of which is hereunto annexed for your Excellency's information—This form has been pursued with but very few exceptions, which will appear in a list of Special Cases, hereinafter referred to.—

The Commissioners being anxious to give full effect to all the safeguards against imposition, provided by the Legislature, were careful during the examinations to promulgate the clauses of the Act, which render false swearing in any of these examinations liable to the pains of perjury, and which exclude from any share in the Charitable Funds, any claim which shall appear to have been intentionally made, for the purpose of obtaining more than a just compensation; and they have the satisfaction to state, that but one instance has occurred, in which they have found it necessary to exclude a claim on this ground.

The Commissioners thought it proper to fix the sum of twenty pounds, as the limit below which they would receive no proof of loss—on the principle that where the loss did not amount to this sum, the applicant would in all cases have received full relief from the distributions already made.

No proof of loss was admitted, arising from the destruction of Timber or Wood standing in the Forest from the obvious impracticability of ascertaining it with precision, although such losses were sustained to an immense amount.

The examinations having been completed, the Commissioners all repaired to Fredericton, in pursuance of Your Excellency's requisition, and according to the directions of the Act; H. G. Clopper, Esq. having been in the latter stage of the examinations, appointed by your Excellency a Commissioner in the room of the Honorable George Shore, who had been compelled to resign in consequence of the pressure of the other Public duties, rendering him unable to continue his attention to the business of the Commission.

The result of these examinations, appear in the several lists of cases in the respective Districts, annexed to this report in which are detailed the names and occupations of the sufferers, and the loss sustained by each, as proved before the Commissioners.

From the Miramichi list, it appears that the losses proved in that District, were as follows:—