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VIII.

ESTIMATES,
&c.
MISCELLANEOUS
SERVICES:

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 1847.

(Presented by Command of Her Majesty.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 August 1846.*

606.

Under 3 oz.

ESTIMATES,

&c.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES:

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31 March 1847.

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2.—Relief of Sufferers by Fires at Quebec	- - - - -	p. 4
3.—Relief of Sufferers by Fire at St. John's, Newfoundland	- - - - -	p. 4
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5.—Repair of Damage to Public Buildings by recent Storm	- - - - -	p. 5
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7.—Model Prison in Ireland	- - - - -	p. 5

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, }
10 August 1846.

J. PARKER.

(PRESENTED BY COMMAND OF HER MAJESTY.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 August 1846.

VIII.—ESTIMATES, &c.

— 1. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted to defray Expenses incurred through the Commissariat, under the direction of the Government, for the Relief of Distress arising from the Failure of the POTATO CROP in IRELAND.

One Hundred and Thirty-two Thousand Pounds.

PARTICULARS OF THE ESTIMATE.

	AMOUNT.			TOTALS.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
To Expenses of Relief Commission, Clerks' Salaries, &c. to 30 June	1,283	9	1				
„ Sums advanced to Board of Works for making Local Inquiries and Inspection of Works, to 31 July	4,500	—	—				
„ Sums advanced to give Employment in cases of great emergency, not otherwise provided for, to 31 July	2,210	—	—				
„ Sums advanced as Loans to Board of Works	710	—	—				
„ Sums issued as Donations in aid of Subscriptions made by Relief Committees, to 30 June	44,687	10	—				
„ Sums authorized for Donations, to 31 July, in course of payment	21,324	—	—				
„ Cost of Oatmeal purchased in Ireland	6,544	—	—				
„ Expenses of kilndrying and grinding Indian Corn, to 30 June	3,887	15	1				
„ Expenses of Labour, Cartage, Boat-hire, &c. to 30 June	2,578	13	—				
„ Expenses of Freight from Port to Port and by Canals, to 30 June	3,292	15	4				
„ Sums paid for Rent of Magazines, to 30 June	300	—	—				
„ Cost and Charges of Indian Corn and Meal imported from America	105,256	8	8				
„ Cost and Charges of Indian Corn and Oatmeal purchased in the United Kingdom	45,923	—	1				
„ Cost of Oatmeal supplied by Admiralty	5,517	5	3				
„ Cost of Sacks, and other Expenses incurred by the Ordnance Department	6,932	10	2				
„ Estimate of further Amount required by Relief Commission, to 31 August	1,540	—	—				
„ Sums authorized, but not drawn, by Board of Works	3,340	—	—				
„ Probable further Sum required for Donations, to 10 August	2,000	—	—				
„ Probable further Sum required for Grinding, Labour and Freight	3,500	—	—				
„ Probable further Sum required for Rent of Magazines	1,700	—	—				
Deduct,—				266,927	6	8	
Amount of Sales of Indian Corn Meal and Oatmeal, to 15 July	70,171	6	5				
Estimated Amount of further Sales of Indian Corn Meal and Oatmeal, to 15 August	60,000	—	—				
Sum recovered from Underwriters as net avails of "Arab," lost	4,684	11	—				
Sum recovered from Underwriters for general average, per "Harriet Rockwell"	95	4	9				
				134,951	2	2	
ESTIMATED SUM required to be voted by Parliament	—	—	—	£.	131,976	4	6

BALANCE SHEET of Purchase and Sale of Food, being part of the above.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.	
To Cost and Charges of Indian Corn and Meal imported from America	105,256	8	8	By Amount of Sales of Indian Corn, Meal and Oatmeal, to 15 July	70,171	6	5	
„ Cost and Charges of Indian Corn and Oatmeal purchased in the United Kingdom	45,923	—	1	„ Estimated Amount of further Sales of Indian Corn, Meal and Oatmeal, to 15 August	60,000	—	—	
„ Cost of Oatmeal purchased in Ireland by Commissariat Department	6,544	—	—	„ Amount recovered from Underwriters as net avails of "Arab," lost	4,684	11	—	
„ Cost of Oatmeal supplied by Admiralty	5,517	5	3	„ Amount recovered from Underwriters for general average, per "Harriet Rockwell"	95	4	9	
„ Expenses of kilndrying and grinding Indian Corn, to 30 June	3,887	15	1					
„ Expenses of Labour, Cartage, Boat-hire, &c. to 30 June	2,578	13	—					
„ Expenses of Freight from Port to Port, and by Canals, to 30 June	3,292	15	4					
„ Sums paid for Rent of Magazines, to 30 June	300	—	—					
„ Cost of Sacks, and other Expenses incurred by Ordnance Department	6,932	10	2					
„ Estimate of further Amount required for Grinding, Labour and Freight	3,500	—	—	BALANCE, being the probable net Cost to the Public of the Indian Corn and other Food which has been provided for the relief of the people suffering from the failure of the Crop in Ireland	50,481	5	5	
„ Estimate of further Amount required for Rent of Magazines	1,700	—	—					
	£.	185,432	7	7	£.	185,432	7	7

MEM.

MEM. of PAYMENTS made to Messrs. *Baring, Brothers & Co.*, on account, for Purchases of Food for the Relief of Persons suffering from Scarcity in IRELAND.

INDIAN CORN and INDIAN CORN MEAL imported from the UNITED STATES.

Per		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Per "Adirondack"	Cargo	6,985	18	4	8,828	2	9
	Freight and charges	1,842	4	5			
"Atlas"	Cargo	8,684	12	2	10,651	4	6
	Freight, &c.	2,062	16	5			
	Ditto underclaimed	3	15	11			
"Rainbow"	Cargo	3,907	7	11	4,894	9	6
	Freight, &c.	987	1	7			
"Winnipiac"	Cargo	4,402	13	7	5,529	11	5
	Freight, &c.	1,126	17	10			
"Elsinore"	Cargo	6,403	8	10	7,969	13	9
	Freight, &c.	1,566	4	11			
"Harriet Rockwell"	Cargo	4,455	3	6	5,973	18	-
	Freight, &c.	1,391	2	5			
	Demurrage and general average	127	12	1			
"Arab"	Cargo	(Lost)	-	-	4,732	11	9
"Ohio"	Cargo	3,923	15	4	4,948	2	8
	Freight, &c.	1,024	7	4			
"Trident"	Cargo	3,807	11	6	4,774	5	9
	Freight, &c.	966	14	3			
"Liberty"	Cargo	7,258	5	3	8,694	6	7
	Freight, &c.	1,436	1	4			
"Edinburgh"	Cargo	3,476	6	-	4,350	8	4
	Freight, &c.	874	2	4			
"Empire"	Cargo	12,134	7	9	14,111	3	9
	Freight, &c.	1,976	16	-			
"Cornelia"	Cargo	11,758	6	8	13,974	2	5
	Cargo and Freight	2,000	-	-			
	Balance of ditto	215	15	9			
"Almade"	Cargo	4,795	17	7	5,824	7	6
	Freight, &c.	1,029	9	11			
TOTAL from United States					105,256	8	8

For PURCHASES made in the UNITED KINGDOM.

		£.	s.	d.			
Oarmeal	"Balinasloe"	1,642	3	5			
	"Roscommon"						
	"Duchess"						
Indian Corn	"John and Henry"	1,174	5	9			
Ditto	"Harmony"	1,235	5	10			
Ditto	"Concord"	1,154	17	2			
Ditto	"Quiver"	1,287	11	2			
Ditto	"Lady Rowley"	1,190	9	-			
Ditto	"Providenzia"	1,804	10	9			
Ditto	"Superior"	725	7	8			
Ditto	"Aaron Lass"	1,098	1	2			
Ditto	"Swan"	1,114	19	1			
Ditto	"White Mouse" and "Sarah"	678	1	1			
Ditto	"Union and Maria"	1,093	14	4			
Ditto	"Paziente"	1,705	2	10			
Ditto	"Antigua"	1,483	5	-			
Ditto	"Maria"	1,886	1	1			
Ditto	"Battina"	2,398	10	-			
Ditto	"Jack-o'-Lantern"	700	7	6			
Ditto	"Jane"	853	4	6			
Ditto	"Venceder"	621	15	6			
Ditto	"Tom Banks"	634	1	9			
Ditto	"Athena"	1,708	3	8			
Ditto	"Aurora"	1,694	13	7			
Ditto	"Active"	1,243	8	-			
Ditto	"Rebecca"	1,199	6	3			
Indian Meal	"Eleanor and Jane"	661	-	-			
Ditto	"Three Sisters"	546	19	10			
Indian Corn	"Marchioness Breadalbane"	2,784	15	1			
Indian Meal	Purchased at Cork	2,566	7	6			
Indian Corn	Ditto - per "Chase" and "Buona Donna"	3,035	19	9			
Indian Meal	Purchased at Cork	1,283	8	9			
Ditto	"Vulcan"	360	18	6			
Ditto	Purchased at Cork	3,208	5	6			
Ditto	"Antonietta"	1,147	19	1			
PURCHASES made in the United Kingdom					45,923	-	1
TOTAL					151,179	8	9

— 2. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted to replace the like Amount advanced for the Relief of the **SUFFERERS** by the **FIRES** which occurred at **QUEBEC** in the Year 1845.

Twenty Thousand Pounds.

THIS sum has been already advanced from the Commissariat Chest in Canada, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of Commons of the 1st August 1845, and Her Majesty's answer of the 5th August.

(See Papers on page 6.)

— 3. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted for the Relief of the **SUFFERERS** by the recent **CONFLAGRATION** at **ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND**.

Thirty Thousand Pounds.

(See Papers on page 12.)

— 4. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum proposed to be voted in the Year 1846 on account of **WORKS** required for enlarging and improving **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**.

Twenty Thousand Pounds.

THE cost of the several Works required for enlarging and improving Buckingham Palace, (agreeably to the plans submitted to the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, at a meeting held on the 6th August 1846), including

New East Front to the Palace; clearing out and re-arranging Rooms in South Wing; alterations in the North Wing; new Kitchens and other offices, with Ball-room over; Decorations and painting; taking down the Marble Arch; alteration of Drains, &c., is estimated at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 150,000
On account of which it is proposed to vote in the present year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Leaving to be provided in future years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>£. 130,000</u>

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify her consent that the Marine Palace or Pavilion at Brighton, with the grounds and buildings attached to the same, should be offered for sale, and the produce applied towards the expenditure to be incurred for alterations and improvements at Buckingham Palace, in diminution of the sums to be voted in future years.

(See Papers on page 18.)

— 5. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted to make good the Damage to PALACES and PUBLIC BUILDINGS by the Storm on the 1st of August.

Four thousand Five hundred Pounds.

— 6. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted in the Year 1846 on account of the Expence of constructing HARBOURS of REFUGE.

Thirty Thousand Pounds.

IN part of the Expence of Works at Portland, recommended by the Commissioners on Harbours of Refuge in their Report laid before Parliament in the last Session - £. 30,000

— 7. —

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be voted in the Year 1846 towards the Expence of erecting a MODEL PRISON in IRELAND.

Ten Thousand Pounds.

PAPERS in Explanation of the foregoing ESTIMATES.

ESTIMATE No. 2.—(See p. 4.)

CORRESPONDENCE respecting FIRES at Quebec.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 July 1845.

No. 299, 20 June.

By the direction of Lord Stanley, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch, dated 20th June last, which his Lordship has received from Lord Metcalfe, the Governor-general of Canada, reporting the conflagration which took place in the city of Quebec on the 28th of May, and the means taken in the province for the relief of the sufferers by that calamity; and also transmitting a resolution adopted by the General Committee for the relief of the sufferers soliciting the aid of Her Majesty's Government, with his own answer to that resolution.

This despatch is the first and only official intelligence which has reached Lord Stanley on the subject to which it refers; his Lordship is, therefore, not able to communicate to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury any accurate or even any conjectural estimate of the extent of the loss.

But Lord Stanley is of opinion that it would be desirable to submit to the House of Commons a Supplementary Estimate, in the form of a vote of credit for this service, to the amount of £. , reserving for future consideration the question, whether that money should be advanced as a loan or as a free gift to the sufferers, or whether it should be employed partly as a loan and partly as a gift, according as the one or the other course might seem more expedient in reference to such further intelligence as may be expected to arrive on the subject.

I have, &c.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *Jas. Stephen.*

(No. 299.)

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 20 June 1845.

On the 28th of last month a dreadful and extensive fire took place in the city of Quebec, by which several lives were sacrificed, and many of the inhabitants afflicted with extreme suffering and distress.

Subscriptions have been opened for their relief in Quebec, Montreal and other places, which have been liberally contributed to; and immediately on intelligence of the calamity being received here, I sanctioned a grant of 2,000*l.* from the Provincial Treasury, preliminary to taking into consideration the propriety of affording further aid.

I submit herewith the copy of a letter and resolution which I have received from the General Committee appointed at Quebec for the relief of the sufferers, and of the answer which I caused to be made. Being aware of the difficulty that will be experienced by the Imperial Government in meeting such an application, I conceived it would be proper to warn them of it, lest hopes might be encouraged which, if not realized, would lead to disappointment.

I have, &c.

The Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *Metcalfe.*

Sir,

Quebec, 10 June 1845.

HEREWITH enclosed I have the honour to send you, for the purpose of being laid before his Excellency the Governor-general, a copy of a resolution adopted yesterday at a meeting of the General Committee for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire.

I have, &c.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.,
Civil Secretary, Montreal.(signed) *E. L. Montizambert,*
Secretary, General Committee.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire, at a Meeting held in the City Council Chamber at Quebec, on the 9th June 1845.

Resolved,—THAT an application be made by this Committee to his Excellency the Governor-general, requesting his Excellency to bring under the view of Her Majesty's Government in England the calamity which has lately befallen this city, and to solicit Her Majesty's Government to take into consideration the expediency of some aid being given on the part of the Imperial Government for the relief of the inhabitants of Quebec, whom this disaster has reduced to destitution.

Sir,

Civil Secretary's Office, Montreal,
20 June 1845.

HAVING laid before the Governor-general your letter of the 10th instant, together with the copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Committee for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire which accompanied it, on the subject of applying for aid to the Imperial Government, I am directed to inform you that the Governor-general will forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a copy of that resolution, and entertains no doubt of the anxious desire of Her Majesty's Government to relieve the distress of those who have suffered from that dreadful calamity.

But, in order to prevent the disappointment which might otherwise arise, his Excellency deems it right that the Committee should be made aware that Her Majesty's Government have no means of meeting such an application, except by a proposition to the Imperial Parliament, and that he has no recollection of any instance in which Parliamentary aid has been granted on the occasion of a similar calamity.

You will be pleased to assure the Committee of the cordial co-operation of the Governor-general in the humane and charitable task that has devolved upon them, in consequence of the awful affliction with which it has pleased Providence to visit the city of Quebec, and of the sincere sympathy and sorrow felt by him for the severe suffering to which so many of its inhabitants have been exposed.

E. L. Montizambert, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. M. Higginson.*

(No. 311.)

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal,
9 July 1845.

It is with great sorrow that I have to report the occurrence, on the night of the 28th ultimo, of another extensive conflagration in the city of Quebec, by which many of the inhabitants have been reduced to extreme distress. The enclosed copies of communications from Major-general Sir James Hope, in command of the district, to the Commander of the Forces, detail the particulars of this and the preceding dreadful calamity during the progress of the fire, and the accompanying sketch of the city shows the portions of the suburbs destroyed on both lamentable occasions.

I also submit for your Lordship's information copies of a letter from the Mayor, and of resolutions passed at a public meeting of the citizens, soliciting the interposition of the Government in behalf of the sufferers, and of the reply which I directed to be made to the application. If the measure for raising a loan in Great Britain should be adopted, it will become my duty to address your Lordship again upon the subject.

The unremitting and well-directed exertions of the troops in garrison, under the command of Sir James Hope, may be considered to have saved those parts of the city which have escaped destruction.

The Right honourable Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Metcalfe.*

Sir,

Quebec, 30 May 1845.

It is with great regret I have to communicate to your Excellency that a fire broke out about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 28th instant, in a tannery at the foot of Abraham's Hill, on the road leading to Scott's Bridge. This accident, I am informed, occurred from the bursting of some of the steam apparatus. Owing to a strong gale of wind from the west, the fire not only communicated to the contiguous houses, but broke out at intervals of several hundred yards, and before 3 o'clock, P.M., the flames had reached St. Roch's Church, which was consumed, and had spread over, I should think, five-sixths of the suburbs of St. Roch, and only stopped in their progress by the river St. Charles.

I am sorry to report to your Excellency that the whole of the wood-yard was consumed; and I herewith enclose a report from Mr. Assistant Commissary-general Milliken. The fire proceeded up Abraham's Hill, skirting the St. John suburbs, to the glacis of the town, and also extended along the foot of the hill to the street immediately below the Artillery Barracks.

By a report from Lieutenant-colonel Walker, your Excellency will see that the barracks were only saved by being covered with tin; the mess-house and officers' apartments, at present roofed with shingle, were on fire, and only preserved by the exertions of the men. Had this building caught fire, it must have communicated to the contiguous houses belonging to the upper town, and it is impossible to say how far the devastation would have reached.

Lieutenant-colonel Ward, of the Royal Engineers, had taken every necessary precaution to secure the powder magazine near to the Hotel Dieu, a short way east from Palace-gate, and I am happy to inform your Excellency that no accident occurred, though the wood and copings on the top of the ramparts, not further than betwixt 20 or 30 yards from the magazine, were on fire, and had to be torn up and thrown over the rock.

The flames continued their progress with frightful rapidity, consuming the houses and two large breweries along the foot of the rock leading to Hope-gate, and every man that could be collected was employed in destroying the buildings, and cutting off the communication from the lower town, at a point where the salient rock approached near to the river St. Charles; had the flames continued beyond this narrow space, nothing could have saved a great part of the lower town and the quays from being destroyed. Owing, however, to the exertions of the troops, whose steady, active and willing conduct on this melancholy occasion exceeds any praise that I can bestow on them, the communication was successfully cut off, and the fire completely stopped by about half-past 10 o'clock, P.M.: one house was unroofed, but this was found to be too slow an operation, and the two contiguous houses had to be blown up. The flames had communicated, about 8 o'clock, P.M., to a large yard filled with stacks of deals, close to the river St. Charles, and a separation had to be made through the middle of the yard by the removal of a great part of the wood, to cut off the burning stacks of deals from the range of quays round the lower town, which was effected by the unremitting exertions of the soldiers, and the aid of two fire-engines, ordered to this point by Mr. Caron, the Mayor of Quebec. Some time about 8 P.M., the wind moderated and changed to the southward, to which providential circumstance the safety of the lower town is chiefly to be attributed. I beg to remark to your Excellency, that the troops performed this service during the whole time, unaided by the people of the town, very few individuals having offered their services, notwithstanding the efforts of several gentlemen of the town to whom I appealed, but whose attempts to call forth the exertions of the idlers were unavailing. I beg to repeat to your Excellency, that nothing could exceed the willing exertions of the different commanding officers, and of all ranks employed; and I am happy to say that, during the whole time the fire lasted, I did not observe one single drunken soldier. The suburbs of St. Roch's present an appearance of frightful desolation, from the greater part of the houses being of wood, chiefly belonging to artisans and the poor; there is nothing to be seen but a forest of chimneys; and I am apprehensive that the rapidity of the fire prevented many from escaping, and that there are a number of victims to the flames. The fire communicated so suddenly, and spread with such rapidity over the wood-yard, that it was with difficulty the troops employed escaped from the flames. I am happy to say that, though the men were frequently exposed to danger, and acted with fearless intrepidity, I have not heard of any casualties. The officers and men of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and of the wing of the 14th Regiment, of the 43d Light Infantry, and of the 89th Regiment, are fully deserving of any expression of approbation which your Excellency may think proper to bestow on them. It is computed that about 1,500 houses have been consumed, and 15,000 inhabitants deprived of their houses and homes, and many of the poor solely depending on the benevolence and charity of the people.

His Excellency Lieut.-general
Sir R. D. Jackson,
&c. &c. &c., K. C. H.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. A. Hope,
Major-general.

My Lord,

Quebec, 1 July 1845.

It is with great grief that I have to report to your Excellency another dreadful conflagration that took place in the suburbs of Quebec, on the night of the 28th June, by which 1,200 houses were consumed. The fire is said to have originated about 20 minutes before 12 o'clock at night, in a hangard behind the house of Monsieur Tessier, a notary, at the beginning of Aiguillon-street, close to the glacis outside of St. John's-gate, and spread with frightful rapidity along the whole length of that street, of St. John's-street, consuming the whole of the suburbs of St. John's, and extending to the ruins of the St. Roch's suburbs, burnt by the former fire. There was no time lost in turning out the whole of the troops, but the rapidity of the flames, for a considerable time, defied all human exertion, and continued their frightful progress along the St. Foy-road, a distance of 1,200 yards, as long, with very few exceptions, as there were any houses to burn, and spreading against the wind, from one narrow street to another, in the direction of the St. Louis-road. Unfortunately a gale of wind was blowing from the east, and the whole breadth of the St. John's suburbs appeared to be on fire at the same moment.

During the night Monsieur Caron, the Mayor of Quebec, came to me to point out a spot near the glacis, betwixt the St. John's and the St. Louis gates, that should be cut off, and a house was immediately blown up, by which a considerable part of the suburbs of St. Louis was saved:

It was, therefore, to the Mayor's judicious selection of this spot that this important service was performed, and I have strongly to express to your Excellency that Monsieur Caron exerted himself during the whole of the night to the utmost, and, owing to the great extent of the conflagration, was obliged to invest me with full authority to take every step that the circumstances required.

Some houses and a chapel were blown up in the intervening space from where the fire commenced to the spot where it was finally checked, without producing any good effect, except at one spot pointed out to me by Captain Warburton, of the Royal Artillery, who reported that by the blowing up of two houses at the corner of one of the streets leading towards the St. Louis-road, and taking advantage of some open spaces, a stop might be put to the flames in that direction. I immediately directed him to do so; and I am happy to do justice to the intelligence of this young officer, in reporting to your Excellency that the operation was attended with success; and I have to add Lieut. Shakspeare's, of the Royal Artillery, name as equally deserving of praise, both these officers being entrusted with the perilous duty of placing the barrels of gunpowder in the houses frequently within a few yards of the conflagration.

By the blowing up of several houses in rapid succession at the spot where the St. John's suburb extended beyond the St. Louis suburb, taking advantage of some open spaces, and by the clearing away a space betwixt the burning buildings and the upper part of the suburbs of St. Louis, the flames that had raged to this spot with unabated violence were checked at about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 29th June, and this direful visitation suddenly and in an instant subdued into the stillness of exhausted desolation.

A great part of the St. Louis suburbs, the whole of the St. John's suburbs, with very few exceptions, five-sixths of the suburbs of St. Roch, the streets extending along the foot of the Rock to the point where the fire was stopped on the former occasion, present one scene of continuous ruins, having deprived at least 22,000 persons of their houses and homes, entailing on the poorer part of the population of this devoted city inexpressible misery, and sent thousands to wander for shelter and bread, and to depend for relief and consolation on the benevolence and the generosity of a feeling public. It may be permitted to me, under these appalling circumstances, to go a little out of my way, and to beg of your Excellency to use all your influence that some legislative measure should be adopted in the reconstruction of this unfortunate town, that the houses should be built as much as possible with stone or brick, and roofed with some material to resist the flames, and that a line should be drawn round the works, and no houses allowed to be built within that line but of stone or brick, and securely roofed. Besides, almost the whole of these suburbs being constructed of wood, all the intervening spaces betwixt the streets, the gardens, yards, &c., were filled with stacks of deals, connected by wooden palings and every sort of combustible matter heaped together. It therefore ceases to be a matter of surprise that these two dreadful calamities have occurred, and rather to be wondered at that such a dreadful visitation has not taken place before.

The spot where the houses were latterly blown up was at the point where the St. John's suburbs extend beyond the St. Louis, and owing to these houses being rapidly blown up, and by the utmost exertions of the troops in clearing a space, a great part of the St. Louis suburbs, the whole of Clapton-terrace, consisting of villas, and the gentlemen's seats on each side of the St. Louis-road, were saved.

I wish it had fallen to my lot to report to your Excellency the services of the officers and men employed during the progress of both the late lamentable events on occasions more honourable and more congenial to their profession; but it would indeed be unjust if I did not mention the names of Captain Boxer, of the Royal Navy, whose exertions during the whole night, and particularly at the end of the fire, in directing the spaces to be cleared, were of the greatest service; of Lieutenant-colonel Walker, commanding the Royal Artillery; of Major Watson, commanding the 14th Regiment; of Lieutenant-colonel Thorp, commanding the 89th Regiment; and I have also to state that I received every assistance from the suggestions and activity of Lieutenant-colonel Ward and the officers of the Royal Engineers; of Lieutenant-colonel Pritchard, Assistant Adjutant-general; of Captain Ingall, Deputy Adjutant Quartermaster-general; of Town Major Knight; and of my Aide-de-camp, Captain Hope.

The conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men, as I expressed on the occasion of the former conflagration, exceeds any thing I can say in their praise. Though this dreadful misfortune occurred during the night, when the men were frequently scattered in various directions, they were quickly assembled at the sound of the bugle, and never relaxed for an instant in their exertions; and I am happy to add that but one person was killed, one man's legs broken, and three or four contused by the several explosions that took place, and that no pains were spared to get the people out of the way. There have been no casualties amongst the troops.

I directed that the whole of the tents should be pitched near the old French works, and the Splinter Proof Barracks given up for the accommodation and relief of the sufferers, and to be placed at the disposal of the Mayor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. A. Hope, M. G.*

His Excellency Lieutenant-general the Earl of Cathcart,
&c. &c. &c.

Monsieur,

Quebec, 30 Juin 1845.

J'AI à remplir la pénible tâche de vous prier d'informer Son Excellence le Gouverneur-général qu'un incendie affreux et comparable à celui du 28 Mai dernier, si non plus grand, vient de réduire en cendres le Faubourg St. Jean, et la plus grande partie du Faubourg St. Louis.

Dans l'état de trouble et d'affaissement dans lequel m'a jeté ce nouveau malheur, qui consume presque la ruine totale de notre malheureuse cité, je ne puis fournir à Son Excellence les détails que je désirerois lui soumettre, afin de me mettre en état de faire ce que son cœur, guidé par le devoir, lui suggera, pour rencontrer la circonstance tout-à-fait extraordinaire dans laquelle nous nous trouvons placés. Je me bornerai à dire que plus de douze cent maisons, d'une valeur plus ou moins grande, ont été la proie des flammes dans la nuit du 28 ou 29 Juin, et que par suite de ce désastre un nombre proportionné de familles se trouvent destituées de logis, de moyens de subsistance, et plongées dans la plus profonde misère; leur situation est d'autant plus à regretter, que malgré les sacrifices faits, ici et ailleurs, avec une libéralité que l'on pouvoit à peine attendre, les produits sont loin d'être proportionnés aux besoins, et que ce seroit injuste d'attendre beaucoup des efforts privés d'après ce que vient d'être fait à l'occasion du feu de St. Roch.

Des détails plus étendus seront fournis à Son Excellence par les messieurs au nombre de cinq qui ont été chargés hier, par un nombre de citoyens de cette ville, de se rendre auprès de Son Excellence, à l'occasion de l'affreuse calamité qui vient de plonger Quebec dans la consternation pour la seconde fois.

Je me contenterai d'ajouter que dans cette triste occasion, comme dans la précédente, nous avons reçu du militaire stationné dans notre ville les secours les plus prompts et les plus efficaces; sans leurs aide inappréciable, l'étendue et les suites du désastre auroient été beaucoup plus affreux; je ne puis surtout taire à Son Excellence les sentimens de reconnaissance que j'éprouve et qui sont à juste titre partagés par tous mes concitoyens, à l'égard de Sir James Hope, qui a été sur la scène du sinistre aussitôt qu'il en a été informé, y est resté jusqu'à la disparition totale du danger, et y a dirigé avec un sang froid et une habilité dignes du haut grade qu'il occupe, les divers travaux et opérations exécutés par les troupes sous ses ordres, auxquels nous sommes peut-être redevable d'avoir été préservés d'une destruction totale, sans parler de la bonne volonté avec laquelle il a offert et mis à ma disposition, tout ce qui étoit sous son contrôle pour fournir aux infortunées victimes un abris contre les intempéries de l'air, et un soulagement à leur malheurs.

Je terminerai en vous priant d'assurer Son Excellence, que sans un secours immédiat et plus qu'ordinaire, Quebec, l'ancienne métropole du pays, sera ruiné de fonds en comble, et que pour éviter un malheur aussi grand, je compte beaucoup sur la sympathie et le bon vouloir de Son Excellence, à qui je vous prie de présenter mes plus profonds respects.

Agréé pour vous-même l'expression de la haute consideration avec laquelle je me soustris,

Votre, &c.

E. Caron, Maire.

The Honourable D. Daly, M. P. P.
Provincial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

At a public meeting of the citizens of Quebec, held in the City Council Chamber at 1 P.M. this day, for the purpose of devising measures for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of yesterday morning, it was

Resolved,—That this meeting approves of the General Committee for the relief of the sufferers by the late calamitous fire in St. Roch's extending their aid to the sufferers by the fire of Sunday morning, and authorizes them hereafter to include these sufferers equally in the application of any funds which have been or may be placed at their disposal.

2.—That this meeting, considering it the call of Providence both to take measures for the immediate relief of their fellow-citizens who have suffered in the late calamitous visitation, and, as far as human precautions can, to provide against the recurrence of such calamity, are decidedly of opinion that temporary accommodation for the families burnt out, and the permanent rebuilding of the city, are objects to be considered apart, and that in order to a due and proper consideration of the latter, the former should be immediately entertained, and prompt and decisive measures taken for effecting it.

3.—That inasmuch as a sufficient number of properly constructed houses, whether of stone or wood, cannot be raised before the winter months for the full accommodation of the sufferers, professional men be called upon to furnish plans and estimates of the expense of raising wooden sheds or shanties, capable of accommodatng families for the next eighteen months, such erections to be made in the cheapest manner compatible with health, safety and comfort during the winter months; and that the Committee be authorized, if they shall deem it necessary, and to the extent they shall deem it necessary, from funds at their disposal, to make such erections forthwith, and to seek the most convenient and favourable localities for them.

4.—That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that a sum of money be obtained, if practicable, by way of grant or loan from the public funds, as an aid towards the reconstruction of the suburbs of St. Roch, St. John and St. Louis on a new, enlarged and improved

improved plan, and of such materials as to afford the greatest practicable security against the recurrence of the calamities lately suffered, such loan to be effected by the corporation under the guarantee of the Legislature, and applied under their direction.

(Attested.)

(signed) *F. X. Garneau,*
City Clerk.

Quebec, 30 June 1845.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Montreal, 4 July 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour, by command of the Governor-general, to inform you that his Excellency has had under consideration in Council your letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the second disastrous fire at Quebec, which took place during the night of the 28th ultimo and also the resolutions on the subject adopted at the public meeting of the citizens of Quebec, held on the 30th.

His Excellency commands me now in reply to assure you, and through you the citizens of Quebec, that he most deeply sympathises with them in the magnitude and distressing circumstances of this calamity, in the individual loss and suffering it has caused, and in the general injury it is calculated further to inflict. With this feeling he has anxiously considered in what manner public aid can be legitimately afforded, and what steps can be taken for the prevention of such fearful disasters hereafter.

To aid in the erection of temporary buildings (having in view the impossibility of a sufficient number of permanent buildings being prepared before next winter), and also in the affording of necessary relief to persons otherwise destitute, his Excellency has been pleased in Council to direct that advances may be made from the public chest, as required from time to time by yourself as Mayor of the city, or by the committee of relief, to the extent of 5,000*L.* currency, to be submitted for the approval of the Provincial Parliament at the next Session.

For the permanent rebuilding of the destroyed suburbs, his Excellency will be prepared to recommend to Parliament to authorize the negotiation of a loan in England, on the security of the province, for the sum of 100,000*L.* currency, payable with interest in a fixed number of years; the monies so to be raised to be employed in granting to owners of land within the limits of the fires, to aid them in building thereon, loans on as favourable terms as may be found practicable, without ultimate loss to the province; the sums so loaned to be secured on the lands of the borrowers, and perhaps made a privileged claim thereon, and further security where required to be taken; each loan to any individual, and the security offered by him, to be approved by the Attorney-general for Lower Canada; and all other necessary precautions taken to secure the expenditure of all monies so loaned on the erection of buildings of specified materials and character.

For the prevention of such disasters hereafter, his Excellency will further be prepared to recommend to Parliament to confer on the corporation of the city very extensive powers for the regulation of the mode of building within the city limits, and for the widening of streets, on making compensation for land taken.

Upon the many details of the measures above suggested, his Excellency is desirous to receive suggestions from yourself and the corporation; and I am accordingly to assure you, that any representations which that body or yourself may make in regard to them, will not fail to receive his most attentive consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *D. Daly.*

Hon. R. E. Caron, Mayor, Quebec.

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 5 August 1845.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer states to the Board, that Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to accede to the Address of the House of Commons, relating to the relief of the sufferers by the late calamitous fire at Quebec, has expressed Her desire that such relief should be afforded without delay; and he suggests that the amount contemplated by the House of Commons should be forthwith placed at the disposal of the Governor-general of Canada, in order that it may be applied to the purpose in question.

Write to Mr. Stephen, requesting he will state to Lord Stanley that the communication above mentioned has been made to this Board, and that, in compliance with Her Majesty's desire, my Lords have thought it advisable that the amount contemplated by the House of Commons should be placed at the immediate disposal of the Governor-general of Canada, in order that it may be applied for the relief and assistance of the sufferers in such manner as the Governor-general may see fit.

And Mr. Stephen will further acquaint Lord Stanley, that my Lords will accordingly forthwith instruct the officer in charge of the Commissariat in Canada to make such issue from the chest of his department for the purpose in question, to the extent of 20,000*L.*, as the Governor-general may require and direct; and he will move Lord Stanley to cause the Governor-general to be apprized of these instructions, and to authorize the Governor-general

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

2d.—I have issued a proclamation, laying an embargo, for a limited period, upon the exportation of provisions, other than such as are required for the use of crews, passengers and the fisheries.

3d.—I have issued a proclamation, warning all persons against the reconstruction of wooden buildings upon the burnt district before the intentions of the local Legislature on the subject shall be declared.

4th.—I have addressed a circular letter to the Governor-general and the Lieutenant-governors of all the British American colonies, and to Her Majesty's Consul at New York and Boston, of which copies are enclosed.

5th.—I have authorized the chartering of two vessels, one to Halifax, and the other to New York, for provisions.

6th.—I called a meeting this day in this House (at which I presided) of all the heads of the mercantile establishments, as well as of the principal inhabitants, the clergy, judges and officers of the Government. Copies of the resolutions adopted at this meeting, as well as of other resolutions adopted at a meeting of the inhabitants previously held, are enclosed, the whole of which, it will be perceived, I had anticipated.

Friday, June 12th.

I have now the satisfaction to report that through the operations of the Committee of Relief, appointed at the meeting of Wednesday, all the houseless have been placed under shelter, in aid of which I have placed fifty (all) the tents in the Ordnance store at its disposal; and an adequate supply of provisions, particularly bread, has been and will be continued to be issued to them for the present. They (the recipients) are, however, I understand, gradually dispersing in the colony or emigrating. Fortunately the weather is fine.

For the details of the progress of the fire, and of the measures used for its suppression, I beg permission to refer to the accompanying extract of a report addressed by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers to the head of his department on the subject, and to the General Order which I have issued upon this melancholy occasion, and to express my hope that you will be pleased to receive the details contained in these documents in lieu of a more lengthened despatch at the present hurried moment, until I am enabled to enter more fully into the sadly altered circumstances of this lately prosperous and happy colony, which I shall scarcely be in a position to do until after the meeting of the Legislature.

The Right honourable W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

P. S.—With the exception of the two soldiers of the Royal Artillery (the injuries of one of whom are not dangerous), I believe very few accidents to have occurred during this awful conflagration. Only one has as yet been made known to me from any authentic source.

The sketches of the town herewith transmitted, though hurriedly prepared, show with sufficient precision the extent of the ravages of this destructive fire.

J. H.

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

My Lord,

It is my painful and melancholy duty to acquaint your Lordship that Almighty God has been pleased to visit this town with an awful and devastating conflagration, which has reduced the chief portion of it to ashes.

The fire broke out about half-past eight o'clock in the morning of Tuesday last, the 9th instant, in the western extremity of the town, and the flames, borne onward by a strong wind from the same quarter which prevailed during the whole of that day and the succeeding night, overcame every effort to subdue them, and involved in one common ruin (with scarcely an exception) the whole of the mercantile establishments, with their stores of goods and provisions, very many of the public buildings, and at least three-fourths of the dwelling-houses of the inhabitants.

It has not been possible as yet to obtain a correct return of the number of edifices burnt, but it is estimated that in all about 2,000 have been destroyed, and nearly 12,000 persons rendered houseless.

I beg herewith to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of certain resolutions yesterday adopted by a meeting of the heads of departments and principal inhabitants of the town, convened by me at the Government House; and in consideration of the state of utter destitution and distress to which many thousands of the poorer inhabitants have been reduced by the suddenness of this awful visitation of Divine Providence, and on their behalf, I have, through your Lordship, to make an earnest appeal to the sympathy and philanthropy of the inhabitants of the province under your Lordship's government for that relief which I cannot doubt will be promptly extended to their fellow-subjects in this colony who have been overwhelmed by so stupendous a calamity.

Lieutenant-general his Excellency
the Earl of Cathcart,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Harvey.*

RESOLUTIONS submitted at a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants, convened at Government House by his Excellency Sir *John Harvey*, on this day, the 10th of June, and adopted unanimously.

1st.—Resolved, That this meeting are deeply impressed with the awful visitation which yesterday befell the city of St. John's, by which nearly 2,000 houses, embracing the whole of the mercantile establishments, with but one exception, have been reduced to ashes, and nearly 12,000 individuals deprived of a home.

2d.—Resolved, That it is necessary, in order to guard against that distress which exposure to the weather and an improvident use of the small quantity of provisions that have happily been saved may occasion, that a Committee should be appointed; under whose management, in co-operation with his Excellency Sir John Harvey, relief may be afforded to those who are destitute, and means taken to guard against imposition.

3d.—Resolved, That the Committee above mentioned do consist of the following persons:

A Clergyman of each religious denomination.

The Honourable William Thomas.
The Honourable Charles Bennett.
The Honourable John Kent.
The Honourable Lawrence O'Brien.

Lieutenant-colonel Low, K. H.,
Major Robe, R. E.,
Major Wright, R. A.,
Assist. Commissary-general Weir,
Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter,

} Ex-officio
Members.

Thomas Glen, M. G. A.,
Nicholas Stabb,
Richard Howley,
James Hatton,
George Brooking,
Charles Bowring,
Thomas Job,
Robert Prowse,
James Clift,
Nicholas Mudge,
J. B. Bulley,
John O. Mara,

} Esquires.

Of whom three shall form a quorum.

4th.—Resolved, That this meeting are aware that the well-established credit and stability of the trade of St. John's, coupled with the natural and inexhaustible resources of its fisheries, will speedily enable it to resume its usual current; but that in the mean time it is necessary that publicity should be given to the demand for provisions and building materials which at present exists in this market.

5th.—Resolved, That this meeting have learned with great satisfaction that his Excellency has issued a proclamation, convening a meeting of the Legislature for the 16th instant; and they are assured that such remedial measures will then be submitted to that body as will tend to the partial relief of present suffering, and the permanent improvement and increased security of the capital of this island.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Newfoundland,
11 June 1846.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency Sir John Harvey, Governor of this Island, to communicate to you the painful intelligence of the almost total destruction of the town of St. John's by fire, on the 9th instant.

The whole of the mercantile establishments, with but one exception, on the north side of the harbour, have been utterly consumed, together with the greater part of the provisions and other stores which they contained; the few mercantile premises on the south side being of comparatively little importance.

By this calamitous event, nearly 12,000 persons have been rendered houseless, and a majority of them utterly destitute.

For these, and on their behalf, an appeal is earnestly made through you to the sympathy of the citizens of Boston.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a copy of a series of resolutions submitted to and unanimously adopted at a meeting of the principal inhabitants of St. John's, held at the Government House yesterday, and presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Wood*,
Pro Secretary.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at
New York and Boston.

RESOLUTIONS unanimously adopted at a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of St. John's, held at the Factory on the 10th June 1846.

1st.—Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that in order the most effectually to meet the exigency arising from the present calamity, a Session of the Legislature should be immediately convened, and that a deputation be appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor, instanter, to pray his Excellency to convene the Legislature at the earliest possible period, for the consideration of the best means of arresting the present suffering.

2d.—Resolved, That his Excellency be requested to adopt the best means of affording protection to the person and property now exposed in the town and neighbourhood.

3d.—Resolved, That a Provisional Committee be appointed to solicit from the clergymen of the several congregations, from the officers of the Irish and Native societies, the con-

ductors

ductors of the factory, and all the public buildings, the use of the churches and other edifices under their control for the shelter of the houseless.

4th.—Resolved, That the Committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause a general search to be made in every house in St. John's and its vicinity, without distinction, to ascertain the quantity of provisions in town, and to discover such provisions and other property as any individuals may have improperly appropriated.

5th.—Resolved, That the Committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause tents to be erected this evening for the shelter of the people.

6th.—Resolved, That the Honourable C. T. Bennett, the Honourable R. Job, the Honourable J. Smart; Messrs. Brooking, Alsop, M'Bride, Stabb, Glen, Nugent, H. P. Thomas, Taylor, Dillon, Milroy, J. H. Warren, Eugenius Harvey, Ambrose Shea, Kenneth M'Lean, jun., Mory, Howley, M'Kellar, and Cozens, do form such Committee, with power to add to their number.

EXTRACT from a Report made by Major *Robe*, Commanding Royal Engineers, St. John's, Newfoundland, to the Inspector-general of Fortifications.

St. John's, Newfoundland, Wednesday,
10 June 1846.

Sir,

It is my painful duty to report to you, that this town was visited yesterday by one of the most calamitous fires that has ever come within my knowledge.

It broke out in the heart of the town soon after 8 o'clock in the morning, raged furiously for the whole of the day and night, and is still at this time, 10 A. M., unextinguished, though, I trust in God, its fury is now nearly exhausted; but from the mass of heated ruins and burning embers much danger is still to be apprehended; especially should the wind, which has continued to blow from the same quarter since the commencement of the fire, W. N. W., change the direction more to the southward, and thus carry the sparks over that part of the town which has yet escaped.

It is impossible to describe or imagine the state of distress which must ensue to the inhabitants generally, both rich and poor, before any effective relief can be obtained, as every merchant's, and nearly every tradesman's and shopkeeper's premises, including wharves, stores, and in most instances dwelling-houses, have been entirely consumed, with the exception of Messrs. Newman & Company, which were situated further west than the point to which the flames extended.

The Church of St. John's, the Court-house, the Roman Catholic Convent and School (two beautiful new buildings), the Custom-house, the Ordnance and Commissariat Store on the Ordnance wharf, the Bank and other public buildings, have been destroyed, together with the whole range of waterside premises from one end of the town to the other, the shipping having been compelled to be cut adrift, some of them having been obliged to be scuttled to save the rest, and they are all either now anchored in the narrows or close to the opposite or south side of the harbour.

Flakes of fire were carried across the harbour and up to the very top of Signal-hill, setting fire to the brushwood in various places, making it necessary to send the detachment stationed there back again to protect the new barracks and Government property on the summit. The merchants' powder magazine, situated half-way up the hill, caught fire, and the whole of the roof, which was shingled, was entirely burnt, without igniting the powder in the bomb-proof beneath. With the exception of the Ordnance wharf, all the property in charge of the Ordnance department has providentially escaped, though great fears were at one time entertained for the barracks at Fort Townshend when the convent was in flames and the surrounding fences of the fort ignited; subsequently the Ordnance yard was in imminent danger; and nothing but the unwearied efforts of the troops and civil workmen employed in my department could possibly have saved it; had the buildings in that yard been burnt, the barracks in Fort William would in all probability have followed. The Governor's residence, being situated on an isolated spot to windward of the fire, has most providentially escaped, together with St. Thomas's church (used as a garrison chapel), the Bishop's, Chief Justice's, Attorney-general's and Collector's houses.

I regret that I have to report the occurrence of a melancholy accident in the death of a gunner, and severe wounding of a serjeant of the Royal Artillery, in an attempt to make a fire-break by means of gunpowder.

The powder was placed in two tin canisters, containing about 10 lbs. each, against the chimney shaft in the centre of a wooden house, for the purpose of throwing it down and loosening the frame-work.

In consequence of my directions for firing the charge not being exactly complied with, these men had not time to escape before the explosion took place. Lieutenants Beellingham, R. A., and Binney, R. E., narrowly escaped injury; the latter officer was struck in the knee with a splinter at the moment he discovered the mistake, and was springing forward to endeavour to withdraw the unfortunate men. The serjeant, Handyside, has, I am happy to say, every prospect of recovering without permanent injury.

It is impossible to say to what state of destitution and distress the whole town will be reduced before any effectual relief can arrive; I am almost afraid to think to what state of desperation the people may be driven when starvation stares them in the face, from which calamity we may not ourselves be exempt; and it is to be hoped that the Government at

home, together with the public at large, will take some immediate steps to send us relief, which will be most acceptable in any form, whether provisions, clothing, bedding, or materials for building and other purposes. At this moment the mass of the people are houseless, and are spread about the open fields, protecting what little property they were enabled to save from the conflagration.

The quantity of bedding and other stores now in charge of the Ordnance storekeeper will go but little way towards relieving the distressed, and the provision in the Commissariat store would also be of very little service among so many, after the wants of the troops have been provided for.

The Inspector-general of Fortifications,
&c. &c. &c.

Head Quarters, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 June 1846.

GENERAL ORDER.

No. 1.—HAVING witnessed and superintended the zealous, unwearied and almost unaided efforts of the officers and soldiers of this small garrison to arrest the progress of the awful conflagration of yesterday, his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding deems it an imperative duty towards them to place upon official record the high sense which he entertains of those exertions, which, although owing to a concurrence of adverse circumstances, were necessarily in a great degree unavailing, were most unremittingly persevered in for twenty-four successive hours.

To the gallant and determined, and, in this instance, successful stand made towards the close of the day by this small body of wearied and exhausted men, under the immediate directions of Lieutenant-colonel Law and Major Robe, by which the direction of the conflagration was diverted from the Ordnance buildings, the Major-general imputes, under Providence, the preservation of all the buildings, public and private, at the east end of this city, including the Barracks, &c., at Fort William, the Garrison Bakery (the only remaining one), the Commissariat House and Office, St. Thomas's Church, the Theological Institution, the Collegiate School, the residences of the Lord Bishop, of the Chief Justice, of the Attorney-general, of the Collector of Customs, of the Honourable Messrs. Thomas, and even of the Government House, which, in the event of the extension of the fire to the buildings above enumerated, must have been placed in imminent danger.

In aiding in the preservation of the Barracks at Fort Townshend, the Major-general learns with much satisfaction, that the conduct of Captain Hunt, Half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Guard of those Companies, and the few individuals remaining in barracks in the absence of the troops, was very praiseworthy.

Where all have so well performed their duties, it is difficult to discriminate; in bestowing individual praise, to name those who have merited it, would be to name all.

The Major-general must therefore rest satisfied for the present with offering his warmest thanks to Lieutenant-colonel Law, commanding Royal Newfoundland Companies, to Major Robe, commanding Royal Engineers, and to Major Wright, commanding Royal Artillery, and to all the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers under their respective commands, for their admirable conduct yesterday—conduct which has entirely satisfied the Major-general that the utmost reliance can confidently be placed upon their soldier-like qualities, in whatever exigencies of the service they may be called upon to perform their duties.

To the active and useful exertions of the officers attached to his Excellency's personal staff; namely, Lieutenant F. C. Harvey, 34th regiment, and Lieutenant H. B. Chambers, Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Major-general has pleasure in expressing his acknowledgments, as well as to Fort-major Mason, Deputy Commissary-general Green, Assistant Commissaries-general Weir and Robinson, Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter, and generally to all connected with the public departments, who were present, and rendered all the assistance in their power.

However unusual a proceeding under ordinary circumstances, yet his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding does not abstain from adverting in this memorandum to the zeal displayed by all the principal persons connected with the Government, including the Lord Bishop of the diocese, the clergy of all denominations, the Chief Justice (whose exertions were conspicuously useful), the Judges, the members of Her Majesty's Council, and all the principal officers of the Government, who all evinced every desire to render their services useful upon this awful occasion. The Major-general cannot conclude this notice without expressing his warm acknowledgments to Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery (on leave), and to Mr. Hele, Master of Her Majesty's ship "Vindictive" (at St. John's, on duty connected with a civil prosecution), for their most valuable and unremitting exertions throughout the whole day.

The names of several non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have been reported to the Major-general by their commanding officers as having prominently distinguished themselves, will be promulgated in a future order.

No. 2.—Major-general Sir John Harvey has pleasure in accepting the offered services of Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery, and of Captain Hunt, Half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, during the continuance of the arduous patrol and other duties which have necessarily devolved upon this small garrison; the names of these officers will accordingly

ingly be placed upon the roster of garrison duty, and they will be attached, the former to Captain Wright's Company, Royal Artillery, and the latter to the Royal Newfoundland Companies, until further orders.

By command,
(signed) *Hugh B. Chambers,*
Lieutenant R. N. Companies, Acting A. D. C.

Dear Sir,

Alderman's Walk, 1 July 1846.

I AM honoured by the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you express a wish to be informed of an outline of the proposal the gentlemen connected with Newfoundland wish to submit to the Government for the relief of the sufferers by the destructive fire at St. John's.

I have accordingly consulted with such gentlemen as I could see this morning, and am instructed to intimate to you that it appears to them expedient to submit the following proposals for the consideration of Government:—

1st.—To authorize the Governor of Newfoundland to advance a liberal grant of money towards rebuilding the town, and providing employment and assistance to the necessitous poor.

2dly.—To despatch a steamer or fast sailing vessel direct to St. John's, with such bedding, clothes, stores, &c. as can be spared.

3dly.—To send immediate orders to the Governors of Halifax and the neighbouring provinces, to render such assistance as they may respectively be enabled to do.

In making these suggestions, I beg leave to state that it is of the utmost importance that no unnecessary delay take place in the determination of the Government, as, without immediate and efficient aid, the near approach of winter will greatly aggravate the sufferings and distress of the people, and it is therefore hoped that instructions will be forwarded by the packet of Friday next.

I have, &c.

The Right hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *G. R. Robinson.*

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 3 July 1846, on the preceding Papers.

ACQUAINT Mr. Stephen, for the information of Mr. Secretary Gladstone, that My Lords concur in the authority he proposes to convey to the Governor of Newfoundland in regard to the application of a sum of 5,000*l.* for the relief of the sufferers by the late conflagration at St. John's, and that My Lords have instructed the officer in charge of the Commissariat on the station to hold that amount at the disposal of the Governor for the purpose of such relief, either in money or in bills on My Lords' Board, as the Governor may see fit to require.

Let instructions to the above effect be conveyed to the officer in charge of the Commissariat at Newfoundland accordingly.

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 14 July 1846.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer calls the attention of the Board to the directions given by a Minute of 3d instant, for placing a sum of 5,000*l.* at the disposal of the Governor of Newfoundland, for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire at St. John's; and having stated to the Board that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that application shall be made to Parliament for a grant of 30,000*l.* for the relief of the destitute or indigent sufferers by that calamity, he suggests to the Board that it is very desirable the Governor should be apprized, without delay, of this intention, and that directions should, at the same time, be given for placing the further amount of 25,000*l.* at his disposal, for immediate issue, if necessary.

My Lords concur in this suggestion, and direct that a letter be written to Mr. Stephen, requesting he will acquaint Earl Grey that, in pursuance of the intention above adverted to, My Lords will instruct the officer in charge of the Commissariat at Newfoundland, to hold at the disposal of the Governor of that settlement, in addition to the sum of 5,000*l.* already authorized to be issued for the relief of the sufferers by the late conflagration, a further amount of 25,000*l.* for that purpose; and Mr. Stephen will suggest to Earl Grey that the Governor should be authorized to make such arrangements as he may deem most expedient and effectual for ensuring the due application of these sums to the object for which it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that they should be appropriated.

Write to the officer in charge of the Commissariat at Newfoundland, and, referring to the directions conveyed to him on the 3d instant, for an issue to the amount of 5,000*l.* for the relief of the sufferers at St. John's, acquaint him that My Lords are pleased to authorize him to hold a further amount of 25,000*l.* at the disposal of the Governor of Newfoundland for the same purpose, and desire he will accordingly comply with such further requisitions to that extent as may be made by the Governor, communicating with his Excellency as to the most eligible mode of making the issues, either in money or by bills, in such manner as may be the least liable to interfere inconveniently with the ordinary services payable from the chest under his charge.

ESTIMATE No. 4.—(See p. 4.)
BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Treasury Chambers,
23 May 1846.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

SIR ROBERT PEEL having informed the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that Her Majesty has been for some time past subjected to great inconvenience from the insufficient accommodation which Buckingham Palace affords to Her Majesty and her Family, and that he considers it indispensable to Her Majesty's comfort that an addition should be made to the Palace, and that the whole subject should be brought under the consideration of Parliament;

Sir Robert Peel having also informed the Board that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the following public Officers and Noblemen as Members of a Commission for the purpose of considering the Plans and Estimates which may be submitted for effecting the improvement and enlargement of the Palace, and of afterwards superintending the application of any funds which may be provided for carrying them into effect;

viz.,

The First Lord of the Treasury,
The Chancellor of the Exchequer,
The First Commissioner of Woods, &c.,
The Earl de Grey,
The Earl of Lincoln,
The Lord Francis Egerton,

all of whom have accepted the trust which Her Majesty has committed to them;

I am therefore to desire that you will submit to the above-named Commissioners all Plans and Estimates relative to the improvement or enlargement of Buckingham Palace, in order that, before any further measures be taken, the Plans and Estimates of the work may receive their deliberate approbation.

Commissioners of Woods, &c.

I am, &c.
(signed) *John Young.*

Sir,

Office of Woods, &c., 3 August 1846.

In pursuance of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to this department, of which I enclose a copy, I have to request that you will submit to the members of the Commission therein named a report upon the nature and extent of the insufficiency of accommodation complained of in Buckingham Palace, together with such plans, elevations and estimates as in your judgment would best provide for its improvement and enlargement.

Edward Blore, Esq.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Morpeth.*

My Lord.

4, Manchester-square, 4 August 1846.

In compliance with the instructions I have had the honour to receive in a letter from your Lordship, dated the 3d instant, that "I should, in pursuance of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Department of Woods and Forests, submit to the members of a Commission therein named a report upon the nature and extent of the insufficiency of accommodation complained of in Buckingham Palace, together with such plans, elevations and estimates as in my judgment would best provide for its improvement and enlargement;" I beg leave to state that I have long been aware of the extreme inconvenience to which Her Majesty personally, the juvenile members of the Royal Family, and the whole of the Royal Establishment have been subjected, in consequence of the insufficiency of Buckingham Palace in point of accommodation. To enumerate the whole of these inconveniences would require a very lengthened report, and involve a multitude of minute details, which, though not altogether irrelevant to the subject, would not materially assist the object in view; it will, therefore, I conceive, be quite sufficient for the present purpose to select a few of the more urgent cases as illustrations of the very pressing necessity for such an extension of the Palace as may be calculated to meet some of these wants, and the re-modelling of some parts of the interior of the present building as may render them more convenient with reference to other wants.

In the first place,—As regards Her Majesty's personal convenience and comfort, it must be observed that the portion of the Palace occupied by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Albert as private apartments is in the North Wing; that they were not calculated originally for a married Sovereign, the head of a family; that the basement of this wing is also used by the Lord Chamberlain's department for store-rooms, workshops, &c., there being no accommodation in any other part of the Palace for these services; the consequence of this arrangement is, not only that the noise and smell from these workshops, in which cabinet-makers, upholsterers, smiths, &c., are constantly at work (independently of the obvious impropriety of such services being performed in a part of the building so contiguous to the Royal

Royal apartments), are at times positively offensive; but that the arrangement is not altogether free from the risk of fire, a quantity of oil being used, and large fires kept for boiling glue, &c., both of them inflammable substances, and as such considered dangerous by the Insurance Companies. Were there any other parts of the Palace to which these stores and workshops could be removed, the evil would be obviated; but every part of the building is so densely occupied that there is not the smallest available space for this purpose; nothing, therefore, short of an extension of the Palace can adequately provide for these services.

In the second place,—The accommodation for the youthful members of the Royal Family is on the most limited scale, very inconvenient, very inadequate to their wants at the present time, becoming more so with their increasing growth, in the worst possible situation, and without the slightest means of extension or improvement within the present building. To make this apparent, it is only necessary to state that the whole of the accommodation which can at the present time be assigned to the Nursery department consists of a few rooms in the attics of the North Wing; that these rooms are very small and very low; that in order to extend the accommodation within this very limited space to meet the growing wants of an increasing family, and increasing establishment, every possible expedient has been resorted to; rooms not exceeding 15 feet high, and of small area, have been divided in their length and width to convert them into smaller rooms; and as the Royal Children could only occupy attics intended for servants, it has been found necessary to cut the height of the ground-floor story into two, by the assistance of a false ceiling, which has consigned the servants to darker and more uncomfortable rooms than has been agreeable to Her Majesty's wishes. As the time is now approaching when very considerable fresh accommodation must necessarily be provided for tutors and additional attendants on the Royal Family, it must be evident that nothing short of large additions to the present building can adequately supply this want.

In the third place,—There is no proper and distinct accommodation for the Lord Chamberlain's and the Lord Steward's departments; those for the former have been taken out of that portion of the North Wing which is more immediately occupied by Her Majesty and the Prince; and the essential parts of these departments are still placed in St. James's Palace, and in still more remote quarters, which makes a constant interchange of communication necessary, in a manner very injurious to the proper control of the whole establishment. It will contribute very much to the more convenient occupation of the Palace if suitable offices for these departments were provided in a separate building, and the duties would be better performed by the change.

In the fourth place,—The kitchen and the offices connected with it are found not only to be inconvenient, but the kitchen itself is so placed as to have defeated every attempt to prevent its being a nuisance to the Palace. This was an evil which arose in a great measure out of the limited space available for offices on the side of the Palace next Pimlico. The purchase of property already made affords an opportunity, which should not be lost, for completely remedying this evil, and connecting with this remedy a more complete, convenient and efficient arrangement of these essential offices. The completion of these offices on a befitting plan would supply the means of placing above them a new room for large entertainments and balls, the want of which has been much felt. Whenever such assemblies do take place, the number invited is necessarily limited below what is desired, in consequence of the insufficiency of the accommodation, and a still further inconvenience is experienced from the necessity of removing furniture, and resorting to other contrivances, in order to convert one of the apartments, fitted up and appropriated to other purposes, into a ball or banquet-room.

In the fifth place,—The apartments in the South Wing are found, in point of arrangement, to be very inconvenient; the rooms are small, the communication very defective, and the occupation very unsatisfactory to those members of the household to whom the various apartments have been assigned.

In the sixth place,—The accommodation for the reception of distinguished foreign visitors within the Palace is very insufficient. With the exception of one suite of rooms on the ground floor of the centre building, there are no rooms which are either suitable or can be spared for this purpose. It is therefore obvious that only one suite of apartments can be allotted to any of Her Majesty's guests in the Palace at one time in a suitable manner, and that if circumstances should occur to render it desirable to extend the accommodation to a greater number, it can only be accomplished by devoting unsuitable rooms to this purpose, and must necessarily then be attended with the greatest inconvenience by diverting apartments for the time from their ordinary appropriations.

In the seventh place,—I may venture to add, that the sanitary condition of the Palace has not always been sufficiently considered, in thus overcrowding a great number of persons into small rooms, not always very well ventilated; but the necessity was great, and there was no other way of providing for the exigencies.

Having now stated the defects of the Palace as regards the want of sufficient accommodation, I will now, in accordance with the instructions contained in the letter above referred to, beg leave to submit a set of plans, showing the way in which I propose to provide for all the necessities of the case, together with an estimate of the probable cost of carrying the various works connected therewith into effect.

To the Viscount Morpeth,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edw. Blore.*