

to make such distribution or other application of the money as he may deem most conducive to the object for which it has been granted.

Write to the officer in charge of the Commissariat in Canada, acquainting him that the Governor-general of Canada will be authorized, in pursuance of Her Majesty's directions to, address requisitions to the Commissary for the issue from the chest under his charge, of sums to the extent of 20,000*l.* sterling, to be applied for the relief of the sufferers by the calamitous fires at Quebec, and desire the Commissary will make such issues accordingly to such persons and in such manner as the Governor-general may point out.

### ESTIMATE No. 3.—(See p. 4.)

#### CORRESPONDENCE respecting FIRES at Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 July 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of Newfoundland, and of a letter from Mr. G. R. Robinson, upon the subject of the extensive conflagration which has taken place at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 9th June last, by which the greater portion of that city has been totally destroyed.

The distress occasioned by this calamity to the inhabitants of St. John's renders it necessary that Her Majesty's Government should take prompt and immediate measures for their relief, and accordingly I am to request that you would move the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to authorize Mr. Gladstone to instruct the Governor of Newfoundland, by the mail of this day, to draw on their Lordships, in such manner as their Lordships shall be pleased to direct, for the sum of 5,000*l.*, with the view of alleviating the sufferings and destitution which is now prevailing at St. John's.

I have, &c.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) Jas. Stephen.

(No. 38.—Urgent.)

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,  
10 June 1846.

Sir,

It has pleased the Almighty to visit this colony with a great calamity. An awful and irresistible conflagration has suddenly swept away three-fourths of this so lately wealthy and prosperous city.

A fire broke out at half-past eight o'clock yesterday morning in the western section of the city, and, owing to the prevalence of a westerly gale of wind, which unhappily continued to increase in violence, before the close of the day most of its public buildings, and the whole (with one single exception) of its wharves, store-houses and mercantile establishments, upwards of a mile in extent, had been reduced to ashes.

It is estimated that 2,000 houses, and property to the amount of from 600,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* sterling has been destroyed: 12,000 persons are now houseless.

Much as the losses of the mercantile and the sufferings of the labouring classes claim our sympathies, yet should our deepest commiseration rest upon the middle classes, who, accustomed to comparative ease and comfort, find themselves and their helpless families suddenly reduced to a state of the most absolute destitution.

Every effort dependent upon the local Government will be made and is making for their relief and that of the lower orders; and, even under circumstances so apparently desperate, and with a scene of such affecting desolation before my eyes, still do I indulge a sanguine hope that, if promptly aided by the benevolence and liberality of the British people, of the Legislatures and people of the neighbouring colonies, but, above all, by the British Government and Parliament, not only will present distress be at once alleviated, but the fine site of the provincial capital of this ancient and valuable possession of the British Crown (which as a commercial town may be said for the present almost to have ceased to exist) will again be occupied by buildings of so secure and durable a description, laid out upon a plan so judicious and well-considered, as, at no remote period, to convert the calamity which is now pressing so heavily upon its inhabitants into a great and inappreciable blessing.

A similar calamity, though not to the same extent, was thus turned into a vast benefit, even by the almost unaided efforts of the province itself, during the period of my administration of the government of New Brunswick some years ago.

In order to meet the pressing emergencies of our situation, I have adopted the following measures:—

1st.—I have, by proclamation, convened the local Legislature to meet in six days, viz., on the 16th instant.

2d.—I have

No. 38. 10 June.