

tives to speculators at low prices, and thus lose the fruits of their past labour and industry.

Your Committee, therefore, thought itself bound to think of the means of overcoming the disaster, and after having maturely reflected thereon, it has come to the conclusion that none other can be found but such as the Government and Legislature might afford. The fire in question has caused as great a loss to Three Rivers, comparatively speaking, as the fire in Quebec in 1845, and that of Montreal in 1852, caused to these two cities respectively. bearing in mind the importance of the part of this Town destroyed by the fire; and your Committee think that it may justifiably use the example of these two cities, to suggest that an application be made to the Government, praying for a loan of money to assist the sufferers by the fire, and to enable them to rebuild.

The circumstances of this Town are so different from those of the two large cities referred to that your Committee cannot suggest that the loan be obtained, under the same conditions as those under which the Montreal loan was obtained, but it thinks that a loan might be asked under the same conditions, as those under which Quebec obtained hers, adding thereto the guarantee of the Town.

The Committee enquired into the price of building materials and labour, which have considerably increased since the fire, and which will rise still higher if many buildings are to be erected; and according to an estimate which it thinks pretty correct, it does not believe that the proprietors can begin to rebuild, unless a loan of £15,000 can be effected, without including in the estimate the very small number of sufferers who can dispense with assistance.

Your Committee therefore recommend that a person be deputed to Toronto to solicit from Government its sanction to the loan of £17,000 from the public Treasury of the Province; and that sufficient latitude be given to said person to allow him to agree as to the conditions under which the Government may consent to recommend such a measure to the Legislature.

The Committee has thought it necessary to accompany its report with a detailed statement of the losses suffered, and the Insurances effected on the properties destroyed, and a diagram shewing the extent and position of the property destroyed.

The Committee relies as you yourselves rely on public sympathy as well as on the solicitude and generosity of Government, and of the Legislature to alleviate as much as possible such a fearful calamity.

The whole humbly submitted.
(Signed)

A. POLETTE
D. G. LABARRE,
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C. HUGHES.

THREE RIVERS, 24 December, 1856.