

To the second of these classes, such aid as the Loan Fund in question would offer, would as obviously be inadequate. The security they could give would not admit of their borrowing enough to enable them to rebuild in the requisite manner; and the mere offer to them of an inadequate amount of loan, would in fact be no relief or aid whatever. If they are to be relieved or aided at all, in their struggle to retrieve their losses, *something* will have to be given them to make up the deficiency of the little they may borrow.

The third class, as a general rule, may be regarded as not being proprietors. So that comparatively few of them can derive aid, except from the Relief Fund.

It is obvious that, *in the first instance*, the aid to be afforded from the Relief Fund must be limited to this last class of persons.

As regards the mode of rendering such aid, the Executive Committee are of opinion that, except in extraordinary cases, it should on no account be granted in money. Allowances or gratuities in money could not fail to be very generally ill-spent, would enable numbers of persons, who ought not to leave the city, to go away in search of employment elsewhere, and would be a premium to idleness and intemperance among those who should stay. Wherever from particular circumstances, it may be thought desirable to enable individuals or families to find a home among friends elsewhere, money would require to be given. But except in such cases, the Executive Committee would on no account have it given. The wants of those of the destitute, whom it is not desired to remove from Montreal, should be relieved only by providing them, for such time as may be necessary, with food, clothing, medical advice and shelter, according to the exigencies of their several cases.

To determine what those exigencies are in each case, the Executive Committee would suggest that, in their opinion, it is desirable that Relieving Sub-Committees should be immediately organized. They would suggest, that, as the circumstances and wants of the poor are necessarily best known to the clergy and others of their own religious faith, such Sub-Committees should be formed upon that principle. The several Protestant denominations would in that case probably find it easy to co-operate in the organization of one such Sub-Committee; but, if not, there would be no difficulty in organizing separate Sub-Committees for any which might prefer that course. To secure uniformity of action, and to guard against imposition, it would be desirable, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, that such Sub-Committees should not be confined in their operations to particular localities; and also that they should not consist of too many members. Sub-Committees of five members each—two or three of the five to be clergymen, and three to form a quorum—would probably be found to work more satisfactorily than if composed of a larger number of persons.

Upon the system proposed, it would rest with these Sub-Committees to investigate the particular cases of distress within their several spheres of operation; to certify from time to time in writing, the details of the specific relief required for each; and to render such aid as may be requisite to ensure the faithful distribution of such relief. The duty of the Executive Committee would resolve itself into that of providing the requisite food, clothing, medical aid, and shelter, and generally directing and superintending the machinery for its distribution, in as prompt, economical and satisfactory a manner as the means at their command may allow.

In the improbable case of the Sub-Committees, or any of them, demanding the grant of more relief than the state of the funds or other considerations may be found to warrant, it would of course be for the Executive Committee to apply the proper remedy, by reducing or amending their demands as occasion should require.