

CORRESPONDENCE

EXPLANATORY OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY HER
MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

FOR THE

RELIEF OF DISTRESS

ARISING FROM THE

FAILURE OF THE POTATO CROP
IN IRELAND.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1846.

STATEMENT

OF THE

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR PURPOSES OF RELIEF IN IRELAND,

Since November, 1845.

(Distinguishing Fiscal Payments from Sums which have been, or are to be, repaid.)

STATEMENT of the FORMS EXPENDITURE by Foreign at BUREAU in IRELAND from November, 1945, corresponding Head Expenditure from

	Fixed Expenses	Depend on its dependent	Who is to equal
Freedom of labor, capital, and property, and other expenses connected therewith	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1
From land on condition of sale of labor system such as British Colonization	67,111 10 0		100,000 1 1
Wages advanced to be returned under the Act, 1840, cap. 1, of England for the relief of negroes' distress	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1
From authorized to be advanced, if necessary, under the Act, 1840, cap. 1	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1	
From advanced to give employment to some of great emergency, and otherwise justified for	100,000 1 1		100,000 1 1
Other and other expenses of the British Colonization	100,000 1 1		100,000 1 1
From advanced to be paid to the Board of Works for the meeting land applicants and to payment of works	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1	100,000 1 1

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COMMISSARIAT.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir ROBERT PEEL.

Southampton, November 5, 1845.

TRUSTING the subject of this communication will apologise for my presumption in addressing the first minister of the Crown, I beg leave most respectfully to bring under your notice, with reference to the want to be apprehended among the labouring classes in this country and Ireland, arising out of the disease so generally fatal to the potato crops, that a cheap, nutritious, and excellent substitute for the potato, viz., Indian corn meal, can be procured in great abundance in the United States of America, at a cost, in comparison with other substitutes, exceedingly low. My long residence in North America as a public officer enables me to state, with great confidence, that should Her Majesty's Government contemplate the formation of magazines in this country and Ireland for the supply, in the course of the winter, of food to the destitute classes, Indian corn meal would be the cheapest substitute for the potato, equally, if not more substantially, nutritious, and as simple in its mode of preparation. Its use in the United States is most universal among the peasantry and labouring people. Should its introduction by Her Majesty's Government into this country, for this specific purpose, be deemed expedient, by prompt and secret measures, it can be cheaply and readily purchased to any extent, and shipped from the ports of New York and Baltimore, so as to arrive here in all January, 1846; the arrangement would, of course, be temporary, to meet an emergency, and should such an emergency be proved, I have no hesitation in adding that Indian corn meal in every point of view, with great economy as a leading feature, is one of the best descriptions of supply that can be laid in for gratuitous distribution. Whatever prejudices, if any, may exist, as to its use as an article of food in this country, will, I should say, on trial, with simple directions for its preparation, immediately cease.

Respectfully soliciting to apologise for intruding this letter,

Whitehall, Nov. 9.

SIR ROBERT PEEL presents his compliments to Mr. Hewetson, and is much obliged by the communication which Mr. Hewetson has very properly addressed directly to Sir Robert Peel.

The COMPTROLLER of VICTUALLING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Somerset House, November 21, 1845.

By Monday morning next there will be in operation about 30 ovens at Deptford, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, which, besides providing for the ordinary wants of the naval and other branches of service, and replacing, if used, 10,692 bags or cwt. of biscuit in dépôt in Ireland for military service, will leave disposable on the 1st of March next, a period of 14 weeks, about 8,000 bags or cwt. of biscuit.—This will be equal to 1,194,666½ rations, at 1lb. per ration.

Of oatmeal, there will be from 100 to 120 tons disposable every month from the mill at Deptford, after providing for other services.—Equal to 328,533½ rations, as above.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General Sir R. ROOTH.

Treasury Chambers, November 27, 1845.

I AM COMMANDED by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you, that you have been selected to be a member of the Commission which has been appointed in Dublin by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to consider the means of affording relief to the people during the expected scarcity of food in that country.

It will be your duty to consider, and to call attention, as a member of the Commission, to the financial hearings of the measures which may be proposed for this purpose, the object in view being to provide and dispense any supplies of food which it may become necessary to afford, according to such arrangements as will impose the smallest possible ultimate burthen on the public.

You will be careful, however, not to be a party to any promise of public money, or to drawing for, or expending any sums, unless under express authority from the Treasury.

You will also be more particularly charged, under the directions of the Lord Lieutenant, with the execution of any measures which may be resolved upon for the purchase of supplies of food, the storing of them in safe and convenient places, and delivering them in such proportions as may be determined to the local committees or other parties appointed to receive them; and in order to assist you in this part of your duties, several Commissariat officers will be appointed, as their services may be required, to act under your immediate orders.

Their Lordships desire that you will, from time to time, report to this Board in detail upon the measures alluded to in the two preceding paragraphs of this letter.

It will be necessary for you to proceed to Dublin without delay, and to report yourself to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant; and you have been placed on the full-pay of your rank from the 5th instant, from which date your employment in connexion with this service commenced.

TREASURY MINUTE.

December 9, 1845.

The First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer state to the Board, that having had reason to apprehend from the accounts of the state of the potato crop in Ireland, which have been transmitted to the several departments of Government, that there was a probability of a great deficiency in that necessary article of food in some parts of that country, they had deemed it advisable to take timely measures for securing a supply of other food. They, therefore, entered into an arrangement with the house of Messrs. Baring to provide a supply of Indian corn and meal to the extent of 100,000*l.*, to be shipped from the United States and transmitted to Cork, there to await such orders as my Lords might deem it proper to give as to its future disposal.

My Lords concur with the First Lord of the Treasurer and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this arrangement.

Their Lordships are of opinion, that after an authenticated account of the cost and charges of each shipment has been received from Messrs. Baring and Co., and has been duly examined, the amount found to be due should be reimbursed to Messrs. Baring and Co., and charged as an advance from the Commissariat Chest Account.

Arrangements have been made with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the deposit of the cargoes of Indian corn in the naval storehouses in Cork, and their Lordships have selected Commissary-General Hewetson and Assistant Commissary-General Lister to superintend, under the directions of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, the arrangements for disposing of the Indian corn in question, in such manner as may be directed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Their Lordships take this opportunity of placing on record a copy of the Confidential Instructions which were furnished, after consulting the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, on his being appointed a member of the Commission, which has been appointed in Dublin by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to consider the means of affording relief to the people during the expected scarcity of food in that country.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, December 8, 1845.

We have not yet an office; and I shall not know immediately if I can obtain a room in the Castle. Sir Thomas Fremantle seemed to fear that the circumstance of my having a separate office there might lead to some mis-

constructions, and induce persons to suppose that an immediate plan of relief was to be put into execution. There may be some reality in this, and I can go on for a few days longer at my hotel.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELTAN.

Dublin, December 20, 1845.

I AM glad that I anticipated the intention of keeping the subject of the Indian corn secret, of which no one has any idea or expectation.

I have not yet received the queries we have addressed to the several counties, so as to be able to draw up a general statement of the whole country; but the first statements will be uncertain. It will be in the spring that the facts will announce themselves.

TREASURY MINUTE.

December 23, 1845.

My Lords advert to their Minute of the 9th inst., directing certain arrangements to be made with a view to ameliorate the condition of the suffering poor in Ireland, under the pressure occasioned by the failure of the potato crop in that part of the United Kingdom.

My Lords are now pleased to desire that Commissary-General Hewetson may be directed to proceed on the 1st of the ensuing month to Dublin, and to report himself to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, for the purpose of superintending, under the instructions of that officer, the arrangements for disposing, in such manner as may be directed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, of the Indian corn and meal shortly expected to arrive at Cork.

Acquaint Mr. Hewetson that he will be replaced on full pay on the 1st January next, and the Paymaster-General will be authorised to issue his half-pay to the 31st instant inclusively.

Write to the Paymaster-General accordingly.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty (confidentially) requesting he will apprise the Board of Admiralty that, with a view to the relief of the poor in Ireland, Her Majesty's Government have taken measures to obtain from abroad a considerable quantity of grain and meal, and have directed that the ships freighted with this supply, should call at Cork for orders. They have also instructed Commissary-General Hewetson to proceed to that place on the 1st proximo, for the purpose of superintending, under the directions of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, the arrangements for disposing of the corn and meal in question in such manner as may be directed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Their Lordships request that the proper naval authorities at Cork may be instructed to place at Commissary-General Hewetson's disposal such portion of the naval magazines at that place as may be required for storing those supplies, and to give him all the assistance he may require in the execution of the duties confided to him.

Write to Sir R. Routh acquainting him that my Lords have had before them his reports, of the dates quoted in the margin; and transmit a copy of this minute for his information.

7th Dec.
12th Dec.
25th Dec.

State that my Lords will communicate with him hereafter on other points adverted to in his reports.

Mr. TREVELTAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, December 24, 1845.

It has been considered advisable to confine ourselves at present to putting Mr. Hewetson in orders for Cork; for, although the immediate despatch of the other officers would be attended with considerable advantages, it would be open to this serious objection, that by showing all our machinery at once, we might encourage the people to pour in premature and unfounded complaints.

The other officers are ready to start at a very short notice, and I have done all I can to prepare them for what they will have to do.

Two of the clerks of this year's appointment are well qualified to give you assistance, and there will be others if they should be required.

We are to receive a separate application, through the Home Office, for the advance to enable Colonel Jones to detach officers of his department to make the suggested inquiries in respect to the works most proper to be undertaken, with a view to feed the distressed population.

The letter to the Admiralty about Mr. Hewetson's mission will not be sent for a few days to come, it being very desirable to keep the consignment of Indian corn to Cork secret as long as possible.

The superior authorities at the Admiralty are, however, aware that their assistance is likely to be required in this matter.

MR. TREVELYAN TO MESSRS. BAKING, BROTHERS, & CO.

Treasury, December 29, 1845.

I HAVE the pleasure of introducing to you Commissary-General Hewetson, who has been ordered to proceed to Cork to take charge of the Indian corn.

As the cargoes are consigned to your house, I shall be obliged to you to give the necessary directions for their transfer to Mr. Hewetson immediately on their arrival, and to secure for him all the assistance he may require for the speedy discharge of the vessels.

It should also be understood that Mr. Hewetson will have the power of ordering any of the vessels to another destination, if he should be so instructed by superior authority.

I rely upon receiving from you as early as practicable, an authenticated account of the cost and charges of each shipment, in order that each account may be examined, and directions given for the payment of the account, before the bills drawn on you become due.

This transaction is still a secret in Ireland, and, as far as I know, in this country also, and I shall be obliged to you to give such instructions to your agent as will prevent the matter from becoming known sooner than may be necessary.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 1, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the annexed document, showing the state of the Poor Law Unions, the number of electoral divisions, the vacancies in the workhouses, and the proportion of the potato crop of 1845 which has been lost by disease, according to the latest information before the Commission.

The Commission have given their attention to the medical aid which it might become necessary to provide, though I do not think that the emergency has yet occurred. In this proceeding we referred to the Act of Parliament 2 and 3 Will. IV. chap. 9, dated February 20, 1832, enacted on the appearance of cholera, and before the organization of the Poor Law Unions; but it appeared to us that the machinery of the Poor Laws now in force throughout the country, with some slight extension which I shall hereafter submit to you, was better adapted to the object in view.

I have no doubt, and indeed it is already visible, that claims will be made on the Government on account of the distress of the people rather than their want of food proceeding from the losses of the potato crop, and it is very necessary to maintain this distinction, for the former may be said in a greater or less degree constantly to exist, whereas our duty is immediately directed to the scarcity arising from the diminished crop.

In carrying out our measures of relief by employment we must also be careful not to give too high wages, or beyond the usual standard, for it would induce the poor to abandon all other employment to seek that offered by the Government. Nor will it be prudent (if this resource should become necessary) to sell provisions at a price very much under the current rate, so as to induce these poor people to buy it with a view to its subsequent sale.

I have not been able to obtain any exact information as to the actual produce of this year, or of the quantities now in the country, of oats or of any other supply. There is no system established by which such information can be obtained. No

man knows what the produce of his farm is per acre; no such calculations are made in this country. Oats and wheat and barley are not considered as food by the people; they are usually grown as means of payment for rent.

It will not be irrelevant to state to you the course pursued by the Commission on receiving a demand for assistance. A reference is immediately made to the landlord or principal agent, and to the vacancies in the district Union workhouse; the Board of Works is consulted in regard to the employment to be afforded in that division; and a letter is written to the constabulary officer to verify in person and report upon the case.

I have my doubts if public works can always be relied upon as means of employment, for there are many districts where nothing of the kind is required. The more popular appeal is a loan on security for the improvement of private estates, but I know not how this can be accomplished except on the terms which the law already provides.

All kinds of applications are submitted to the Commission, of which I cannot avoid laying one before you from Armagh, as an example of the quantities considered to be a sufficient relief. The claimants asked for two hundred tons of oatmeal to provide one daily substantial meal for six months for one thousand families of six persons each, which they calculated at 3d. per diem per family, to be deducted from their wages. I believe there are no means of public employment in Armagh, or of a very limited character, except the railroad now in course of construction or on the point of being so.

I have received the following Reports from the undermentioned custom-houses in regard to store-room:—

Dublin.—The magazines belonging to Government are leased, and their occupation required by the lessees.

Londonderry.—A part of a bonded timber-yard, enclosed by a wall 10 feet high, could be spared.

Nenry.—Two lofts used as barilla-stores, very damp.

Trillick.—A shed-store, 26 feet by 7, disposable.

Sligo.—Warehouses of an extensive range and two yards, but the report omits to state if they are occupied or disposable.

Westport.—A store on ground-floor 20 feet by 15, unoccupied, at the disposal of Government.

ENCLOSURE.

ABSTRACT taken from First Series of Constabulary Returns, December, 1845.

—	Number of Four Lane Quarters.	Number of District Divisions.	Number of Vacancies for Paymen in Workhouses.	Proportion of Total Crop of 1845 lost.	—	Number of Four Lane Quarters.	Number of District Divisions.	Number of Vacancies for Paymen in Workhouses.	Proportion of Total Crop of 1845 lost.	—
ULSTER.					LEINSTER—cont ^d					
Antrim . . .	7	132	2,377	— $\frac{1}{4}$	King's . . .	3	23	1,268	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Armagh . . .	2	44	1,040	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Longford . . .	2	24	610	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Cavan . . .	3	45	1,948	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Louth . . .	3	44	1,032	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Down . . .	5	103	3,348	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Meath . . .	5	61	1,045	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Fermanagh . . .	3	96	2,308	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Queen's . . .	2	27	576	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Londonderry . . .	4	43	1,694	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Westmeath . . .	2	45	1,037	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Londonderry . . .	4	53	2,010	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Wexford . . .	4	57	1,175	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Monaghan . . .	4	61	1,832	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Wicklow . . .	3	42	927	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Tyrone . . .	7	132	2,451	— $\frac{1}{4}$						
	43	742	19,777	— $\frac{1}{4}$	CONNAUGHT.					
MUNSTER.					Galway . . .	6	95	3,457	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Claire . . .	4	54	1,600	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Leitrim . . .	3	38	1,323	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Cork . . .	11	178	4,605	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Mayo . . .	5	63	5,817	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Kerry . . .	5	67	2,321	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Roscommon . . .	3	52	2,090	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Limerick . . .	4	73	1,163	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Sligo . . .	1	23	750	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
Tipperary . . .	8	137	2,667	— $\frac{1}{4}$						
Waterford . . .	3	49	724	— $\frac{1}{4}$		18	252	11,446	— $\frac{1}{4}$	
	33	338	12,694	— $\frac{1}{4}$	PROVINCE OF ULSTER.					
LEINSTER.					Ulster . . .	43	742	19,777	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Loss between $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$
Carlow . . .	1	14	463	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Munster . . .	35	558	12,094	— $\frac{1}{4}$	“ “ $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$
Dublin . . .	4	39	791	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Leinster . . .	34	592	10,268	— $\frac{1}{4}$	“ “ $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$
Kildare . . .	3	53	719	— $\frac{1}{4}$	Connaught . . .	16	252	11,446	— $\frac{1}{4}$	“ “ $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$
Kilkenny . . .	2	24	882	— $\frac{1}{4}$						
					Total . . .	130	2,054	53,175	— $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$

MR. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY.

Treasury Chambers, January 2, 1846.

COMMISSARY-GENERAL HEWETSON, who has been ordered to Cork to take charge of the Indian corn, and Mr. Archer of this department, will call upon you with an official letter from me requesting that store room may be placed at Mr. Hewetson's disposal, and that he may have any further assistance given him which he may require.

It is particularly requested that instructions may be sent to the naval authorities at Cork, to give Mr. Hewetson all the means that may be necessary to enable him to discharge the vessels without incurring any expense for demurrage, and that they may also be desired to consider the service as confidential, until circumstances necessarily lead to its transpiring.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, January 3, 1846.

THE large proportion of grain which has been shipped renders it necessary to take immediate steps to ascertain whether the means exist at Cork or elsewhere of converting the grain into meal, the more especially as it has been stated that this kind of grain is so hard as to be incapable of being properly ground by English millstones. I shall be obliged to you to consider this point in concert with Mr. Hewetson, and to report particularly upon it as soon as you have obtained the requisite information.

Adverting to those parts of your letters to me which relate to seed potatoes, I am desirous to state that this branch of the subject has been fully considered, and that it has been ascertained that the largest quantity of seed potatoes, which it would be in the power of the Government to supply, would bear only an insignificant proportion to the whole quantity required. The probable consequence, therefore, of the Government taking any steps in the matter would be, that the harm which would be done by inducing the people to rely upon the Government, and to relax their own exertions in this essential particular, would overbalance any good that would be obtained by the agency of the Government officers in procuring and storing seed potatoes. One of the most important duties which the Relief Committee have to perform is to impress upon the people, in the strongest possible manner, the indispensable necessity of their preserving with proper care a sufficient quantity of potatoes for seed, and that on this point the Government will not have it in its power to afford them any assistance beyond that which they will derive from having stores of other food placed at their disposal, which will enable them to keep their potatoes for seed.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 9, 1846.

I FEAR we cannot take any initiatory steps for seed potatoes, and that if we did, the people would rest on their oars, and throw the whole labour on the Government. We may assist hereafter some very bad cases, but cautiously. I think likely that your precautions in preparing the oatmeal at Deptford, will prove to have been a very prudent and useful measure. I do not hear that any suspicion transpired of Mr. Hewetson's duties, in consequence of his appearance here. He arrived on Sunday morning and left on Wednesday.

COMMISSARY-GENERAL HEWETSON to MR. TREVELYAN.

Cork, January 10, 1846.

I HAVE passed through several counties, and travelled with some intelligent men, both landlords and farmers, and with Father Mathew from Clonmel; they estimate the loss by disease at one-third of the potato crop. Father Mathew, who has been travelling through the country for the last four months, said he hoped the majority of the people would yet be enabled to hold

a sufficiency of good potatoes for seed; but it is impossible to judge at present how far they will turn out in a fit state from the pits. The early seed is put into the ground the end of next month, and the beginning of March; the greater proportion in April and May; so there will be time to provideseed, should it be necessary, from foreign ports, even the United States. Employment for the people is the great object; that is, labour upon which they can depend, and at a fair rate of wages. Father Mathew, who is well acquainted with the country and habits of the lower orders, gave me a good deal of interesting information, and among other things, touching the working of the Poor Law Unions.

You may be assured that in all my enquiries, which are pretty close, I am extremely cautious. The Father looked upon me as a gentleman travelling on his own affairs, seeking, at the same time, information as a stranger. My impression at present is, that though there is no immediate serious want, there is much prospective want; and that, if I may be allowed so to express myself, the measures taken by Her Majesty's Government to meet such prospective want, are most wise and judicious.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, January 13, 1846, 5 p. m.

I wrote on Tuesday officially to Sir R. Routh, upon the subject of mill premises, one adjoining Granovill, called the Lee Mills, on the River Lee, Cork. No doubt, the letter will, ere this, have been referred to you. I now state further particulars, which I have just obtained; but the caution I am bound to observe sadly clogs my inquiries. Up to this, the good people of Cork have not the remotest idea of the measures the Government have in progress; the following, upon closer inquiry, are the terms proposed:—

Lee Mills.—Stowage for 18,000 barrels of wheat or flour, equal to 72,000 bushels, in the mill; block mills in good order; 15 pair of grinding stones, and 3 pair of shelling ditto; 2 kilns, 600 square feet each, in perfect order, divided from the mills by two sliding doors; miller's house and office; and a bag and flour store, capable of grinding and dressing from 800 to 1,000 barrels of grain each week, and during the driest season of summer, will keep three or four pairs of stones working.

Rent 500*l.* per annum; if let for a shorter period, say three months to six, 50*l.* per month.

Premises within the same enclosure (which is a high, substantial wall, an *da fosse*), but separated by a wall, with large gates, called the brewery, with granaries to stow 60,000, or more, barrels of wheat, 300*l.* per annum.

Of these latter a *portion*, which can be had, only will be required, to be further increased if requisite.

The whole are first-rate premises; can be thoroughly protected by a military guard. There is also a good fire-engine. In case these are approved of, and I see nothing that offers so well for our particular service in every point of view, I should employ a foreman of millers, four miller men, and labourers to keep the grain turned and assist in the stores. I should also put a storekeeper in the premises to reside there in charge, under my immediate inspection. With respect to the capabilities of the stones, I cannot, at present, give a positive opinion; but I know they will grind the hardest Odessa and Egyptian wheat.

I am told, that if the speculators here were at all confident in the repeal, or even a modified repeal of the Corn Laws in the approaching session, the premises would be immediately taken, at comparatively any rent.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. ARCHER.

Cork, January 14, 1846.

It would be a great loss to us if the Lee Mills go into other hands; they are, in size, twice the extent of the Home Office and Board of Trade; and built of stone, five stories in height, and fine water power, as you may suppose, to turn fifteen pairs of stones.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 14, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson, and to recommend to the early and favorable consideration of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury the several applications it conveys.

I beg to state that a large part of the naval magazines at the Cove are in the occupation of the Ordnance, for the storage of biscuit and oats; and as the latter have been about two years in store, I think some inquiry should be made in regard to their present quality, in case it should be desirable to consume them.

But even if these magazines had been altogether unoccupied, you will perceive from Mr. Hewetson's report that from their situation, and the economy and necessity of obtaining store-rooms contiguous to the mills, they would not have been applicable to this service.

I request their Lordship's authority to place a sum of 100*l.* at the disposal of Mr. Hewetson, and in the meanwhile I propose to forward to him by to-morrow's post 20*l.* out of the 50*l.* imprested to me.

I shall have the honour of addressing their Lordship's to-morrow on subjects connected with the Commission, and from the reasons which I shall then submit to you, as well as for the service at Cork, I hope that my Lords will be pleased to expedite the departure of Assistant Commissaries-General Lister and Cameron to Dublin, waiting also their decision in regard to Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Mildmay.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, January 12, 1846.

WITH reference to the special service, in the execution of which I am now engaged in Cork, I have the honour to acquaint you that the naval authorities at Haulbowline Island are preparing all their spare store-rooms to place them at my disposal for the reception of the supplies of Indian corn and meal, shortly expected to arrive from the United States of America: the quantity these will contain I estimate at fourteen thousand barrels, or grain in bulk in proportion. This you will observe is very inadequate to my wants, but I have now to propose, that as the greater portion of the supplies on their way from the States is in unground corn, and as it will be necessary to grind it into meal, the meal in barrels only should at present be stored at Haulbowline. The distance by water from the mills in Cork to the Island is at least ten miles. Thus the expense and labour of landing the corn there in the first instance, shipping it from thence in lighters to the mills here, and again taking it back in flour to the Island, would be quite equal to the cost of hiring store-rooms in Cork; whereas the shipping, first landing the meal in barrels at Haulbowline, and proceed to discharge the corn with all dispatch; for the warehouses being most conveniently situated near the quays, much labour and wear and tear would thus be saved. With regard to mills for grinding, they are close at hand, but as yet I cannot vote how far their stones will answer for Indian corn, but if not, fit stones will have to be immediately provided. In landing the grain I find it will be necessary to employ weighers; men who are used to this service, experienced, understand the quality of the grain, and can be depended upon: their wages are from a guinea to twenty-five shillings per week; one will be necessary to each vessel: the average quantity of grain which is usually landed and weighed in one day, the process being very slow, may be stated at forty tons. In Cork it will be requisite to engage hired labourers whose rate of wages is 1*s.* 3*d.* per diem: at Haulbowline Island paid foreign parties of seamen and marines will be employed. It is expected the corn will be in bulk, in which case a large number of sacks will be wanting, in proportion to the quantity to be received: a sack, and it must be close-grained stuff to answer for flour, when the grain is ground, will contain 3½ cwt.

I state all these particulars, as I shall require your authority before I can act; and as there is no time to lose, I beg the subject may meet your earliest attention. Further, it will be needful I should have the command of funds for carrying on the detail of this service, say 100*l.* in the first instance: a credit to that amount upon one of the Cork banks would be desirable.

There are no arrivals yet in the offing, and it is now blowing hard from the south-east, with thick weather, but I look hourly for the three vessels which were to be first despatched. A Mr. Jones, who has been employed in the Commissariat department at Hong Kong, has joined me from London as assistant-storekeeper; but with two establishments of magazines and the mill work, I shall need an experienced officer of active habits to assist me, and I should be glad of his early arrival in Cork.

P.S.—4 P.M. Since writing the foregoing I have visited, with Mr. N. Cummins, the confidential agent of Messrs. Barings' house, extensive mill premises, called Lee Mills, on the river Lee, Cork: they are the property of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford, with spacious and secure granaries on the premises equal to storing 160,000 bushels of wheat: they are said to be

capable of turning out from 800 to 1000 sacks of flour per week; they are distant one quarter of a mile from the quay where the vessels land their cargoes; the cartage to the mill 9d. per ton. Being within a stone wall and fosse they are secure, and a good house, which would answer for a military guard, which of course would be requisite for their protection: indeed, the whole establishment is first-rate, and in all respects, as far as I can now judge, with the caution I am obliged to preserve, fit for our service; the rent I am told would be 500*l.* per annum, but they must be taken for six months certain; they are now unoccupied, but may be engaged by other parties from day to day.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 20, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, that under the circumstances stated with regard to the mill premises at Cork, alluded to by Mr. Hewetson, my Lords approve of the premises in question being hired for a period of six months, at the rate of 500*l.* per annum, if they cannot be obtained on more favourable terms.

My Lords are pleased to sanction the hire of proper persons to be employed as weighers, and extra labourers, when the assistance of such persons shall become necessary; and their Lordships approve of Sir R. Routh transferring to the credit of Mr. Hewetson a sum of 100*l.*, by way of imprest, for which he will account to him (Sir R. Routh); and for this purpose their Lordships will instruct the Paymaster-General to place to the credit of Sir R. Routh, at the Bank of Ireland, a sum of 100*l.*

With respect to a supply of sacks, to contain the Indian corn when ground into meal, Sir R. Routh will ascertain whether any sacks of a proper quality for this purpose can be obtained from the Ordnance stores in Ireland; and if they cannot be obtained from that department, their Lordships desire to be informed of the price at which they could be purchased upon the spot, and of the number of sacks which it may be deemed necessary to provide for the occasion.

State that my Lords will forthwith communicate with the Board of Ordnance, with a view to placing at the disposal of Mr. Hewetson the oats which he has stated are in the Ordnance store at Cove.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance, that my Lords have been informed that a considerable quantity of oats belonging to the Ordnance department have been in store at the Cove of Cork for the last two years; and Mr. Byham will state to the Master-General and Board, that if the oats in question are not required for any immediate purpose by the Ordnance department, my Lords request that they will give directions to their officers in Ireland to place the oats at the disposal of Commissary-General Hewetson, who is employed at Cork under directions from this Board.

Transmit to Commissary-General Hewetson copy of the letter to be addressed as above directed to Sir R. Routh.

Write to the Paymaster-General, authorizing him to place in the Bank of Ireland a sum of 100*l.*, to the credit of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, by way of imprest, to be accounted for by Sir R. Routh to this Board.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 15, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that the meeting at Kilkee took place on the 10th instant, having been deferred until that day for the convenience of the public. I regret to say, and more particularly so as it was the first meeting, which we were anxious to establish as a precedent, that it has in a great measure failed.

— succeeded in filling the room assigned for the meeting with so large a body of the people, that very few of the proprietors could obtain access to it. He proposed and carried his own resolutions without the intervention of the chairman, not permitting the professional engineer to be heard, and, without any authority, named a working committee, the selection of which effectually presented all prospect of contribution. I enclose a newspaper that contains, among the advertisements on the first page, the resolutions, which sufficiently shew the object in view. In the

afternoon the principal proprietors, fully sensible of the evil tendency of these proceedings, assembled at the hotel, and drew up a counter-statement, of which I annex a copy, and we wait the return of the engineer sent by the Board of Works, to lay before His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant the public works which have been considered to be feasible, and to combine general public advantages.

The material fact which these proceedings disclose, and to which I am anxious to draw your attention, is the absence of all offer of contribution in aid of these works, which was confirmed by Mr. Hamilton in his evidence yesterday before the Commission on the part of the proprietors, that under their present difficulties, and in the apprehension of those which may come upon them in the spring, notwithstanding the general principle which finds place in their memorial, they neither can advance funds now, nor can they offer any sufficient security for the payment by instalments hereafter.

The fact of the distress in this village and its neighbourhood is undeniable, and it remains, when the report shall be forwarded officially with the opinion which His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant may think fit to offer upon it, for the Government to decide how far in this instance they will allow certain of these works to go forward at the public expense sufficient to relieve the immediate want.

The untoward manner in which this meeting at Killee has terminated has, however, been serviceable in enabling us to remodel the letter to the Lieutenants of Counties, so as to limit the meetings to certain objects of inquiry therein defined, in order to prevent in future the recurrence of this disorder.

Nor is this a point of little moment, for we have been obliged by the imminent distress of these districts to address the lieutenants of counties Meath, Rosecommon, and Donegal to assemble meetings at Kingscourt, at Kilglass, and at Killbegs, and I regret to say there are many other divisions in these counties, and in Mayo and Clare, where similar meetings cannot long be delayed.

I should wish to be informed hereafter whether there will be any steamers stationed at Cork at the disposal of the Navy, by which Mr. Hewetson may forward supplies to the western coast.

Lord Lurgan waited on the Commission with a view of obtaining a recommendation for the grant of half the navigation expense in reducing Loch Neagh to its summer level. The total sum to be expended, including drainage and navigation, amounts to 193,000*l.*, and the cost of the navigation only amounts to 72,000*l.* His Lordship petitions for a grant of 36,000*l.*, half of this latter sum, but not to be touched until the whole of the remaining sum is subscribed and forthcoming to the Board of Works. The work, which is to commence at Coleraine, covers between sixty and seventy miles of country, and is to be entirely in the hands of the Board of Works. Loch Neagh is about forty-eight feet above the level of the sea, and the intention is to reduce it nine feet, thereby reclaiming 20,000 acres. His Lordship states that this work would pass through several distressed districts, and he was informed that it is on this plan only that the Commission could suggest any opinion, however excellent this scheme might be in other respects, as I believe it is admitted to be. On this point therefore we wait information, as also a printed Report from the Board of Works now in preparation.

In my last letter I stated that a communication had been referred by Sir Thomas Fremantle in relation to the purchase and distribution of seed potatoes in Ireland, but either that communication has been withdrawn, or the absence of the chairman has suspended its consideration, for neither have I seen it nor has it reached the Commission. As there are thirty-two counties in Ireland, and about ten electoral divisions in each, and as each store would require at least one person to perform the duties connected with it, I must believe that the vast expense which it would involve is not contemplated.

I should suggest that the Government should at present take no measure in this particular, but leave the matter to the exertions of the parties interested, which our interference would altogether suspend, until a much later period, not before April, and then if that interference should be indispensable, it could be directed to the benefit only of those districts which would be really destitute of other resources. There is a feeling already prevalent amongst the farmers to direct their attention to other means of subsistence.

Something more must be done for the districts on the western coast, and it will be necessary that there should be a resident officer of the department with sufficient assistance in some central point to meet the exigencies that cannot fail to occur.

The annexed letter from Mr. John MacCarthy, dated London, 9th January, was yesterday referred to the Commission, relative to a parcel of five hundred tons of potatoes, but containing no particulars as to price or delivery, on which I shall suggest further inquiry to be made. I have unfortunately no store-room at the points where it would be most desirable, and with the exception of the communications of the Shannon and the Dublin canals, the inland water transport is very deficient. The price of land transport for so bulky an article for any distance would be excessive, and the conveyance injurious to the potatoes.

Colonel Jones has communicated to the Commission the Amended Drainage Bill for the improvement of navigation in connection with drainage, covering a demand for 180,000*l.* to be employed as loans repayable by tolls or other good security, subject to the approval of Government; also a bill for Piers and Harbours covering a free grant for this service of 100,000*l.*, applicable through a term from seven to ten years; also a bill for Public Works, including a sum of 100,000*l.* under the usual regulations of the Board of Works.

These bills have been transmitted to Sir Thomas Fremantle.

ENCLOSURES.

The apprehended Famine—Meeting at Killeen.

At an extensive and numerous meeting of the gentry, landed proprietors, people, and clergy of the united parishes of Killeen and Killard, convened by order of Government to investigate and find out what public works may be most advisable to employ the suffering poor of that district in this season of unparalleled distress and threatened starvation, and at which a public officer from the Board of Works, and sanctioned by Government, attended to receive instructions as to what mode of employment may be advisable and useful to the country.

H. BOURN, Esq., D.L., of Carrigrohilly Castle, was unanimously called to the chair.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Proposed by the Rev. M. Conyn, P.P.; seconded by Dr. Tufts:—

That Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., do act as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by the Rev. M. Conyn; seconded by R. Fitzgerald, Esq.:—

That Dr. Tufts, of Killeen, do act as Secretary.

John McDonnell, Esq., of Newhall, was represented by his agent and relative, C. W. Hamilton, Esq., who came from Dublin expressly for that purpose, and who entered warmly into the matters debated on. Thomas Keane, Esq., magistrate, also attended, as did Lieutenant Morris, of the Coast Guard Service of Sea Point, together with many other highly respectable and influential persons; we noticed also a sprinkling of the neighbouring parish priests.

The first resolution was proposed by Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., and seconded by Dr. Griffin, and was to this effect:—

Resolved—That the potatoes having now become so unfit for human use, that even the cattle are beginning to leave them, the people be earnestly recommended to discontinue the use of any unless the few half-sound ones on hand, and that it becomes absolutely necessary for their sustenance to have immediate recourse to the consumption of bread at least once or twice a day, henceforward.

The second resolution was moved by Dr. Tufts, of Killeen; seconded by R. Fitzgerald, Esq.

Resolved—That the melancholy state of decomposition to which the potato crop is rapidly approaching, imperatively demands the opening of storehouses at Doonbeg and Killeen, for the purchase and preservation of the remnant of corn still left in the country.

The third resolution was moved by Dr. Griffin, seconded by F. O'Donnell, Esq.

Resolved—That to carry into effect these resolutions, the Government, to consult for the lives of the people, should, without a moment's further delay, earnestly set on foot the different public works contained in our Memorial to Her Majesty's Commissioners, in addition to the instant passing of the Railway Bill for Killeen and Kilrush (should due notice have been served for that line), in order to afford means to purchase provisions for the people's maintenance. After which the following Memorial was read, which was presented to Government, and adopted by the meeting:—

"To the Honourable Commissioners appointed to investigate the distressed condition of the people of Ireland, and to adopt measures of relief.

"The humble and respectful Memorial of the inhabitants of the united parishes of Killeen and Killard, county of Clare.

"We, the undersigned and well-intentioned inhabitants, clergy, and people of the said united parishes, take leave to acquaint your Honourable Board of the most advantageous means of employment to alleviate our wants, and prevent impending starvation and disease.

"The most important and permanent benefits that will accrue to your Memorialists consist, in the first instance, in putting the Fishery Act into operation; and to expedite the same it is advisable to adopt immediate proceedings, by making the bay of Doonbeg a fit and safe harbour for fishing and other smacks.

"We beg leave to state that this would afford instant employment to a vast proportion of the poor distressed labourers of this district during this season of unparalleled want, particu-

lark as they have no objection or fear of cold from working in salt water in the most inclement weather.

"We earnestly beg leave to point out another most important mode of present and permanent employment, which will be attended with the greatest benefit to the community and welfare to the country. We respectfully suggest that the Drainage Act be fully and immediately enforced, to the end that the outskirts of the great bogs of the aforesaid parishes be drained and cultivated to ensure a future supply of potatoes—it being stated by men of experience and science that no soil but bog reclaimed can be confidently expected to produce that useful esculent the following season.

"There may be an objection to undertake the drainage of bogs on an extensive scale in winter, but these bogs are so peculiarly situated, and so admirably adapted for the above purposes, in having natural falls into six or eight great outlets, ultimately reaching the sea and the river Shannon—that their reclamation becomes perfectly easy and practicable.

"Your memorialists beg to assure you that their apprehensions are very considerable, and that they feel loth to venture tilling the land heretofore growing potatoes, fearing it retains the malaria that has been so fatal the last season. We also fear that the contagion has been washed by the wind to the neighbouring corn-fields, so that we look with confidence to the bog lands alone for a secure supply of potatoes for after seasons.

"This is not the conclusion your memorialists alone have arrived to, but is the opinion also of skilful and scientific men.

"The aforesaid bogs are all near a plentiful supply of sea manure, which is known at the outset to be the fittest for such lands, and the most easily procured by the poor.

"The other means of employment, we respectfully take leave to suggest, consist in the construction of roads in the immediate vicinity of Kilkee—one leading by the cliffs to Ballard Tower, and Killard, and Donbeg Bays, the other along the shore to Dunleeky Castle, each distant about five miles from Kilkee.

"A few embankments on the Kilkee beach are much wanted, and an improvement in the miserable condition of the Kilkee fishermen, and the construction of a landing for their canoes are absolutely required.

"In addition to the above works your memorialists take leave earnestly to impress the necessity that exists of building a pier at Moyana to facilitate the loading and unloading of boats and other crafts.

"And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will pray."

The fourth resolution was moved by Henry Blackhall, Esq.; seconded by P. Blackhall, Esq.:

Resolved—That the adoption of the above resolutions has become imperative for the preservation of human life in this extensive district, from the circumstance that pigs and fowl fed on diseased potatoes are found, on being slaughtered, to have their livers and intestines so singularly affected and rotten as to be convertible to no human use whatever.

The fifth resolution was moved by the Rev. M. Conyn, P. P. of the united parishes of Kilkee and Killard; seconded by R. Fitzgerald, Esq.:

Resolved—That the heartfelt gratitude of the inhabitants of Kilkee and Killard are pre-eminently due and hereby respectfully tendered to Her Majesty's Government for their prompt and merciful interposition to save, at this frightful juncture, a faithful, seedy, and grateful people from the certain and immediate perils of plague, famine, and pestilence.

The above resolution was carried with three cheers and one more of the most deafening shouts ever offered by a patriotic people for their Sovereign Lady the Queen and her Government.

The sixth resolution was moved by F. O'Donnell, Esq.; seconded by P. Conyn, Esq.:

Resolved—That these resolutions be published in the *Freeman's Journal*, the *Limerick Papers* and *Tipperary Vindicator*.

Proposed by Robert Fitzgerald, Esq.; seconded by John M'Mahon Blackhall, Esq.:

Resolved—That a public vote of thanks of the united parishes of Kilkee and Killard be presented to the Rev. M. Conyn, P. P., and to Dr. Tufts, of Kilkee, for their unflinching and unremitting zeal in the cause of the people, and causing the Government to extend such timely relief in this unparalleled case of distress.

Resolved—That the Chairman do leave the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Martin be called thereto.

Resolved—That the warmest thanks of the meeting be accorded to H. Burton, Esq., D. L., of Carrigobolt Castle, for the dignified manner in which he conducted the important proceedings of this day's meeting.

JAMES MARTIN, Clerk, Chairman.

The following Committee were then appointed:—
H. Burton, Esq., J. F., D. L., Carrigobolt Castle; Charles W. Hamilton, Esq., of Dublin;
John Westropp, Esq., Limerick; Captain Crough, Honorary Members.

Working Committee.

Rev. J. Martin, Clerk, Kilkee.
Rev. W. O'Brien, R.C.C.
Robert Fitzgerald, Esq., Donoboy House.
Dr. Tufts, Kilkee.
Dr. Griffin, ditto.
John Conyn, Esq., ditto.
John M'Mahon Blackhall, Esq., Killard.

Edward Mahony, Farrabies.
Henry Blackhall, Esq., Kildrina House.
F. O'Donnell, Kilkee.
Rev. M. Conyn, P. P., ditto.
Mr. M. McEnery, Mountries.
Mr. Garrett O'Neill, Clahamee.

It is to be regretted the above meeting was held in the Kilkee Billiard Room at the express wish of the local magistrates. A great number of gentry were obliged to remain outside the doors for want of room. The Rev. M. Comyn very kindly offered the large schoolhouse.

THE MEMORIAL of some Individuals belonging to the classes of Land Proprietors, Magistrates, Clergy, Medical Superintendents of Dispensaries, and Inhabitants interested in the Districts, in the neighbourhood of Kilkee, Clare; assembled after the meeting convened at Kilkee, on the 10th January, 1846:

1st. Memorialists beg leave to state to your Commissioners, That we have inquired into the state of the potato crop, in the parishes of Moyarta and Kibbelyowen, as well as the parishes of Killeagh and Killard and Kilmacduan, and that our conviction is, that the loss of the crop is peculiarly felt in these parishes—that there are numbers now in actual want of food, and without the means of purchasing it.

2nd. That we anticipate from the want of food as well as the ill quality of it, a prevalence of disease, if not an absolute loss of life, unless some measures are adopted to provide means by which the poor should be enabled to earn money wherewith to provide a substitute for the food that is lost.

3rd. That we see no way in which the want can be supplied, but by works of public advantage, undertaken under the superintendence of Government; and we strongly urge upon the Government, to lose no time in commencing such works as may be favourably reported upon by competent officers, appointed by the Government.

4th. That the general principle that we are anxious to see guiding these public wishes, is—That money should be advanced, to be partly repaid by those interested in proportion to their interest by instalments; that payment should be regularly made to the workmen employed; and that due caution should be observed in confining the employment to those most in want of it.

The works which we would first press on the consideration of Government, are: the construction of a pier at Carrigrohane Dooness, and drainage of Farrihy Lake: draining, opening up of roads of the Lisham bogs: the road from Querin towards Blackrier bridge through Farmous to Kilkee, with a continuation from Blackrier bridge to Moyarta. A pier at Bohanagour, the drainage of the Dusbeg and Creagh rivers, and the adjoining bogs. A road through Kildimo to the proposed pier at Bohanagour, a road along the cliffs in continuation of Lord Clare's road, to the mill at Balinglass, and a road from Kilkee round the cliffs at Corhalla. The improvement of a communication between Kilkee and the road between Killeash and Ennis; a road to open up the townland of Killard, from Mr. Blackall's house to Glascomagh fishery. That memorialists would direct your attention, especially, to a simplification of the Drainage Act, in which the improvements we should suggest, are the giving the power of executing drainage to the majority of proprietors, voting in proportion to the extent of property improvable, and reducing the amount of preliminary expenses.

SIR,

London, 9th January, 1846.

I beg leave to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that I have just heard of a parcel of about five hundred tons of potatoes, that are perfectly free from any blight, not having been even affected with the prevailing disease; I should consider them well calculated for seed potatoes, which, no doubt, will be required next month.

Richard Pearsfather, Esq.,
Under Secretary, Castle, Dublin.

I have the honour to be, &c,
(Signed) JOHN MCCARTY.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 17, 1846.

I HAVE been, and still am, employed in inquiring into the state of the seed potatoes; and I learn that several cargoes have been purchased in some districts for exportation to others, to be delivered sound when required; and I have reason to believe that these parties are only waiting the usual advance in price to enable them to act.

The prices quoted in England are quite beyond anything that could be paid here.

I am quite certain that we cannot prudently interfere with this matter now.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 23, 1846.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer states to the Board that advices have been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, representing the necessity of a sum of money being immediately placed at his disposal, for the purpose of enabling

him to afford relief in some pressing cases of distress arising from the scarcity of food in that country; and recommends that whatever sums it may from time to time be necessary to place at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant for this service should be paid to the credit of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, in an account to be opened in his name at the Bank of Ireland, and to be acted upon by him under the orders and authority of the Lord Lieutenant.

Write to Mr. Kennedy, and direct him to transfer the sum of 5000*l.* from Civil Contingencies to an account in the Bank of Ireland to be opened in the name of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, as an imprest to be acted upon by him under the orders of the Lord Lieutenant; and desire that Mr. Kennedy will charge the same as an advance to be replaced.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, January 24, 1846.

The following steps have been taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's direction:—

Mr. Cameron has been ordered to proceed without delay to Dublin, to take charge, under you, of the accounts of this special service.

Mr. Coffin has been instructed to proceed without delay to Dublin, to place himself under your orders for employment on the Western Coast.

The Paymaster of Civil Services in Dublin has been directed to place 5,000*l.* to your credit with the Bank of Ireland, to be acted upon by you under the orders of the Lord Lieutenant, to be increased hereafter as the occasion may require; and

I shall be engaged all to-morrow afternoon in preparing detailed instructions for your guidance in carrying out the financial and executive part of the duties with which you have been entrusted; it being understood that the chief responsible authority in Ireland is the Lord Lieutenant, and that you are to obey any directions which his Excellency may at any time think necessary to give, even if they should differ from the instructions with which you have been furnished from this office.

You will probably make some additions to the pamphlet containing directions for cooking Indian corn, in consequence of the materials I sent you yesterday.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 26, 1846.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer lays before the Board a draft of instructions, which he proposes should be issued to Commissary General Sir Randolph Routh, for his guidance, and that of the officers employed under his orders in the execution of the measures necessary for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland, during the expected scarcity in that country; and also drafts of letters to the Secretaries to the Ordnance and Admiralty, and the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland.

My Lords approve thereof, and direct that a copy of these instructions and letters be sent to the Secretary for Ireland, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and that another copy be sent to the Commissioners of Audit, for their guidance in the examination of the accounts of the expenditure connected with this service.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury Chambers, January 26, 1846.

I AM commanded to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the dates noted in the margin, reporting your proceedings in the execution of the duties intrusted to you in connexion with the Commission for the relief of the people during the expected scarcity of food in Ireland.

As it appears, from information recently received by Her Majesty's Government from his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that some cases are likely soon to occur which will call for assistance from the Government, I have been

7th Dec., 1845.

18th "

21st "

27th "

1st Jan., 1846.

9th "

17th "

22nd "

with their respective Enclosures.

directed to recapitulate the means which have been, or may hereafter be, placed at your disposal for this important service, and to state more in detail the course which it is desired that you should pursue in regard to that part of your Instructions, dated 27th November, 1845, in which it was stated that you would be more particularly charged, under the directions of the Lord Lieutenant, with the execution of any measures which might be resolved upon for the purchase of supplies of food, the storing of them in safe and convenient places, and delivering them, in such proportions as might be determined, to the local committees or other parties appointed to receive them; and that in order to assist you in this part of your duties, several Commissariat officers would be appointed, as their services might be required, to act under your immediate orders:—

The supplies of food on which you have to rely are as follows:—

1. The Indian corn procured by their Lordships from the United States of America, through the house of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., which is now being ground and stored at Cork, under the superintendence of Commissary-General Hewetson.

2. The supplies of biscuit and oats which were laid up at the different military stations in Ireland in the year 1833-4, and which their Lordships will now request the Master-General and Board of Ordnance to place at your disposal, on the understanding that immediate steps will be taken for replacing them in every case in which the Commander of the Forces in Ireland may consider such a precaution necessary.

3. Supplies of biscuit and oatmeal, which their Lordships have, for some time past, caused to be prepared in the naval establishments in this country, as well with a view to replace the biscuit which may be taken from the military stores in Ireland, as to provide a reserve for direct distribution to destitute persons in that country; and

Lastly, Oatmeal, and perhaps also rice, which may be purchased to the extent required in the London and Liverpool markets, and, if necessary, in the markets of Ireland.

Their Lordships, however, desire that the purchase of food of any kind in Ireland may not be resorted to, except on the failure of all other means of obtaining the requisite supplies. Such purchases would have the effect of keeping up prices in the local markets, and would encourage interested representations; while the plan of procuring supplies from abroad, by adding to the stock of food in the country, and keeping in check the local dealers, would have a strong tendency to lower and equalize prices.

If, in any cases, it should be absolutely necessary to make purchases of oatmeal in Ireland, their Lordships desire that the purchases may not be made in the immediate neighbourhood of the locality where the oatmeal will have to be distributed, and that they may not, *under any circumstances*, be made from persons who may reasonably be presumed to have influenced the representations which led to provision being made for the relief of the particular locality.

Whatever pecuniary assistance may be required for the different branches of this service, will be placed to your credit in an account which has been opened in your name at the Bank of Ireland, to be acted upon by you under the orders and authority of the Lord Lieutenant. The Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland has been already directed to transfer 5000*l.* to that account; and such further sums will be supplied, as may, from time to time, be shown to be indispensably necessary.

It is of the utmost importance that there should be simple and suitable means for promptly conveying the supplies of food to the different points at which they may be, from time to time, required, and for transferring any surplus which may exist in one quarter to supply the deficiency in others.

Mr. Hewetson reports that there is a steam-vessel of war on the Cork station well adapted for the conveyance of the Indian corn meal.

Their Lordships will request the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to place this vessel at Mr. Hewetson's disposal; and they will cause a further communication to be made to them, in case similar assistance should hereafter be required elsewhere.

The vessels belonging to the Coast Guard will be available on this as on former occasions of the distribution of relief in Ireland.

The land-carrage required for the conveyance of supplies of food from place to place in the interior, must be provided by the officers acting under your orders, and their Lordships have only to desire that it may always be obtained by public

competition on the lowest terms procurable, and that all the payments made may be duly accounted for and properly vouched.

The establishment which has up to the present time been placed at your disposal is as follows;—

Assistant-Commissary-General CAMERON, and
Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General CAMPBELL, and a
Temporary Clerk,

whose duty it will be to keep, and make up for audit, under your immediate superintendence, the accounts of the entire expenditure for this service, and to conduct the general business of your office.

Commissary-General HEWETSON,
Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General MILDMAY,
Commissariat Clerk ROBERTSON, and a
Storekeeper,

who have been appointed to the duty of receiving, grinding, storing, and delivering for use the Indian corn meal ordered from America.

Commissary-General COFFIN,

who will have the superintendence, under you, of the measures of relief in the western districts of Ireland; and

Assistant-Commissary-General LISTER,

who will be employed by you as the occasion may require.

Whatever further assistance may be required for carrying into effect indispensable measures of relief, will be afforded to you as it may be wanted; and, so far as depends upon this Board, none but efficient persons will be employed, and such as will act cordially with you in the prosecution of a system of operations, the failure of any part of which might be attended with disastrous results.

Their Lordships' chief reliance for enabling the officers employed under you to carry out in a satisfactory manner the practical details of the measures with the execution of which they will be intrusted, is on the officers and men of the constabulary force, the coast guard, and the revenue police. To their local information, local influence, and personal assistance in distributing the food, under proper regulations, to proper objects, your officers will constantly have recourse; and their Lordships feel assured that the heads of the three departments referred to will give such instructions to the officers and men employed under them as will make them sensible to what a degree the means of averting calamity may depend upon their zealously co-operating with those who have been intrusted with the general direction and responsibility of the measures intended for the relief of the people at the present crisis.

Effectual precautions must be taken to secure the supplies of food from plunder, as well during their transit, as after they are deposited at their places of final distribution; and when there is reason to suppose that this object cannot be satisfactorily attained by means of the police and revenue establishments, application must be made to the military authorities for such guards as may be necessary.

I now proceed to the important subject of the rules under which relief is to be afforded.

In the first place, I am desirous to remark that the landowners and other rate-payers are the parties who are both legally and morally answerable for affording due relief to the destitute poor; and that the same parties are, from their local influence, and their knowledge of the situation and wants of the people in their neighbourhood, best able to furnish such relief without waste or misdirection of the means employed.

The measures to be adopted by you, and the officers employed under you, are, therefore, to be considered merely as auxiliary to those which it is the duty of the persons possessed of property in each neighbourhood to adopt. The efforts of those persons are to be stimulated, directed, and supported; but are not, if it can possibly be avoided, to be superseded by the direct agency of the officers of the Government.

If the persons possessed of local property and influence should require assistance, the most simple and satisfactory arrangement would be to transfer the necessary quantity of food at cost price, including the expense of carriage, to the Board of Guardians of the Union, or the Local Committee of any smaller district, to be by them distributed, on their own responsibility, either by retail sale at cost price,

or in the shape of wages of labour to be employed on local works, or, when absolute destitution is united to inability to labour, in gratuitous donations. Supplies of food should be furnished to Local Boards or Committees only upon actual payment of the cost price in ready money.

In those cases in which local associations have made arrangements for the relief of the destitute in their neighbourhood, and have entered into subscriptions for that purpose,* but, notwithstanding these efforts, some assistance is likely to be required from the Government, a list of the sums subscribed and *actually paid*, together with a list of the landlords who will not contribute, should be submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, who, after taking such advice as his Excellency may think fit, will determine whether any, and, if any, what sum should be contributed from the funds at his disposal in aid of the local subscriptions.

Instances may, however, occur in which, owing to peculiar local circumstances, the necessary relief cannot be afforded through the agency either of Boards of Guardians or of voluntary associations; and in these cases the direct agency of the officers of Government must be employed, subject to all the precautions to prevent abuse of which the case admits.

In every such instance a specific Report should be furnished of the grounds on which it is considered necessary to employ the public establishments to administer relief; and the names of the proprietors and other parties who might have been expected to come forward on the occasion are to be stated, together with the reasons alleged by them for not so coming forward.

The most unobjectionable mode of relief by the direct agency of the officers of Government is that which has been successfully resorted to on former similar occasions,—of establishing stations in the distressed localities for the sale of food at cost price, giving gratuitous relief only in those cases in which the means of purchasing are absolutely wanting. Sir John Hill's account of his arrangements on the West Coast of Ireland in 1836, printed at pages 17 to 20 (inclusive) of the collection of correspondence relating to former measures for the relief of suffering arising from scarcity in Ireland, may be referred to with advantage for an example of this mode of proceeding.

Cases may, however, arise in which it may not only be necessary for the officers of Government to interfere in a direct and positive manner, but the absence of the means of purchasing on the part of the distressed people may be the rule and not the exception. These cases will require to be dealt with with more than usual care, and the following rules should invariably be applied to them.

1. A task of work should be required from every person capable of giving it who applies for relief.
2. The payments for the work performed should be made in food, and should, in every case, be limited to such a quantity of food as will be sufficient to support the workman and the helpless persons of his family.
3. If, in any case, it should be impracticable to pay in food, the payments in money should be limited to what is absolutely necessary for the above purpose.
4. Gratuitous relief to be afforded only to those persons who are entirely incapable of giving a day's work, and who have no relative on whom they are dependent, and who is capable of working; and in those cases only in which their reception in the workhouse of the Union to which they belong is, from want of room, impracticable.
5. And, lastly, the works on which destitute persons are to be employed should be in prosecution of some public improvement within the distressed locality, and should be such as will be capable of being brought at once to a close when the circumstances of the people are improved.

Their Lordships desire that the above instructions may be strictly adhered to, except when his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant may expressly direct a deviation from them, or circumstances of pressing emergency may render it impossible to follow them.

The officers employed under your orders will regularly report to you their proceedings under these instructions and such further directions as you may furnish to them with the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant, and the causes of any deviation from the rules which have been furnished for your guidance are to be immediately and fully explained.

* See Captain Chubb's account of his operations on this principle in 1836, at 21 and the following pages of the printed Correspondence.

You will regularly submit copies of all these Reports to this Board, together with any remarks you may have to make on them.

Their Lordships desire me to observe, that it is an object of much public importance that the accounts of every description of expenditure connected with the expected relief should be kept in a regular manner from the first, and should be promptly rendered, at the close of every month, to the Commissioners of Audit, in the simple and comprehensive form prescribed by the Commissariat regulations, together with all the necessary authorities and vouchers in support of the different items.

It will be especially necessary to check, as a matter of account, the manner in which the Indian corn and other supplies in kind provided for this purpose may be disposed of; and any delay in bringing to credit the sums realized by the transfer of any portion of such supplies to Boards of Guardians or Local Committees, or by their sale by the direct agency of the officers of Government, should be promptly investigated and remedied.

In order that all the expenditure connected with this service may be kept together, and brought, from the first, into one account, their Lordships are pleased to cancel the credit with the Paymaster of Civil Services, which was given by the letter of this Board of the 27th ultimo to the Board of Works, for the purpose of enabling that Board to defray the expense of inquiries connected with public works for the relief of the people during the expected scarcity, and to direct that any sums which may have been already paid by the Paymaster of Civil Services in part of this credit, be at once repaid to him by you out of the fund which has been placed at your disposal at the Bank of Ireland. The accounts and vouchers connected with any sum which may have been so paid should also be transferred to you, in order that they may be incorporated in your accounts.

Any expenditure that may in future be sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant for such inquiries, or for any other purpose connected with the relief of the people during the expected scarcity, will be paid by you out of the same fund.

MR. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE.

Treasury, January 26, 1846.

WITH reference to the letter from this Board, dated 22nd instant, requesting that a quantity of oats in store at Haulbowline may be placed at Commissary-General Hewetson's disposal for a particular service, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, that as it will probably become necessary to take measures in various parts of Ireland for the relief of the people during the expected scarcity, their Lordships request that the Master-General and Board of Ordnance will give directions for placing the supplies of biscuits and oats, which were laid up at the different military stations in Ireland in the years 1843-4, at the disposal of Commissary-General Sir Randolph Routh, who has been charged with the superintendence of the measures of relief, it being understood that immediate steps will be taken for replacing these supplies in every case in which the Commander of the Forces in Ireland may consider such a precaution necessary.

Their Lordships also request that the officers belonging to the Ordnance Department in Ireland may be instructed to give every assistance in their power to Sir Randolph Routh in the execution of the important duty which has been confided to him.

MR. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY.

Treasury, January 26, 1846.

REFERRING to the letter of this Board, dated the 2nd instant, requesting that every practicable assistance might be given to Commissary-General Hewetson in discharging and storing the supplies of Indian corn which had been consigned to Cork for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to place at Mr. Hewetson's disposal a steam-vessel of war, for the purpose of conveying the Indian corn meal to the different points on the coast of Ireland at which it may from time to time be required.

Mr. Hewetson reports that there is a steam vessel on the Cork station well adapted for this service.

MR. TREVELYAN to the PAYMASTER of CIVIL SERVICES, IRELAND.

Treasury, January 26, 1846.

REFERRING to my Letter, dated 27th ultimo, desiring that a credit might be given to the Board of Works to the extent of 5,000*l.*, for the purpose of enabling them to defray the expense of inquiries connected with Public Works for the relief of the people during the expected scarcity in Ireland, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that this service having been otherwise provided for, their Lordships have been pleased to cancel the credit in question; and Commissary-General Sir Randolph Routh has been directed to repay to you any sum which you may have already paid in part of the credit in question.

MR. TREVELYAN to Lieutenant-Colonel M'GREGOR, Inspector-General of Constabulary.

Treasury, January 26, 1846.

I am anxious that you should take an early opportunity of reading a letter which I have this day addressed to Sir R. Routh, containing detailed instructions for his guidance, and that of the officers employed under him, in administering relief during the expected scarcity.

These instructions prescribe a plan of operations which, if properly enforced, and properly supported by additional agency and additional supplies, as the occasion requires, will, I hope, do all that human aid can do to mitigate the calamity.

The reliance I have upon your judgment and means of information is such, as to make me very anxious to know your opinion, first as to the probable extent of the scarcity, and the period when it is likely to commence in good earnest; and secondly, as to the sufficiency of the means which have been ordered to be adopted to relieve it.

I wish you particularly to understand that, although the general direction of the measures to be taken, and all the financial arrangements, will depend upon the officers employed under Sir R. Routh, we rely upon the constabulary and coast guard and revenue police to carry out the details of distribution, &c., under their instructions; and I am satisfied that, even among the subordinate officers belonging to those departments, those qualities are not wanting which will make them firm and able managers and accurate accountants, in an undertaking of this description.

In case more superior officers should be required to act under the immediate orders of Sir R. Routh than I could supply to my satisfaction, could you recommend one or more gentlemen of tried ability, trustworthiness, and, if possible, knowledge of the country, whose services would be available as long as they might be required for the performance of duties similar to those which are proposed to be entrusted to Assistant-Commissary-General Lister? My fervent hope is, that no such additional appointments will be required; but we ought to be prepared for the worst that can happen; and having now established our system, we must be ready to give the requisite extension to it as circumstances may require.

TREASURY MINUTE.

January 27, 1846.

Write the Commissioners of Audit, acquainting them that my Lords having occasion for the assistance of an experienced Commissariat officer as an accountant for a particular service of a temporary nature, are desirous of availing themselves of the services of Assistant Commissary-General Cameron, who is at present employed in their office. Their Lordships therefore request that the Commissioners of Audit will direct Mr. Cameron to report himself at this Board to receive instructions for his guidance; and so soon as his assistance in the particular duty alluded to can be dispensed with, he will be directed to rejoin the Audit Office.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, January 29, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you a copy of a letter dated Cork, 26th inst., from Commissary-General Hewetson, and to recommend his report of the hire of the Lee premises to the favourable consideration of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury at the increased rate, as the natural consequence of hiring these buildings for the shorter period.

I find that the Ordnance have no disposable sacks of which we can avail ourselves.

I have made application to Sir Edward Blakeney for a military guard, which will be afforded to Mr. Hewetson as soon as he thinks the time arrives to require it.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, January 26, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th inst., covering a communication from the Lords of the Treasury dated the 22nd; and with reference to that part of their Lordships' letter appraising of the Lee Mills being hired for a period of six months, at the rate of 500*l.* per annum, I have now to observe that on a closer inquiry, made subsequent to my first report to you touching the hire of these premises, I was given to understand that, taken for a shorter period than twelve months certain, the rent would be at the rate of 600*l.* per annum. The caution I was bound to observe in the series on which I am engaged prevented me at the time obtaining correct information of the terms and conditions once made known to me, which I now enclose, together with a note of the extent and capabilities of the granaries and mills. It being necessary that my decision thereon should be given not later than the 21st inst., and feeling extremely loth to risk by a further delay obtaining possession thereof, I took upon myself to direct the acceptance of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford's terms accordingly; and on a proper survey, which will be made early this week, of the state and condition of the mills and premises, in order, fair wear and tear excepted, to their being delivered back by me in a like state, I shall, on the behalf of Her Majesty's Government, sign a lease thereof, executed in the usual manner. The rent I consider exceedingly low, more especially as the proprietors will have to pay an extra and heavy premium on their policy of insurance from fire from the date of my taking over the buildings; their situation is also very convenient for our purposes. I trust, therefore, under this explanation, my Lords will be pleased to sanction these proceedings. Touching the security of the granaries, I would here observe that it is desirable they should be placed under the protection of a military guard. They stand in a retired neighbourhood in the outskirts of the city, on the southern bank of the northern channel of the river Lee; and though secure from access without by a good wall and fence, a military guard for the better protection of the valuable property they will shortly contain is most important: fit accommodation can be afforded for their use within the gates, distinct from the exterior. I note their Lordships' further authority for the employment of such weighers and civil labourers as may be necessary. I shall also have to engage a foreman of millers, with a sufficient number of millers' men to work the mills, observing there are five pair of stones for grinding; and as it is most essential that the foreman should not only be a trustworthy man, but a steady, practical craftsman, I would submit, if such a person could be lent for this service from Her Majesty's mill premises in the Deptford Victualling-yard, I should feel more secure than with a stranger unconnected with the Government.

Upon the subject of sacks fit to contain the meal, I cannot at present estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the number I shall require: 200,000 bushels of corn (New York dates of the 30th ult.) are advised as shipped and in course of shipment. To sack the whole of this quantity when ground, each sack containing 24 cwt., forty thousand will be necessary; but for immediate use, a supply of five thousand will suffice. Their cost in Cork is quoted to me *ls.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* each, taking a quantity; the former (*ls.* 10*d.*) is, I should say, not sufficiently strong for carriage into the interior. The vessel now in port, the "Adriensack," as also those advised, the "Atlas" and "Harriet Rockwell," are of heavy burthen, with a large draught of water, say eighteen feet: taking out the meal at Haulbooleine will lighten them much; but I find they will require to be still further lightened at Passage, nine miles below the city, to enable them to come alongside the quays here. Those to follow, I observe from the information I have in possession from New York, will be handier vessels, with a draught of water more convenient to our purposes. The former I shall, according to the practice here, lighten to a fit draught, by lighters, which are to be hired for each object. I shall also employ cartage to the mill premises, agreeing for both lighters and cartage upon terms conformable to the usage of this city. I am careful to put you in possession of all this detail, to the end that their Lordships may be made aware of the expense which will necessarily be incurred in the execution of this responsible service.

Scales, weights, and measures I shall endeavour to obtain on loan from the navy; the ordinary implements necessary for the granaries, to be used in turning the grain, and keeping the magazines in order, I purpose purchasing on the spot.

In closing this letter I would add, that deeming it my duty not to make myself too prominent in my official capacity, I have to the present conducted my arrangements in Cork through Messrs. N. and J. Cummins, the agents of Messrs. Baring Brothers; but though it seems to me to be highly desirable the object of my mission should yet be kept as close as circumstances will permit, it will nevertheless, especially as Sir R. Peel has mentioned in the House of Commons that he had sent a Commissariat to Ireland, doubtless gradually become known.

The accounts I hear of the progress of the potato disease, and in regard to seed potatoes, are very conflicting: in some localities there is much alarm, in others appearances are far more cheering; but I should say until the beginning of March no correct opinion can be formed as to the sufficiency of good seed.

Messrs. BRAMISH and CRAWFORD to Messrs. N. and J. CUMMINS.

Cork, January 14, 1846.

You can have the Lee Mills as lately occupied by Mr. Lane, at the rate of 600*l.* per annum, you engaging to hold them for a period of six months from the 1st proximo, and to be given up at the expiration of such time; you to give us notice, in writing, to that effect two months previously.

You shall be at liberty to retain and occupy the same mills for twelve months, from the 1st proximo; say, by the month (after the expiration of the six months above provided for), at the rate of 50*l.* per month, giving the like notice of your intention to surrender (say two months).

The mills to be given up in good order and condition as they shall be handed over, damage by fire excepted, subject to your acceptance within a week from this date.

LEE MILLS, situated on the Southern Bank of the Northern Channel of the River Lee, Cork.

Description of the Premises.

Storage for 18,000 barrels of wheat or flour in the mill granaries; mills separate, in good order; 15 pair of grinding-stones, and 8 pair of shelling ditto; 2 kilns, 600 feet each, in perfect order, diriked from the mills by iron sliding-doors; miller's house and office, and a bagged flour store: capable of grinding and dressing from 800 to 1000 barrels of grain each week; and during the driest season of summer will keep three or four pair of stoves working. Other premises within the same enclosure (a high substantial wall and fence), but separated from the mills by a wall with distinct entrance gates, called the *Brewery*, with granaries to stow 60,000 barrels of wheat.

Note.—Rent of Brewery premises, 300*l.* per annum; or any part thereof at a proportionate rate.

Messrs. N. and J. CUMMINS to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Cork, January 22, 1846.

We have the honour to inform you that, in conformity with your instructions, we have noted to Messrs. Bramish and Crawford, of this city, our acceptance of their offer of the Lee Mills, on the terms specified in their letter to us of the 14th inst., copy of which we have already had the pleasure to hand you.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTE.

Cork, January 31, 1846.

I HAVE examined the oats in charge of the Ordnance Storekeeper at Haulbowline; they have been in store since September 1843, and though in fair condition, being the black oat and very light, I am of opinion they are not of a fit quality to grind into meal for human food, except in a case of great emergency. Under these circumstances, and looking to the large supplies which will shortly be at our disposal for the relief of the distressed population in this country, I would suggest their being, as recommended by Mr. Booth in his letter to the Board of Ordnance, kept as a reserve for the cavalry and artillery horses until the approaching season, when, if not used as forage, they may be sold, and replaced, if requisite, by a fresh supply. The Ordnance Storekeeper, Mr. Atkinson, in whose care they are at Haulbowline, agrees with me that one-half of the store-room now appropriated for the oats, can, without either detriment or inconvenience, be made over to me for warehousing Indian corn meal. I therefore request the necessary instructions may be sent him to evacuate such portion for my use accordingly.

I take this occasion to acquaint you with the arrival at Cove of the "Atlas," a

2144 Bushels, and
150 Hoppheads of
Meal.
32476 Bushels of
Corn.

vessel of large tonnage, with Indian corn, as per margin, for our service. I have all this week been waiting for the orders of Messrs. Baring, from London, to take over the cargo of the "Adirondack," already reported to you, being anxious to carry up the grain to test our mill-stones, and put the mills into immediate operation.

Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot has acquainted me that Her Majesty's steamer "Dee," is at my disposal for the service coastways.

I take this occasion to add, that having sent Mr. Jones, Assistant Storekeeper, to Haulbowline, I shall require an Assistant Storekeeper here, and under the recommendation of Messrs. N. and J. Cummins, copy subjoined, I have, subject to their Lordships' approval, engaged Mr. Michael Riordan in that capacity, upon the terms, 4s. per day, and lodging (which I propose giving him on the Lee Mill premises). His long experience in charge of grain stores, and the high character given him, are strong recommendations in favour of his employment; he will be put into the premises when given up to me by the proprietors, say about the 3rd or 4th instant. As the service progresses, I shall require another Assistant Storekeeper, of which you shall have due note.

ENCLOSURE.

Messrs. N. and J. CUMMINS to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Anderson's Quay, Cork, January 29, 1846.

THE bearer, Michael Riordan, has been for nearly thirty years in the employment of members of our family, during which time he has conducted himself in situations of trust with strict integrity and correctness. He perfectly understands the lodging and warehouse-management of corn; and we beg leave to recommend him to a favourable notice, should a person in his capacity be required at the Lee Mills.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 6, 1844.

With reference to that part of Mr. Hewetson's letter in which he states his opinion that the oats in charge of the Ordnance Storekeeper at Haulbowline are not of a fit quality to grind into meal for human food, except in a case of great emergency, and that one-half of the storeroom now appropriated for the oats, may, without detriment, be made over to him for warehousing Indian corn, state that their Lordships have caused the Master-General and Board to be informed that under the circumstances reported by Mr. Hewetson, the oats in question may be considered to be re-appropriated to the Ordnance service, and the Master-General and Board have also been requested to give directions for such arrangements to be made in reference to the manner in which the oats are stored, as will allow of as much room as possible being left for warehousing the Indian corn meal.

Their Lordships approve of Mr. Hewetson having engaged Mr. Michael Riordan as assistant-storekeeper, for the temporary service at the Lee Mills, upon the terms of 4s. per diem, and lodging on the premises.

Transmit an extract from Mr. Hewetson's letter to the Secretary to the Ordnance, and request that he will state to the Master-General and Board that under the circumstances reported by Mr. Hewetson, the oats in store at Haulbowline may be considered to be re-appropriated to the Ordnance service.

Also request that he will move the Master-General and Board to give instructions for such arrangements to be made in reference to the manner in which the oats are stored, as will allow of as much room as possible being left for warehousing the Indian corn meal.

Lieut.-Colonel M'GREGOR to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 31, 1846.

I HAVE deferred replying to your letter of the 26th until I should see Sir R. Routh's instructions.

If they are to be carried out to the letter, the only observation I would venture to make upon them is, that they seem rather too detailed. I have promised to give Sir Randolph constabulary escorts for his provisions in remote places

where the service of troops cannot be commanded; but I cannot afford, what will be indispensable, permanent guards over the different stores, until you place us, as the Premier proposes, under the payment of the Treasury, when we shall be at your service in all manner of ways.

I have therefore suggested to the Commissary-General to resort to the assistance of the military pensioners, a few of whom might be placed on permanent duty for the purpose; but I have reminded him of the expediency of storing only at such places as contain troops, or comparatively large parties of constabulary.

We must not judge of the probable intensity of distress in any given locality by the extent of the general scarcity. In truth, I do not think that throughout Ireland the potato crop is one-ninth, or at most one-eighth, below an average supply. Our difficulties, however, will arise from the *very unequal distribution of the sound potatoes*; large areas of country being almost entirely exempted from the disease, while innumerable insulated spots or districts are approaching rapidly to total destitution; about 450 cases of this kind have already been reported, and I should not be surprised if this number were doubled before the 1st of March.

It seems impossible to state with any degree of accuracy when scarcity will overtake us in good earnest; but I would vain hope that, if the evil day could be postponed for another month or six weeks, vast numbers of the able-bodied men would then find the usual remuneration for labour, which would enable them to hold on, say to the beginning of May, or even later.

But should the Government be obliged, in the meantime, to afford pecuniary aid in even a few cases, the demands will speedily become very urgent and general.

Four methods of meeting the coming distress present themselves:—

1.—By public works under the Board of Works, agreeably to the 1 Vic.—I forget the chapter.

2.—By public works of a more local character than the foregoing, the expense of which should be borne partly by the Treasury, and partly by compulsory assessment on the parish, barony, or poor law union in which they are executed.

3.—By private works, such as draining, the expense of which must be advanced by Government upon good security, and with a fair interest on the sums advanced.

4.—By the sale at reduced prices, or by gratuitous distribution, of food on the part of the Government.

As public works will not be possible in numerous localities where distress may prevail, I should like to see the third plan pressed forward; but the landlords, I fear, are so embarrassed and so apathetic, that I entertain no very sanguine expectation from their exertions.

It is needless to observe, that the gratuitous distribution of food by the Government ought only to be resorted to in the very last extremity.

But, concurrently with any of the preceding schemes, the Government stores might be opened for the sale of provisions at cost prices.

In this respect, the police might render you good service.

If you require, as I think you may, some of our officers to act under Sir R. Routh, I can recommend many possessing all the qualifications you refer to.

I regret that from the absence in Limerick of one officer, and the sickness of another of those attached to my office, I am so pressed for time that I cannot enlarge on the subject now under consideration.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the arrival of Commissary General Coffin; and with reference to the instructions conveyed in your communication, No. 15, of the 26th ultimo, I have thought it prudent that we should read over and consider them together, and the various other letters in relation to them, so that we might mutually understand and act upon them in the same

sense; and with this view I have caused a written memorandum to be drawn up in which we both concur, as well for our own as their Lordships' information.

In this paper the duties of Mr. Coffin are defined, as well as the extent of his charge, and a plan submitted for the department to be attached to him for their execution.

ENCLOSURE.

NOTES ON THE INSTRUCTIONS TO Commissary-General Sir R. ROUTE, dated 26th January, 1846.

It appears from this enumeration, that the supply of Indian corn and meal from America, of the order now executed, will amount to 285,000 barrels of Indian corn, and 18,000 barrels of Indian meal; and it is desirable to know the whole quantity that may be expected; that the biscuit and oats in depot in Ireland will be available only as a resource for immediate need, as they must be replaced out of other supplies of the same kind; and that supplies of biscuit, oatmeal, and perhaps rice, to an extent not yet ascertained, can, if needful, be provided from the naval depôts and markets in England, exclusive of the purchases which may be made in the markets of Ireland in case of necessity.

With reference to this information, it seems desirable to ascertain what supplies of any kind, applicable to the relief of distress in Ireland, are now actually available in the public stores, or otherwise at the certain disposal of the government. Without this information it is difficult to determine whether or not further purchases will be advisable; but, at any rate, it does not seem likely that supplies of biscuit, or of rice, will be desirable to any great extent, if a sufficiency of oatmeal can be procured.

The general expediency of these restrictions cannot be questioned, but it may admit of doubt in particular cases. At Sligo, for instance, there is reason to believe that an abundant supply of food in the shape of oats must exist in the hands of the little farmers by whom they are grown, whose fair market would be seriously injured by the introduction of any large supplies of food from without. In the opposite case, if it exist anywhere, it would be manifestly expedient to purchase supplies on the spot at any reasonable price, rather than allow them to be exported on speculation; and, again, it may be presumed that, at a distance from the coast, it will usually be more economical to make purchases in the neighbourhood of a distressed district, than to transport supplies from a maritime depôt. Under these considerations it may be advisable that some latitude should be allowed to the discretion of the officers employed.

There is great reason to doubt the practicability of procuring transport, in the districts where distress will chiefly prevail, by the ordinary mode of public competition. It appears from Lieutenant Colonel McGregor's information, that public advertisements, of any kind, could scarcely reach the knowledge of the parties by whom alone the means of conveyance must be furnished, and that the transport, required for Government purposes of any kind, is usually procured through the police, who are always well informed both of the parties capable of being employed, and of the customary rates of the district. Considering, moreover, that the unavoidable publicity of the arrangements connected with public competition, and formal contracts, would increase the risk of the supplies in transit, and, consequently, require additional precautions for their security, and also tend to magnify the apparent extent of the distress to be provided for, it does not seem advisable to depart on this occasion from the ordinary course of proceeding to which the people are accustomed.

The personal assistance required by Commissary-General Coffin, in the western district, remains to be provided for, and the following establishment appears to be that which he will need, viz. :—His own head-quarters being fixed at Limerick, but his district comprising all the country between the counties of Limerick and upper part of Kerry, in the south, and that of Donegal in the north inclusive, and from the right bank of the Shannon, to the sea, in various parts of which his presence will frequently be required, it is requisite that a confidential officer should be stationed at Limerick, competent not only to the immediate charge of the depôt, and surrounding district (which will comprise Clare, the coast of Galway, and the northern part of Kerry, besides the navigation of the Lower Shannon), but to carry on the general duties of the district in Mr. Coffin's absence. He will need the assistance of a clerk for the accounts and correspondence, and as he must be always at his station, it is proposed that two of the officers of the constabulary, employed on a former occasion at 5s. each per diem, (sub-inspectors Griffin and Hemsworth) should also be stationed at Limerick, to be employed as occasion may require.

As depôts must be formed both at Sligo and Athlone, with extensive districts dependent on them, an officer will be required at each, the former having charge of the counties of Donegal, Sligo, and Mayo, the latter of those of Roscommon, and the interior of Galway, together with the navigation of the Upper Shannon. To each of them it is proposed to attach an intelligent non-commissioned officer of the constabulary, at the pay of 2s. 6d. per diem, besides which three non-commissioned officers of the pensioners have been recommended by the Commander of the Forces as efficient and trustworthy persons to be employed as storekeepers, whose remuneration would be at the rate of 2s. 6d. per diem each.

According to the extent and apprehended wants of the western district, as above defined, it does not seem possible that a smaller establishment will suffice.

There is reason to expect the most cordial assistance from these departments, and the Commander of the Forces promises guards for depôts wherever circumstances may permit, while the Constabulary will give escorts and local surveillance, but cannot offer permanent guards, because this is a duty which would be incompatible with their employment as policemen.

The present state of the law with respect to out-door relief seems to throw some doubt upon the extent to which the Boards of Guardians may become the medium of assistance, as here proposed; but measures are preparing by the Commission, which, if adopted by the government, will oblate this difficulty, and enable them to act, as well as provide for other questions of a similar kind that may otherwise arise.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 3, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships have, as suggested by him, appointed Deputy Commissary-General Kearney to act under the orders of Commissary-General Coffin in the execution of the measures for the relief of suffering from the expected scarcity on the western coast of Ireland; and Sir R. Routh is at liberty to call upon Deputy Commissary-General Kearney immediately for service.

Commissariat Clerk Rolleston has been appointed to assist Commissary-General Coffin in conducting his correspondence and accounts.

It is their Lordships' wish that no further appointments should be made for the service in that quarter, and no measures should be taken for the formation of depôts of food, until Commissary-General Coffin shall have arrived at his destination, and shall have been enabled to report more in detail on the measures to be adopted.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 3, 1846.

I FEEL satisfied that you will concentrate your whole energies on the direct and practical measures for the relief of the suffering to be anticipated from the impending scarcity.

Whether we regard the possible extent of that suffering, the suddenness with which it may come upon us in various points, or the fearful consequences of its not being promptly relieved, the subject is one which calls for all our foresight and power of arrangement.

That indirect permanent advantages will accrue to Ireland from the scarcity, and the measures taken for its relief, I entertain no doubt; but if we were to pursue these incidental objects to the neglect of any of the precautions immediately required to save the people from actual starvation, our responsibility would be fearful indeed.

Besides, the greatest improvement of all which could take place in Ireland would be, to teach the people to depend upon themselves for developing the resources of their country, instead of having recourse to the assistance of the Government on every occasion. Much has been done of late years to put this important matter on its proper footing; but if a firm stand is not made against the prevailing disposition to take advantage of this crisis to break down all barriers, the true permanent interests of the country will, I am convinced, suffer in a manner which will be irreparable in our time.

Up to the present date, nothing has, so far as I am aware, been done which should prevent a perfectly sound line from being taken, and one which will bear looking back upon, after the excitement arising from present circumstances shall have passed away.

Your official letter of the 1st instant, and its enclosure, are of such a thoroughly practical character that, by taking up the several paragraphs serialim, and commenting freely upon them, I shall be able to come to a satisfactory understanding with you on every point.

I continue to be of opinion that we ought to rely upon the organised establishments and active discipline of the constabulary and revenue forces, for the persons to be employed in responsible, though subordinate situations, such as the charge of detached depôts. The officers, and others of the police and coast guard acquitted themselves, I believe, greatly to their credit in charge of

the oatmeal stations on the coast of Donegal, under Sir J. Hill, in 1836; and it is reasonable to expect that persons whose prospects in life depend entirely upon their giving satisfaction in the public departments to which they belong, will exert themselves more, and be more trustworthy, than those who have been suddenly called from private life, and may therefore be tempted to make the most of the opportunity to lay up a store for future use.

I have no suggestion to make for the improvement of the plan of an establishment sketched by you for Mr. Coffin. It appears to embrace every important point.

A Commissary-General to superintend the entire western district from Kerry to Donegal, with a clerk, and two officers of the constabulary for his personal staff.

A Commissariat Officer in charge of the dépôt at Limerick, with a clerk and a storekeeper.

Another officer at Athlone, with a non-commissioned officer of the constabulary and a storekeeper.

And a similar establishment at Sligo.

You may therefore consider this outline as so far settled, and remaining to be filled up at such times, and to such extent, as the progress of events may require; it being of the utmost importance that our measures should not precede the actual necessity of the case.

In order that I may complete this part of the subject, I will tell you all the persons I have in view as fit to be employed in the highest capacities under you and Mr. Coffin.

The consequences of inefficiency in this temporary service would be so frightful, that the only consideration in making appointments must be, who the person is who possesses in the highest degree the requisite qualifications for the particular duty.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Treasury, February 4, 1846.

THE cordial assistance you are receiving from Sir Edward Blakeney, and the favourable effect this must have on all under his influence, is very gratifying to me.

To proceed to the subject of supplies.

The oats in store at the different stations in Ireland are not suited for human food until they are ground; and it is doubtful whether they will even then be available, for Mr. Hewetson reports that those in store at Cork are black oats, and not fit to be ground.

The biscuits may be useful on an emergency; but it should be remembered that they are costly, and may be required for the troops; while, on the other hand, they may deteriorate from longer keeping, and if they are not ultimately required in Ireland for any purpose, will have to be sent back at a heavy expense of carriage.

The following note, which I have just received from Mr. Meek, will show you how far we may rely upon the Deptford Mill for the supply of oatmeal.

"The quantity of oatmeal in store at Deptford is 5,696 bushels, or about 120 tons.

"The machinery is, at present, stopped for some alterations, but will be at work again in about a week, when 25 tons per week will be manufactured."

But the great source of supply on which we have to work is the Indian corn. We shall soon have an ample stock of this to meet any emergency; and a steam-vessel has been placed at Mr. Hewetson's disposal, to convey it promptly to any part of the coast at which it may be required. Moreover, as the Indian corn has been procured from America for the express purpose of relieving the suffering Irish, it is a fund entirely appropriated to that object, and ought to be used in preference to every thing else when the case admits of it. I send you copies, as I receive them, of the advices from Messrs. Baring, showing the gradual accumulation of the stock in Cork.

A final resource might be found in the purchase of oatmeal, which might be made on a large scale at Glasgow, and, if I am rightly informed, at Belfast.

You allude to the early formation of depôts at Limerick, Athlone, and Sligo.

As Limerick and Sligo are on the sea-coast, the stock to be laid in at those places ought to be Indian corn meal.

As regards Athlone, which is far inland, the matter admits of more doubt; but even there, we have the navigation of the Shannon, and the canals which connect Dublin with the interior of Ireland.

I must, however, again urge upon you, that, both as respects the pushing out our establishments and the formation of depôts, our measures ought to be taken so as to relieve *imminent* distress, and to avoid giving encouragement to unfounded complaint or interested reliance upon the Government. On this point I cannot express myself better than in the words of Col. McGregor in a note I received from him dated on the last day of last month: "I would fain hope that if the evil day could be postponed for another month or six weeks, vast numbers of able-bodied men would then find the usual remuneration for labour, which would enable them to hold on, say to the beginning of May, or even later. But should the Government be obliged, in the mean time, to afford pecuniary aid in even a few cases, the demands will speedily become very urgent and general."

On the other hand, the precautions you will take to avoid the evils to be expected from over haste, will be limited by the serious obligation and responsibility you will be under to take effective steps to provide suitable and adequate relief for every proved case of impending destitution in any locality.

You and Mr. Coffin justly observe that our direction not to purchase supplies on the spot may unavoidably be departed from in particular instances. All that it is in the power of the directing authority to do, is to lay down general principles of action, which will be liable to be modified in the execution according to the varied and pressing circumstances of the service. After a careful re-perusal of this part of the instructions, and comparing it with your observations upon it, I feel satisfied that the general principles which have been laid down are sound and correct, and I know them to be fully justified by the experience of former cases of the distribution of relief in Ireland. The rules laid down by the Treasury regarding the purchase of provisions where it may be necessary to purchase, ought not to be departed from without satisfactory reason being shown for the course adopted, and, even then, the departure from the rule ought to be as slight as possible, and the principle of the instruction should be preserved, even where the letter of it is departed from. In no case short of there being no other available means of relieving people from actual starvation, ought purchases to be made from persons who are neglecting their own duty, and making a profit out of the distresses of the people and the liberality of the Government.

Under the circumstances explained by you, those passages of the instructions which direct that land carriage should be provided by the officers acting under you, and by public competition, may be considered as rescinded, and we shall understand that carriage will be provided by the police at the fixed rates in use in that department. The other directions under the head of carriage appear to be quite applicable.

I have now noticed every point which requires notice in your official letter of the 1st instant, and the notes upon our instructions enclosed in it.

In some former private letters to me you alluded to the difficulty likely to be experienced in inducing the land-owners and other persons possessed of property to contribute towards the relief of the distress.

No doubt, such difficulty will be experienced; but whether it will prevail or not to the cutting off of this great and wholesome source of relief will depend upon whether the officers of Government firmly oppose themselves to such selfish dereliction of duty, and make the persons who are possessed of property in each locality feel the full extent of their responsibility, or whether they yield to it, and take the entire responsibility of providing the relief upon the Government.

I will not dwell upon the Poor-Law, under which the obligation of relieving the destitute has become the legal obligation of persons possessed of property, and a well organized machinery has been established throughout the country

for the accomplishment of this object. To communicate with, and to assist the Boards of Guardians, will be one of the most essential duties of the officers acting under you.

As regards large proprietors and others from whom special assistance may be expected in particular localities, your officers should communicate with them in the manner which was practised by Captain Chads in 1839. They should spare no effort in bringing the nature and extent of the distress, and the proper means of relieving it, distinctly before them. If the agents of absent proprietors are deaf to the obvious calls of duty, a direct communication should be opened with the proprietors themselves, and a distinct Report should be made both of those who do, and of those who do not contribute in each locality, with the substance of the answers returned by those who refuse to give in proportion to their interest in the locality.

The landed proprietors and others have not been found wanting on former occasions of distress in Ireland. You will see from Captain Chads' Report, that considerable sums were subscribed in 1839, and the manner in which the Kerry landowners came forward in

last on the first alarm of the expected scarcity, shows that this spirit is still alive; and their example would probably have been already more extensively followed if an impression had not been allowed to gain ground from an early period of the present proceedings, that the Government intended to take the whole burthen on itself. The landowners and the upper classes generally, are at least as well off now as they were in 1839; and it cannot be imagined that they have retrograded in kind and liberal feeling, or, I should rather say, in a conscientious discharge of their most obvious duties since that date.

I requested Col. McGregor to give me his opinion on the Treasury instructions, and the answer he has made is, "If they are to be carried out to the letter, the only observation I would venture to make upon them is, that 'they seem rather too detailed.' In reply to this I would observe, that the 'Rules under which relief is to be afforded' had to be prepared in order to meet all the different circumstances under which the emergency is likely to press upon us; and if each probable state of circumstances be considered separately, I do not think the rules will be found to be more detailed than the occasion requires.

The different modes of proceeding prescribed in each case, are founded on the experience of former occasions of scarcity, and the additional observations introduced have reference to the new and invaluable machinery for the relief of the poor, which has been established by the Poor Law since the last scarcity occurred.

Col. McGregor lays stress upon opening Government stores in the neighbourhood of distressed localities for the sale of provisions at cost price, concurrently with other plans of relief, and in this I entirely agree with him. Besides keeping private dealers in check, such stores would provide the material for every other kind of machinery for the relief of distress, and would furnish such facilities to the Boards of Guardians, local committees, and individual men of property, as would leave them without excuse if they failed to do their duty.

It is very important that you should steadily act upon the rule that private parties are not to be entrusted with food for distribution which has not been furnished to them at their own expense, and that if, in any case, a last necessity should arise for gratuitous distribution, that distribution must be made by the officers of Government themselves according to the best information they can obtain.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTE.

Treasury, February 5, 1846.

It will be satisfactory to you to know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has attentively read the entries of my letters to you, dated respectively the 3rd, and 4th instant, and that he entirely approves of them.

They are to be considered as demi-official, and separate official replies to the same effect will be returned to those parts of your official letters which require an answer.

I shall be obliged to you to send Mr. Coffin copies of my letters to you of the 3rd and 4th instant, which I consider a more convenient course than my sending them to him myself, as it will enable you to make any passing observation that may appear to you to be required on any passages in them.

MR. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, February 6, 1846.

It is very important, not only as regards the settlement of accounts with Messrs. Baring, but also to meet any objections that may hereafter be raised to the quality of the Indian corn in any part of Ireland, that the cargoes should be accurately surveyed as they arrive.

MR. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. BARING BROTHERS and Co.

Treasury, February 6, 1846.

I SHALL be glad to have the opinion of your Firm on the following extract of a letter I have received this morning from Mr. Hewetson.

In the case of shipments made for the public service by Government departments, we are satisfied with a survey by naval or military officers; but, as in the present instance, the settlement of transactions between the Government and your Firm is involved, the mode adopted for making the survey should be such as would be satisfactory to you.

Whatever mode is adopted, I think a public officer ought to have a voice in the proceedings, and the simplest and safest arrangement perhaps would be, that there should be one person on our part, and another on yours, with a power of calling in a third party, in case of a difference of opinion.

As I am anxious to send Mr. Hewetson an answer by return of post, I shall be obliged to you to take the matter into your immediate consideration.

MR. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. BARING BROTHERS and Co.

Treasury, February 6, 1846.

I HAVE transmitted to Mr. Hewetson a copy of your note to me of this morning, in regard to the survey of the cargoes of Indian corn and meal, and have stated to him my opinion, that one officer *carefully selected* from any branch of the service, acting in conjunction with an agent of your Firm, and with a power of reference, in case of difference of opinion, to any third party on whom they may mutually agree, will best meet the case.

I shall be obliged to you to send corresponding instructions to your agent at Cork.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 7, 1846.

If circumstances should oblige us to have recourse to other persons, as *Superintendents*, in addition to those whom the Commissariat department can supply, I entirely agree with you, that only such persons should be employed as can be depended upon for rendering and enforcing upon others an accurate account of the means placed at their disposal; but, consistently with this, I consider that it would be a great advantage to have in these situations officers of established reputation, for, besides the really responsible and difficult nature of the service, we must endeavour to select those who would have weight with the various local bodies and individuals with whom they would have to act. I hope, however, that the occasion for employing additional agency will not arise.

We have had applications from Sligo, as well as Limerick, for grinding Indian corn, but, fortunately, the arrangements which have been made will

enable us to grind all we want at our own mills, without giving a preference to anybody.

The 4000 barrels of Indian corn meal which Mr. Hewetson has ready at Cork, will enable you to form a depôt at Limerick as soon as it is required; and I have no doubt that Mr. Hewetson has made the same suggestion to you which he has mentioned in a private letter to me, that a few simple directions in a large print, on a single half sheet of paper, will be required to instruct the eaters of the meal how to convert it into porridge in their iron pots.

I understand our Commissariat operations, *speaking generally*, to be subsidiary to the various arrangements for employing the people in the distressed localities in useful works, and to be intended to provide, so far as may be necessary, supplies of food, which will either be purchased from the Commissariat in the gross, with funds provided by Parliament, or raised by local rates and contributions, for carrying out those arrangements, and will then be distributed in the shape of wages or will be purchased in detail by the labourers themselves from low money wages, to be obtained by them by means of the works to be carried on.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 7, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that my Lords entirely approve of the measures taken by Commissary-General Hewetson to secure the early discharge of the cargoes of the "Adirondack" and "Atlas."

If the store-rooms now at Mr. Hewetson's disposal should not be sufficient for the grain and meal, for the warehousing of which he will have to provide their Lordships sanction his hiring the granaries adjoining the Lee Mills for six months, provided they can be obtained on reasonable terms, with a power of retaining them on the same terms from time to time for a period not exceeding in the whole twelve months.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 7, 1846.

It will occur to you from my previous communications, that the holders of wheat and oats are obliged to look for a market, as from the sale of these supplies they pay their rent and spring labour, and if they cannot sell these articles at home, they must export them to have the means to meet their liabilities.

In parts of Connaught the people have prevented the exportation, and a military force was ordered to Galway to stop these proceedings.

Thus the purchase of supplies, if the occasion calls for it, under such circumstances on the spot, which must otherwise be exported, or which if left might be an incitement to outrage, presents a new feature, which will influence their Lordships' general views on this subject.

I have very little faith in voluntary contributions; not that I underrate the patriotism of the landholders, but it is a levy of funds so unequal in its division, resting, not on the means, but the generosity of the donor, that a general preference is given to a rate on the locality as the most impartial and most sure. All our evidence goes to establish this fact.

I regret to say that my apprehensions in regard to seed potatoes are increased, but there is one good point in it, that the people are disposed to make an early planting in March, which will be the means of saving from consumption a large quantity of seed.

The seed that will be planted will be very much below the average of other years.

The Government cannot interpose efficiently, certainly not now, if they may be able to do so hereafter; for, until March, no one can be sure where the great deficiency or where the great surplus may be. The greatest disappointment has occurred, where there was the greatest confidence, and it is only the fact on which we can rely, when the time of planting is at hand.

Seed potatoes will be very dear, and some of the farmers are asking for loans for which they offer a rate, to give them the means of purchase, and others, exaggerating beyond all bounds the Government supply of Indian corn, are alarmed for the depreciation of their stock of oats.

I hope with prudence and a fair exercise of judgment, which I trust their Lordships will concede to me, that these difficulties will be met; but there is this difference between the present scarcity and those of previous years, that the latter were limited to a distinct point, while this is dotted all over the country, and renders the same measures frequently inapplicable.

We have very bad accounts from Armagh, Louth, Meath, Kilkenny, and Waterford; but I look in the spring to the emigration into England and Scotland for labour as a reasonable prospect of relief. I calculate that the different railroads in progress will require additional labour, and that here there is a superabundance of it; and that, as the season advances, the two demands will find their level and natural adjustment.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 10, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, and state that their Lordships have particularly adverted to those parts of his letters, dated the 1st and 7th instant, in which several circumstances are alluded to by him, under which it might be advisable to depart from the instructions of this Board, directing that the purchase of food of any kind in Ireland should not be resorted to, except on the failure of all other means of obtaining the requisite supplies; and that if, in any cases, it should be absolutely necessary to make purchases of oatmeal in Ireland, such purchases should not be made in the immediate neighbourhood of the locality where the oatmeal will have to be distributed; and that they should not, *under any circumstances*, be made from persons who may reasonably be presumed to have influenced the representations which led to provision being made for the relief of the particular locality.

After carefully reconsidering this part of their instructions, dated 26th ultimo, with reference to Sir R. Routh's observations, their Lordships continue to be of opinion that the general principles which have been laid down in these instructions are sound and correct, and are fully justified by the experience of former cases of the distribution of relief in Ireland.

Independently of the advantage to be obtained by adding to the stock of food in Ireland, and keeping down local prices, it is absolutely necessary that the relief should, in every possible case, be given in such manners will occasion the least practicable expenditure of the public money, and will preclude all suspicion of interested private objects being successfully pressed upon the Government in connection with the measures for the relief of distress arising from scarcity of food.

It is therefore their Lordships' desire that the Indian corn which has been obtained from America on reasonable terms, and has been expressly appropriated to this object, should be brought into use in preference to everything else, in every case in which it may be necessary to provide supplies of food.

If, in any instance, owing to the expense of land-carriage, or any other cause, it may become necessary to deviate from the instructions of this Board in regard to the sources from which supplies of food are to be obtained, a detailed explanation should be immediately furnished of the circumstances which led to such necessity; but even in these cases their Lordships desire that the departure from the rule may be as slight as possible, and that the principle of their instructions may be preserved, although the letter may be departed from.

Under the circumstances detailed in the memorandum enclosed in Sir R. Routh's letter dated the 1st instant, their Lordships desire that those passages of the instructions, dated 26th ultimo, which direct that land-carriage should be provided by the officers acting under Sir R. Routh, and by public competition, may be considered as rescinded; and that it may be understood that land-carriage will be provided by the police at the fixed rates in use in that department. The other directions contained in the instructions, under the head of conveyance, appear to be quite applicable to the circumstances of this service.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 11, 1846.

I SEND for your *private information* an extract from a letter from Captain Maconochie, late Superintendent of the Convict Establishment at Norfolk Island, on the use of Indian corn meal, and an answer to it, by Mr. Robertson, the American Consul at Bremen.

It is right that you should be fully acquainted with every doubt and difficulty that may be suggested, in order that you may be prepared to meet any objections that may be started; but it is important that you should confine yourself to answering or providing a remedy for such objections as they arise, and should not allow any expression implying a doubt of the efficiency of our means to escape you.

The first introduction of the use of Indian corn will, of course, require care and precaution; but it is found to be a wholesome and agreeable food by such multitudes of people in other countries, as to preclude the possibility of its being really objectionable.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE.

Treasury, February 11, 1846.

THERE is an urgent necessity for a large supply of sacks to hold Indian corn meal at Cork; and I shall be obliged to you to inform me, with as little delay as possible, what number could be furnished at once from the Ordnance stores at the Tower, or elsewhere.

I should also be glad to know, at your leisure, at what price, and in what quantities, sacks might be purchased fit for this service, in case it should be necessary to purchase.

We may require as many as 15,000, or 20,000, if the price at which they are offered is reasonable, as compared with that at which we have ascertained that they may be had elsewhere.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE.

Treasury, February 11, 1846.

As it would be hazardous to send a considerable number of sacks to Commissary-General Hewetson without being certain that they are of the kind required, I shall be obliged to you to procure the issue of immediate orders for six sacks of each of the kinds in store at the Tower to be sent by the next steampacket which will leave the river for Cork, consigned to *Commissary-General Hewetson, care of Messrs. Cummins, Anderson's Quay, Cork.*

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, February 12, 1846.

IN continuation of my letter of yesterday on the subject of sacks, I have to suggest that, besides the specimens of sacks which the Ordnance are to send you, you should send us two or three specimens of the description of sack which you require, with a particular statement of prices, &c.

This will give greater certainty to our arrangements.

MR. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, February 14, 1846.

I ENCLOSE a note from Mr. Robertson, and a specimen of his parched meal.

He furnished me with the following verbal information, in answer to your inquiry regarding the mode of preparing the meal so as to ensure its keeping sweet and good.

He said that in the United States it is generally eaten quite fresh without being kiln-dried, but that when it is intended for exportation, it is invariably kiln-dried, and that without this precaution it would not keep for any length of time without turning sour.

He recommended that our Indian corn should be ground and sent off as it is required, in order to its being brought into immediate use; and when I told him that this was impossible, and that it must be stored for some time in depôts, he said it must, in that case, be kiln-dried.

You have, I believe, in the Lee Mills all the necessary apparatus for kiln-drying.

On the other points, of grinding and the separation of the bran, Mr. Robertson did not appear to have any particular information to give, the process followed being, as he said, what was usual in such cases. His impression seemed to be, that, owing to the thinness of the rind, only a small proportion of bran is separated.

It can hardly be necessary for me to add that this matter of the kiln-drying is a very important point, and I shall be glad to hear from you that you have had no hesitation as to the course which ought to be pursued in respect to it. It seems to be a very necessary precaution in respect to all meal which is to be kept in depôt, while, on the other hand, what is certain to be used at once is better without being kiln-dried.

SIR R. ROUGH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 14, 1846.

HAVING referred to the Poor Law Commissioners the extract of your letter No. 15, having reference to the transfer of provisions to the Poor Law Guardians at cost price for distribution, I have the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the reply of Mr. Twisleton, and to solicit your farther instructions thereon.

In relation to the proposed legislative measure of the Commission, submitted to you in my No. 25, I have been informed by His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant that it cannot be entertained, and His Excellency was pleased to read to me his despatch on the subject, and to permit the following extract to be communicated to the Commission:—"If it is necessary to make grants of "public money, all the precautions on which I have insisted in my former letters "must, as far as possible, be observed. Efforts must be made to obtain local and "voluntary contributions in aid; the assistance given must be in kind, and not in "money, and a task of work must be exacted from the able-bodied. Advances on "loan are less objectionable than free gifts, and grants of money or of food can "only be justified by the extremity of distress."

I beg to lay before you a statement of the last returns of the constabulary of the state of the failure of the potato crop, under date of 15th January. The next returns will be to the 15th February.

The great difficulty that presents itself is the distribution of assistance in kind, in consequence of the numerous detached situations in which distress is found, and the apparent impossibility of meeting it by the direct agency of the department.

I do not perceive the force of Mr. Twisleton's reply, that the Poor Law Guardians are prohibited, by the instructions to this Commission, from receiving on account and distributing these supplies; for though I believe his statement to be quite correct that they have no funds from whence they could pay in advance, this payment might be made dependent on the sale, or a statement rendered of its issue for labour performed; and it is to this point that I wish specially to draw your attention, and solicit your reply.

With the view of meeting these instructions, it will be necessary to establish central depôts in the neighbourhood of the most distressed counties. Limerick and Sligo have already been selected; and I solicit the authority of my Lords to direct Assistant Commissary-General Thomas Kearney to repair to the latter station. I find there is a difficulty in obtaining store-room at Athlone; and the country in its immediate neighbourhood not having, apparently, suffered from the disease, I am disposed, after consulting with Mr. Coffin, to select Longford or Richmond Harbour, at the head of the navigation of the Royal Canal, and close to the bad tracts of Roscommon, as a more eligible situation; and this post will be entrusted to Deputy Commissary-General Kearney.

Assistant Commissary-General Lister will proceed, on Monday next, to Drogheda and Dundalk, as the central points for a depôt for Armagh, Louth, Cavan, and Meath, which my Lords will see by the enclosure have been severe sufferers. Mr. Lister will examine and report upon the capabilities of these towns; and I will bring the subject again before you on his return. The accounts from Waterford and Dungarvon are very unfavourable; and these points must also be visited, and a further report will be submitted to you. I should hope that Mr. Hewetson may hereafter be enabled to include these posts within his range of duty.

I hope, Sir, you will perceive the necessity of the immediate establishment of these central depôts, and that we must be prepared to place officers in charge at these points. There is no time for delay. The Government not having entertained the propositions of the Commission, the duty devolves entirely on this department; and the time—perhaps the hour—presses, and we must be prepared for action. We cannot, indeed, foresee all the extent of the evil; and though we must refrain from interposition until the moment of pressure arises, we must be prepared for it when it comes; and we must, unreservedly, announce the terms on which the Government consents to afford its assistance.

I lay before you the Minutes of the Commission of yesterday; and I beg to call your attention to the committee of management proposed at Killybeg, and upon which a more general arrangement will be framed for the most distressed counties, incorporating their Lordships' instructions, in regard to associations of landlords, &c., for relief by private subscription.

The establishment throughout the country of these local or district committees, in conjunction with whom we must act, is of the most urgent importance. Once in communication with them we shall feel our way, and judge from their tone and exertions the extent of assistance we may derive from their co-operation.

We shall then be able to form ramifications from our central depôts, and confide to their distribution certain supplies for which we have no other channel; and herein is the principle and secret of our responsibility—how to manage these local committees and the Boards of Guardians—and upon which I am most anxious to be guided by your instructions. Our numbers make it impossible that we should execute these details: we can only visit and superintend and settle the accountability. They on their part, cannot pay in advance, unless there be a fund from local subscription; which, though it may occur, in some instances, will not certainly be general. They can only, therefore, where they have no funds, render an account, dependent on the sale or issue, after these have been effected.

I delayed writing yesterday, in the hope of being able to mature the instructions for these local committees in the Commission; but it was considered an important proceeding, requiring full deliberation, and I am obliged to postpone its transmission to you until Monday the 16th instant.

I beg to report to you the advance of 50*l.* to Commissary-General Coffin, and the appointment of Serjeant Brown, on 3rd February, at 2*s.* 6*d.* per diem, who proceeded to Limerick to join Mr. Coffin, who reports very favourably of him. Mr. Coffin, by this day's post, advises the probability of his concluding an arrangement on that day with Mr. Seymour for the hire of a magazine, consisting of four stories, and ground-floor of 200 feet long, by 38, in perfect order, capable of containing 15,000 quarters of Indian meal, for 80*l.*, for six months. I have, therefore, written to Cork to send round the "Dee," with a cargo of corn-meal to Limerick, of which, I understand, she can take 1000 barrels.

Deputy Commissary-General Kearney reported himself yesterday, and proceeded last night to Longford by the Sligo mail, where, as well as at Richmond Harbour, he will examine the buildings and site, and then proceed by the

Shannon to Limerick, to assist in the formation of that dépôt, until the officer intended for that port shall arrive.

Mr. Commissariat Clerk Rolleston reported himself on the morning of the 10th, and proceeded the same evening to Limerick by the mail, and Mr. Coffin has since announced his arrival.

Mr. Moore and Mr. McClintock have reported themselves. The first proceeded to Tyrone, and the latter is here with his friends in Dublin. I acquainted them that their services would be soon required, and I request your authority to call on them when the moment arrives.

I beg to acquaint you that Mr. Hewetson has applied for a further imprest of 300*l.*, and considering the nature of his service, I have transferred that sum to his credit with the Branch Bank at Cork, which I trust to be in conformity to their Lordships' wishes.

I now touch upon the opinions which are abroad in relation to the issue of Indian corn in the country; and as it is a new description of food, which may affect their taste or constitution, I think it would be a safe measure to issue with it one-third or one-fourth oatmeal. The flavour of the oatmeal, even in that small quantity, would so predominate as to obviate all objection, and correct the heating quality of the corn. I suggest this only at the commencement—it would subsequently be unnecessary.

If you think this precaution advisable which I throw out for your consideration, you will have the goodness to convey to me their Lordships' permission for Mr. Coffin to purchase a small quantity on the spot, or cause it to be shipped from London or Glasgow. The Scotch oatmeal is the best, as it is without husk. It should be consigned to Limerick.

I beg to submit to you an application from Assistant Commissary-General Cameron in behalf of his son. He has been writing in the office since his arrival, and is exceedingly diligent and quick, and writes a good hand. Our office duties are increasing so fast that it would be difficult to accomplish them without this assistance.

As I cannot precisely tell the exact moment when two constabulary officers may be required, and as my Lords approve of their appointment when it shall become necessary, I request your authority to communicate with Colonel M'Gregor on the subject when that time arrives, in the assurance that no step shall be taken until it is indispensable.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. TWISLETON to Sir R. ROUTH,

Poor Law Commission, February 10, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, enclosing an extract from the instructions which you have received from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and containing a request to be informed whether you can rely on the consent of the Poor Law Guardians to the receipt and distribution of provisions on their own responsibility, on the terms defined in those instructions; and whether the Guardians have the means of making payment for such supplies on delivery to them.

In reply, I desire to state that although I have no reason to doubt that the Poor Law Guardians would consent to receive and distribute any provisions which might be sent to them, yet that the making the Poor Law Guardians the administrators of out-door relief in any shape, appears to me contrary to the instructions which have been received by the Commissioners of Inquiry into all matters connected with the failure of the potato crop.

I have further to state, that if such supplies were delivered to the Guardians, they would have at their disposal no means of repayment whatever; as they are not entitled to levy rates for out-door relief in any form.

RETURN showing the Proportion of actual Crop Lost.

		Proportion of actual Crop lost in Electoral Divisions.										Number of Electoral Divisions not yet returned.	Total Number of Electoral Divisions.								
		Name.	Not Harvesting.	Exceeding																	
				$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$										
														Not Exceeding.							
														$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ulster . . .	Antrim . . .	..	..	..	4	35	50	8	20	11	4	..	..	122		
	Armagh . . .	..	..	3	11	24	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
	Cavan . . .	..	..	..	5	5	10	..	..	3	..	..	23	46
	Donegal . . .	3	7	20	13	29	21	..	..	3	..	..	1	103			
	Down . . .	..	..	4	16	40	27	2	4	8	..	..	..	96		
	Fermanagh . .	..	18	4	6	8	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	43		
	Londonderry .	..	11	..	29	17	24	..	1	4	..	..	..	86				
	Monaghan . .	..	3	5	2	11	17	2	15	6	..	..	..	61			
	Tyrone . . .	4	53	23	15	11	23	..	2	2	..	..	..	132				
	Total . .	7	92	64	101	180	181	12	45	32	4	..	24	743							
Munster . . .	Clare . . .	..	..	3	1	11	25	..	10	4	..	..	..	54		
	Cork . . .	..	..	16	25	91	48	..	2	1	..	..	..	178		
	Kerry . . .	..	2	3	13	20	15	..	4	1	..	..	..	67			
	Limerick . . .	1	..	5	9	19	25	..	9	5	..	..	..	73				
	Tipperary . .	1	..	12	15	33	63	1	7	5	..	..	..	137				
	Waterford . .	..	..	..	3	4	18	..	9	14	..	..	1	49		
	Total . .	2	2	39	65	187	189	1	41	30	..	..	1	368					
Leinster . . .	Carlow . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	14
	Dublin . . .	..	2	3	4	18	8	..	1	8	..	..	1	39				
	Kildare . . .	..	4	6	7	29	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	57			
	Kilkenny . . .	..	..	..	..	9	19	..	6	..	..	..	..	54
	King's . . .	..	..	2	4	19	6	..	1	..	..	..	21	55		
	Longford . . .	..	..	5	6	10	11	..	2	..	..	..	..	34	
	Louth . . .	..	..	..	4	4	23	..	3	10	..	..	..	44	
	Meath . . .	..	..	2	11	11	27	1	3	7	..	..	..	83		
	Queen's . . .	..	2	..	5	11	5	1	3	..	..	..	..	27		
	Westmeath . .	..	..	1	7	3	6	1	1	..	..	..	25	45		
	Wexford . . .	..	1	3	9	20	18	..	4	..	..	..	..	57		
	Wicklow . . .	..	1	6	10	17	6	..	2	..	..	..	..	42		
	Total . .	..	10	30	67	145	183	3	27	26	..	..	62	503				
Connaught . .	Galway . . .	..	1	5	6	26	31	..	6	1	..	..	..	75			
	Leitrim . . .	..	..	3	3	15	11	..	..	1	..	..	..	38
	Mayo . . .	..	3	12	14	6	15	..	3	1	..	..	12	63				
	Rooscommon .	..	2	..	1	20	25	..	2	2	..	..	..	52				
	Sligo . . .	..	..	..	9	3	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
	Total . .	..	6	20	35	70	93	..	11	5	..	..	12	323				
Grand total		9	110	183	269	562	596	16	125	98	4	..	99	3056							

J. P. KENNEDY, Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 17, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh acknowledging the receipt of his letter dated 14th instant, and state in reply as follows.

Their Lordships authorize the formation of depôts of Indian corn meal at Limerick, Sligo, Longford, or Richmond Harbours, and, if it should be found necessary, at Drogheda or Dundalk.

As it is considered desirable that one-third or one-fourth of oatmeal should at first be mixed with the Indian corn, their Lordships have requested the Lords

Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause the stock of oatmeal which has been ground at Deptford to be shipped without delay to Dublin consigned to Sir R. Routh, and have made arrangements for making a shipment of oatmeal to Limerick, respecting which a further communication will be made to Sir R. Routh.

Their Lordships are pleased to authorize the following arrangements respecting the additional officers and others required for this service.

Assistant Commissary-General Thomas Kearney to be appointed to the charge of the dépôt at Sligo.

Two constabulary officers to be selected for the purpose by Lieutenant-Colonel McGregor, to be temporarily employed on this service on an extra allowance of 5s. per diem, whenever their services may be required by Sir R. Routh.

Commissariat Clerks M'Clintock and Moore to be called on by Sir R. Routh to join the department in Ireland when their services may be required.

Mr. R. S. Cameron to be employed as a temporary clerk in Sir R. Routh's office at 7s. 6d. a day; and Sergeant Brown as a storekeeper under Mr. Coffin at 2s. 6d. a day.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 14, 1846.

I HAVE mentioned in my letter the issuing of part oatmeal at first with the corn meal, which was partly suggested by your letter of the 11th instant, with the enclosure from Captain Macconochie, and it is for you to judge of its necessity, but many judicious and intelligent persons here have informed me that this is the only sure way of inducing the Irish to adopt readily the Indian corn meal. I think the publicity given to the intentions of Government will work well. It will show the public that there is no intention of throwing away the public money without proper investigation, and I think it will diminish the rush upon the Commission for relief.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 15, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before, you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter dated 12th instant, from Commissary-General Hewetson, and to invite your attention to his estimate of the capabilities for grinding of the Lee mill, which he states at 600 barrels, or 2400 bushels per week.

This report will influence your opinion on the answers given to Messrs. Dennistone and Co. of Limerick, and to another application from Sligo, and the expediency which appears now to exist of grinding the corn at both of these dépôts. But I think in both it should be performed by contract at a given rate to be agreed upon by bushel.

You will observe in the Indian corn memorandum forwarded to you, two preparations where the corn is used in a broken but unground state, as samp and hominy, and also whole by the Canadians without the husk. I therefore think it will be desirable to preserve part of the corn for these preparations, which are much esteemed in America, and are considered as the most palatable to strangers.

I beg also to bring under your consideration the advantage to be derived from a second steamer to be available at Cork as the other cargoes arrive, in order that they may be transhipped at once without a double expense of landing.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, February 12, 1846.

THE advice of Messrs. Baring from New York to the 17th ult., showing, including the order to New Orleans, I may expect at least 350,000 bushels of Indian corn shortly to arrive here, I have the honour to bring under your notice for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, that if the whole or even a large portion of this supply is to be manufactured into meal in this country, additional means of grinding, far beyond the power of the Lee mills,

extensive as they are, will be indispensably necessary. You will have observed by my previous reports, these mills are estimated to turn out, during certain periods of the year, from 800 to 1000 barrels of grain per week, and at other times working three or more pairs of stones, according to the state of their water power. Indian corn, upon which we have been experimenting, I find cannot be turned out so quickly as wheat, not only from the larger size of the grain, but from it being necessary that the stones should be kept wider apart, and not driven too rapidly; admitting this difference in working the two grains, I will now estimate their capability at 600 barrels or 2400 bushels per week of fair water power under this view; but 30,000 bushels will be manufactured into meal in the Lee mills by the middle of May, a period when I expect the demand upon us for food will commence to be pressing. Thus, although I hope in the course of a month we shall have 30,000 barrels of United States' ground meal at Haulbowline (5,850,000 lbs.). I would submit the urgent necessity of immediate steps being taken for further grinding in private mills, those worked by steam having a preference, even at an increased cost, advertising to receive tenders from millowners for manufacturing it into meal at per quarter of eight bushels; the ordinary toll, or charge for grinding, I am given to understand, is 2s. or 2s. 6d. per barrel of 20 stone, or 280 lbs. It may be deemed desirable that some cargoes of unground Indian corn should be sent direct from Cove to Limerick, Sligo, or any other ports, where depôts are to be formed, provided mills can be had on the spot: such an arrangement would save the expense of the lighterage, cartage, labour, &c. which would be incurred in bringing it up here for manufacture. A measure of this kind would also hasten our operations by dividing this large supply of grain among a more or less number of private mills. The stones used for wheat, with some alteration in the mode of dressing (with which all millers are conversant), I find by trials here, and which have proved very satisfactory, quite equal to the manufacture of Indian corn into meal, and as it is of great importance, looking to the object for which the corn is imported, to turn a large portion into meal before the summer. I lose no time in bringing the subject under notice. I have, however, at the same time to add, and it deserves serious consideration, that Indian corn in its unground state affords, prepared as *Aswey*, an equally nutritious food as the other preparations from the meal, and the *Aswey* being more substantial, is better suited to the tastes of the people. This opinion is confirmed by intelligent men with whom I have conversed; the saving of expense by using the corn in its unground state, shelling it only, would be very considerable, and the facility of transport through the country greatly increased. In either case it will be necessary that printed directions for its use should be very generally circulated throughout the country, and the ecclesiastics and gentry of the districts called on to exert their influence to do away with any prejudice that might arise, when their people are necessitated to use this description of food as a substitute for the potato.

The pressure of my duties outside, as I find it most necessary to give personal attendance to everything that is going on, though ably assisted by Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Midday, prevents me for the present from reporting fully the working establishment I have put into the mills and granaries, and the arrangements made for obtaining lighterage, cartage, and labour, also the expense in the purchase of sacks, &c., and fitting up a guard-room on the mill and granary premises. I can only now say the service is rapidly progressing.

The additional granaries of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford I shall, in conformity to the authority of their Lordships, shortly treat for: the cargoes of the two large ships (now at Passage) are fast landing, and I should observe, having applied to the Admiral to select an experienced officer to hold the required surveys, he has appointed the Purser of the flag-ship for that duty, to act in conjunction with another party on behalf of Messrs. Baring: they will commence surveying when the deliveries from the "Adirondack" and "Atlas" are completed.

In closing the Report, I must add that the meal merchants, salesmen, and others, say that corn meal in this damp climate, to keep sweet and sound, must be sacked and piled three or four days after cooling: hence the necessity of a large supply of sacks for that purpose. Up to the present time I have only been able to secure (by purchase) 3000 fit for our operations, at a cost not exceeding 1s. 9d. each, but I expect to get more in a few days.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 17, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships have had before them his letter dated 15th instant, with its enclosure from Commissary-General Hewetson, dated 12th instant, representing the insufficiency of the mills which have been hired at Cork to grind within the required time all the Indian corn expected from America.

Their Lordships desire that those mills may be used in preference to every other means, to the utmost extent to which they are available.

But if it should become necessary to send a portion of the Indian corn in grain to Limerick, Sligo, or any other quarter, with a view to its being ground on the spot, Sir R. Routh will take the necessary steps for that purpose, either by directing one or more of the vessels to proceed to the required port on their arrival at Cork from America, or by forwarding a portion of their cargoes in steamers.

In case private mills should be employed to grind a portion of the Indian corn, Sir R. Routh will have the service performed on the most moderate terms pro-

curable by public competition, and more than the usual charge for grinding is in no case to be given.

If, as is stated to be probable, there should hereafter appear to be a demand for Indian corn in its unground state, Sir R. Routh will reserve such quantity of the grain as he may consider likely to be required in this state.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have, as recommended by Sir R. Routh, been requested to place another steam vessel at his disposal, to insure the prompt conveyance of the Indian corn from Cork to the points at which it may be required.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 17, 1846.

You will see by my two official letters of this date that all your recommendations which have been received up to the present time, both in regard to establishments and every other point, have been fully complied with.

All applications for grants under Acts of Parliament must come, according to the prescribed legal course, to the Treasury, but I will take care that there is no delay.

I have laid it down as a rule, so far as depends upon me and those acting under me, that everything relating to the scarcity in Ireland is answered by *return of post*. The application for the Moyferta grant, received yesterday, was so answered.

The plan of the Local Committee employed to act in concert with the officer of the Board of Works charged with the execution of the works at Moyferta, appears to me to have been very well arranged, but I must await the receipt of your official letter on this subject before I venture any further opinion on the constitution and functions of such Local Committees.

The oatmeal which has been ground at Deptford will come into use for the Richmond Harbour and Louth depôts, and we shall provide a sufficient shipment for Sligo and Limerick.

We wish to avoid *altogether*, if possible, and, at any rate, *as long as possible*, making purchases in Ireland.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 17, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, sundry resolutions for the formation of local committees submitted by me to the Commission, and passed unanimously; and to acquaint you that they have been submitted to the Lord Lieutenant for his Excellency's approval previously to promulgation.

This arrangement is part of the system which I propose to carry out to meet the expected distress in this country.

My first object is to establish certain central depôts in the vicinity of those localities which have been most seriously visited by the disease.

The points already determined are—

Cork, Limerick, Sligo, Richmond Harbour, or Longford.

I have dispatched Assistant Commissary-General Lester to examine the facilities which present themselves at Drogheda and Dundalk, the first of which communicates by railroad to Dublin.

From these, and such other depôts as the service may require, I propose to establish ramifications in the interior, and the object of appointing and conveying written instructions to local committees, is to carry out through them a superintendence and a channel of appropriation under a system of account, which will be subject to check and supervision by the superior Commissariat officer of the district.

Indeed, any gentlemen of general ability and knowledge of business, in whom the Government may have confidence, might be advantageously requested hereafter to visit these committees, and by their weight and influence to encourage and direct their exertions, and to suggest to the Commission such amendments in their constitution and detail as may improve the operation of their duties.

My Lords will, perhaps, consider this view of the case hereafter, and delegate some gentlemen who may be disposed to undertake this office.

I propose to give Assistant Commissary-General Thomas Kearney his instructions to proceed to Sligo to-morrow, as I think the time is arrived that he should be there; and it is just to this gentleman to say, that he has volunteered this duty from a patriotic feeling. He is a magistrate and a grand juror in the county of Kildare; and out of 1800*l.* collected in his parish of Killock and Newtown, he was a subscriber personally of 200*l.*

As he will have to superintend the grinding as well as the formation of the depôt, I think it is desirable for the time that his department should be adequate to the duty. I should wish to order Mr. Moore from Tyrone to join him, in addition to Mr. Bailey, and to give him some competent assistance from the lower ranks of the constabulary.

You will observe that the first formation of these establishments requires more assistance than the subsequent duty of carrying on a routine already laid down.

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from Minutes of the Relief Commissioners of the 16th February, 1846.

The Commission having had under their consideration the necessity of establishing local Committees properly organised in the several districts where destitution is likely to prevail, through whose superintendence the approach and progress of distress in such localities may be watched, and the means of relief administered according to the instructions of the Government:

It is resolved—

1st.—That Lieutenants of counties be requested to form Committees for conveniently sized relief districts in those cases where it shall be established, on good and sufficient grounds, that very considerable loss of the potato crop has been sustained, and that extreme distress is near at hand.

That the Committees be comprised of the following classes:—

Lieutenant or Deputy,
Magistrates of Petty Sessions,
Officer of Board of Works,
Clergymen of all persuasions,
Chairmen of the Poor Law Union of the locality,
Poor Law Guardians of Districts,
Coast Guard Officer,
Resident Magistrate,

and such other active and intelligent gentlemen as the Lieutenant may select.

2nd.—That the Committee should hold regular meetings at a time and place, or places, to be fixed, where all Committee business should be transacted; and that regular Minutes should be kept of their proceedings in a book to be supplied to them from this Commission; and that three members should be a quorum.

3rd.—That the Committee should make themselves acquainted with the provisions of the Act 1 Viet., ch. 21, and the amendments to this Act, now in progress through Parliament, which are intended to afford a summary method of applying relief by means of public works; observing that it is desirable, in order to facilitate the operations of that statute within the district, that all memorials from special sessions held under this Act should be accompanied by proper plans, sections, and estimates of the works proposed to be constructed.

4th.—That a most important duty of the Committee will be to promote by every means in their power the most profitable and most natural sources of employment in their districts, by stimulating private enterprise, by urging the improvements and drainage of farms and estates, and by promulgating a knowledge of the facilities afforded by the Legislature for these objects, many of which are now under the consideration of Parliament to meet the present emergency.

See Address to Landed Proprietors,

Estates Drainage Act,

Amendment of Drainage Act,

Amendment of Board of Works Act, enabling Proprietors to borrow Money for Improvements,

Grand Jury Presentment Act,

Fishery Piers Act.

To supply the Committee with all possible information, copies of the foregoing documents are herewith sent.

5th.—That it is evident, and is also in strict accordance with the views and instructions of the Government, that the landholders and other ratepayers are the parties both legally and morally answerable for affording due relief to the destitute poor; and that the same parties are, from their local influence and their knowledge of the situation and wants of the people in their neighbourhood, best able to furnish such relief without waste or misdirection of the means employed.

That the measures to be adopted by the officers of Government are to be considered merely as auxiliary to those which it is the duty of the persons possessed of property in each neighbourhood to adopt.

That if these proprietors should require assistance, the most simple and satisfactory arrangement would be, to transfer the necessary quantity of food, at cost price, including the expense of carriage, to the Board of Guardians of the Union, or to some local association of any smaller district, to be by them distributed on their own responsibility at cost price, or in the shape of wages of labour to be employed on local works, or, when absolute destitution is united to inability of labour, in gratuitous donations.

That in those cases in which local associations shall have made arrangements for the relief of the destitute in their neighbourhood, and have entered into subscriptions for that purpose, but notwithstanding those efforts some assistance is likely to be required from the Government, a list of the sums subscribed, together with a list of the landlords who will not contribute, should be submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, who, after due consideration of the case, will determine on the sum to be contributed from the funds at his disposal in aid of the local subscriptions.

But those landlords are not to be considered in the list of persons refusing to contribute, who by farm drainage, by other works of a more general nature on their estates, or by residence and employment, enable their tenants to meet the present emergency without an appeal to the public assistance.

6th.—That some few and very particular instances may occur in which this relief cannot be afforded through the agency of voluntary associations or of the Board of Guardians, and that it must be conducted by the direct agency of the Commissariat, or of the Coast-guard or other Government officers, or by the local committees hereby appointed on their behalf; that in such instances stations shall be established in the distressed localities for the sale of food at cost price; and gratuitous relief shall be given only when the means of purchasing are absolutely wanting. That in those instances where there is an absence of all such means of purchasing by the people, the following rules are to be invariably observed:—

- 1st. That a task of work should be required from every person capable of giving it, who applies for relief.
- 2nd. That the payments for the work performed should be made in food, and should in every case be limited to such a quantity of food as will be sufficient to support the workman and the helpless persons of his family.
- 3rd. That if in any case it should be impracticable to pay in food, the payments in money will be limited to what is absolutely necessary for the above purpose.
- 4th. That gratuitous relief be afforded only to those persons who are entirely incapable of giving a day's work, and who have no relative on whom they are dependent, and who is capable of working; and in those cases only in which their reception in the workhouse of the Union to which they belong is from want of room impracticable; and, lastly,
- 5th. That the works in which destitute persons are employed should be in prosecution of some public improvement, approved of by the Commission, within or adjacent to the distressed locality, and should be such as will be capable of being brought at once to a close, when the circumstances of the people are improved.

7th.—That the Committee should obtain returned lists, with minute reports of the circumstances of each family from whom application for relief may be made; and at their meetings certificates or tickets should be given to such only as are ascertained to be without means of providing food for their families; and that certificates or tickets be an authority to the Superintendent of the public works for receiving the persons to whom they are granted; and that a register of all certificates or tickets granted by the Committee be preserved in a book to be supplied for that purpose by this Commission.

8th.—That the Committee should be prepared with plans or suggestions of small useful works of public improvement for the employment of the destitute poor, in all cases where relief is given to the able-bodied, and on which the County Surveyor will report to this Commission.

9th.—That the Secretary, or person officiating as such, of the Committee, should take charge of the books, correspondence, &c.; and in those instances in which it may be necessary to keep an account of the appropriation of public stores, the Commission will take means to procure from the constabulary force a person capable of discharging that duty.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Liverick, February 17, 1846.

My proceedings have been altogether directed to the two objects of obtaining and imparting information, the one almost as necessary as the other; the uncertainty hitherto prevailing with regard to the nature and extent of the intended Government measures having very much perplexed people of all classes, and rendered them doubtful how to act. I have already corrected many misapprehensions, and I hope succeeded, in some degree, in inspiring confidence in our intentions; but when scarcely any two men are agreed in opinion

on the extent of the evil, or the nature of the appropriate remedy, it is not to be expected that many should unite in a thorough approval of our proceedings. I nevertheless find myself very well received by all with whom I have to communicate, and I think there is a general anxiety to mitigate the impending calamity, which may induce people of all classes to join in carrying out the Government measures when once they are distinctly understood. I have had a great deal of unreserved conversation both with country gentlemen and with merchants and traders of all descriptions, and I do not perceive anything like indifference to the anticipated distress of the people, however much they may dissent from each others views as to its probable extent, and the means by which it should be met. All concur in deprecating gratuitous relief of any kind, and in considering the provision of employment as the proper groundwork of any scheme of assistance, but I am most anxious that the suggestions of the Government should be promulgated as speedily as possible, because, until we see in what spirit and to what extent they are practically adopted through the country, it will be impossible to judge of the kind and degree of exertion likely to be required on our part. With the cordial co-operation of the influential members of the community, I trust that we may execute our task with comparative ease, but it will be a fearful one if we are left to our own unassisted efforts.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 18, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh referring to that part of the letter from this Board of yesterday's date, in which it was observed that their Lordships would cause the stock of oatmeal which has been ground at Deptford to be shipped without delay to Dublin consigned to him, and state that their Lordships have, on further consideration, deemed it more advisable that the oatmeal in question, being 5010 bushels, or about 125 tons, should be sent to Cork, to be distributed from thence under his directions to the different depôts in such proportions as it may be required; and directions have been given for its being shipped accordingly with the least practicable delay, consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson.

Also state that their Lordships have adopted measures for providing further supplies of oatmeal for this service.

Further acquaint Sir R. Routh that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been informed that it is desirable that the second steamer should, like the one already appointed for this service, be held in readiness at Cork, to await such orders as may be from time to time given by Commissary-General Hewetson, acting under his (Sir R. Routh's) directions.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty and request that the entire stock of oatmeal which has been ground at Deptford, in aid of the supplies intended for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity in Ireland, may be shipped with the least practicable delay for Cork, consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson, and that every exertion may be made to provide further supplies of oatmeal for this service, by means of the Admiralty mills.

Also request that another of Her Majesty's steam-vessels may be placed at the disposal of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh to insure the prompt conveyance of the Indian corn and other supplies from Cork to the points at which they may be required.

Add that Sir R. Routh is at Dublin, and it is desirable that the second steamer should, like the one already appointed to this service, be held in readiness at Cork, to await such orders as may from time to time be given by Commissary-General Hewetson who is acting at that station under Sir R. Routh's directions.

MT. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 19, 1846.

THE following copy of my letter of this morning to Messrs. Baring, will show you what measures have been adopted for obtaining further supplies of oatmeal through their house.

You shall be immediately informed of the purchases actually effected, with all necessary particulars of price, &c.

Besides this, the Admiralty have been requested to keep their mill in constant work, which it has not been lately, owing to necessary repairs.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Messrs. BARING BROTHERS.

Treasury, February 19, 1846.

I beg to confirm in writing my verbal order to you of yesterday, for the purchase of one hundred tons of oatmeal in the markets of London, Liverpool and Glasgow, as soon as may be, without raising the price, and when purchased, to be held by your agents until further directions.

The meal to be of good, but not of the best quality, if the higher qualities are more costly.

As it is possible that I may hereafter have further orders to give you, it is important that it should not transpire, even when this order has been executed, that it was on account of the Government.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE.

Treasury, February 19, 1846.

I SEND herewith a sack of the kind required by Mr. Hewetson, suited to contain meal as well as grain, and I shall be obliged to you to inform me at what price, and within what time, the following numbers can be furnished strictly in accordance with this specimen: 2500, 5000, 10,000.

I am anxious for a speedy answer, but I wish, nevertheless, that the specimen should be sent with my question to several principal manufacturers and dealers in such articles, in order that they may compete for the supply.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 20, 1846.

THE scheme for the Local Committees appears to me to be well devised, and I entirely agree with you that the time has arrived for the authoritative promulgation of the plans of the Government.

The appointment of a well qualified person belonging to the Constabulary Force to act as Secretary to each Local Committee, seems well calculated to maintain a proper concert with the Commissariat and other officers employed.

I do not feel myself authorised to enter upon the question of the reconstitution of the Commission, but of this I am quite satisfied, that whatever constitution may be given to it, your services in the Commission will be, as they have hitherto been, most valuable, and that the duties of the important department entrusted to your special charge, the operations of which form the basis of every plan of relief, will be conducted in a manner which will reflect credit on every officer employed, and, through them, on the department at large.

I cannot believe that it will be necessary to grind the Indian corn twice. We must not aim at giving more than *wholesome* food. It would do permanent harm to make dependence on public charity an agreeable mode of life.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

SIR,

Limerick, February 20, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an estimate of the further sum likely to be required for the service of this dépôt during the remainder of the present month.

I also beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed letter from Deputy Commissary-General Kearney, and to inform you that I shall authorize him at once to engage the services of a temporary storekeeper such as he describes, it being of the utmost importance that the storage of the corn and meal should be commenced by an experienced person, to avoid injury to the supplies, as well as loss of space in the stores.

The ordinary remuneration of such a person appears to be about a guinea a-week;

and it seems not improbable that the additional store-duty created by the operation of grinding will fully occupy the time and attention of one person as long as it may last, and that the employment of two storekeepers will thus be indispensable. For the present, however, I shall consider the appointment as only temporary.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 21, 1846.

THE principal baker here has applied to me for a barrel of the meal, paying for it, to make it known in different ways to the Dublin public, and I have begged Mr. Hewetson to send it to me.

The Lord Lieutenant informed me that Sir James Graham approved the instructions for the local committees, but did not think it prudent to issue them as general circulars, but only on occasions of distress near at hand, as the emergency called on us to act. The very first article was intended to imply this reserve; but, in fact, out of the 32 counties, there are 20 which have districts already implicated in a loss of more than half of the crop.

I partly expect to hear from you on the subject to-morrow, and I wait until Monday before we take any steps, in this expectation.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the report of Assistant Commissary-General Lister, in regard to Dundalk and Drogheda. In reference to the first, I must have some communication with the Commander of the Forces, as the present garrison is limited to a detachment of cavalry, but in other respects it is well situated as a central dépôt. Mr. Lister failed in obtaining any offer of a building suitable for a dépôt at Drogheda. For our purposes Navan would be a better selection for counties Meath and borders of Cavan, and it communicates by canal with Drogheda; but there is no military force there. Both these subjects, therefore, require a little more consideration and reference to Sir Edward Blakeney.

Mr. Coffin proceeds this day to Kilrush, which is the seaport of County Clare, and we must have a small dépôt there, which may be confided to the charge of the officer of the coast guard, under Mr. Coffin's authority. Mr. Coffin will return immediately and proceed to Banagher, which I have requested him to examine. It is a considerable town on the Shannon, at the head of the navigation of the Grand Canal, and has excellent mills. It also communicates by canal with Ballinasloe in Galway, which is the Poor Law Union. He will then proceed to Athlone, and settle the question with Sir Guy Campbell in regard to the selection of Richmond or Longford, as there is no garrison at the former, and we cannot act without military protection. He will stop at both these places, and complete the measure that may be decided on by engaging the necessary magazines. Mr. Coffin will then continue his route to Sligo, and will acquaint himself and report on all the localities, and direct the proper measures to be adopted by Assistant Commissary-General Kearney, the description of stores to be hired, and the plan to be pursued in a prudent competition for grinding without risk to the public property.

I have uniformly recommended to all the officers to cause the Indian corn to be kiln-dried before it is ground, and there are kilns attached to all the considerable mills in Ireland, as the best means to secure the safe keeping of the meal, which is a delicate article and subject to casualties.

As soon as Mr. Coffin has completed these arrangements, he will return to Limerick *via* Galway, and, if necessary, stop at Castlebar and Westport, and I calculate, with the expedition which he proposes to use, that he will be at Limerick about the 5th or 6th of March; and as soon as possible after his return, Deputy Commissary-General Kearney will proceed to Longford or Richmond, and actively carry out the formation of his dépôt, which I think would be more conveniently supplied by the Royal Canal; and I recommend this route to your attention in any

future shipment of oatmeal, but without meaning to interfere with the direction of the present shipment from Deptford.

I think this statement will give you a general view of the proposed arrangements for our central dépôt, as far as I can see any way, with the exception of Waterford, where I think there should be an officer and a dépôt. It communicates with Ashy by the river Barrow, which is a branch of the Grand Canal, and it affords a superintendence to Wexford on one side, and Kilkenny and Tipperary on the other.

I request your consideration of this suggestion, and of the appointment of Deputy Commissary-General Dobree to this duty, if my Lords approve of my views.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Trinam, February 23, 1846.

I HAVE had the pleasure of receiving your private letters dated the 19th and 21st instant.

You appear to be proceeding on all points in the right direction, and with a good understanding with all concerned.

Colonel Jones will return without delay, after having fully communicated with all parties here.

I spoke to him about procuring for you an office in the Castle, by which, I believe, much of your valuable time would be saved; and I should hope that the Lord Lieutenant would not now feel any objection to it.

Colonel Jones thinks that in regard to some of the Local Committees, it would be advisable to appoint secretaries of a higher rank than that of constabulary constable; and in order to give the Commission all the facilities in my power, I have taken measures for procuring from the War-office the following lists:—

1. Staff-officers of pensioners now employed in Ireland, with a note against the names of those who appear particularly well qualified for such duties. Colonel Tulloch, the Superintendent of the Out-pension Department, himself suggested that this class of officers might with advantage be temporarily employed in this manner, leaving their ordinary duties to be performed, meanwhile, in a greater degree by their staff-sergeants.

2. Adjutants of Militia, with the same details.

3. A selected number of officers from the Secretary at War's list of candidates for the situation of Paymaster of Out-Pensioners.

It is possible that, in fixing the price to be charged for the Indian-corn meal, we may be obliged to advert to other considerations besides that of what it actually cost us.

For instance, it might not be advisable to charge more than the price at which oatmeal can ordinarily be obtained. I mention this in order that you may be aware that I look for the free exercise of your judgment in your report upon the subject.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me particularly to mention to you that his object in sending you such applications as Mr. Kiernan's, is merely to *dispose of them* by sending them to the authority whose duty it is to decide in the first instance on them, and that nothing is farther from his wishes than that you should give such applications more weight than they are entitled to, merely because they reached you through him.

I have sent you by railroad a box of Indian-corn bread, received from Mr. Robertson through Messrs. Baring, and intended for your examination, and through you for that of the Commission, and of the Lord Lieutenant. You will, I presume, also give specimens to your friend the baker.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 23, 1846.

SIR James Graham's letter was communicated by me to the Commission this morning, and the whole arrangement very amicably received. The complete Board will meet every Tuesday, and the Committee daily; and there will be a great increase of activity and efficiency. The printer has not sent the proof-sheet of the extracts of the Pamphlet for the Poor, which ought to have been ready on Saturday.

I have been examining Mr. Hewetson's calculations and the later letters you

have sent to me from Messrs. Baring, and I think that 1d. per lb. will offer a fair and ample remuneration to the Government; but you shall have it in an official shape for the decision of the Treasury. The proprietors of the copper-mines near Waterford have been offering it to their workmen at 16d. per stone, and they refused to purchase it at that rate. They had imported it expressly for that purpose. I am only delaying in order to give you the information more completely.

Galway had a fortunate shoal of herrings about a month or six weeks ago, which they salted and in part sold, and I do not expect they can require assistance from us, at least for some time to come.

Bannagher for the moment is more important than Galway.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 24, 1846.

FATHER MATHEW has been with me to-day. I gave him your letter to read; of course he felt gratified by your remarks; he fully agrees with me that the meal, *once* ground, with the light corn sifted, according to a sample I sent you, is the proper meal for the classes who need it; I am now grinding nothing else; and as all our stones have been finished dressing for Indian corn, 14 pairs are at work, one pair being always in the dresser's hands; and I fully expect to turn out 1000 sacks of *once*-ground meal, each sack 20 stone, or 280 pounds, per week, should our power keep its present strength.

Four extensive kilns are at work night and day, and will do our work well; but the expenditure of coal is necessarily great; however, it secures our meal and corn in perfect order. I was all yesterday at Haulbowline looking to the "Atlas" discharging, and the loading of our steamers, also preparing for the arrival of the "Tiger;" the Admiral, at my request, has ordered the guardship to stop her off Haulbowline, if she comes in after dark, to prevent her running up here. I hope to be able to save a good portion of the "Atlas's" damaged corn, although much of it is in a bad state from heat, even to germinating; but as we want every grain of sound corn we can get, I shall endeavour to save to the utmost consistent with our interests. The Collector, who meets my requests in every way, has written to the out-ports, to take off all restrictions in loading our shipments in the Queen's steamers coastways.

I shall be glad to have the sacks, as I am rapidly bagging meal. Of course, I have much going on that I have not time to acquaint you with. Government declaring its intentions in respect to the supplies will have the immediate effect of bringing down market prices; the quartern loaf here is 8d., and 7d. second quality, but I annex a statement of market prices, which will give all the information. I am waiting your reply to dispatch one of my officers to Limerick, and hope it will be as requested.

We have worked the people employed so hard, that they struck *three* times, to the great dismay of our contractor for unloading and lofting the corn: it is severe labour; 1100 sacks per day occasionally, each 280 lbs. in weight. The Cork merchants are quite astonished at our dispatch; they think 600 per day heavy work. We also now and then work all night, but I do not like it, as it is necessary on such occasions to have so many lights in the premises: whenever it can possibly be avoided, I do so. The mills and kilns, of course, go night and day; we have our gangs of people accordingly. Of the sample sacks sent me from the Tower, the *five*-hushel sacks only answer; there were six of these; I chose four out of the six as patterns, but as they had no mark, I cannot describe them.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 24, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh as follows, in reply to his letter dated 21st instant:—

Their Lordships approve of the hire of the store on Howley's Quay, at Limerick, provided the owner will consent to the Government having the option of retaining the premises from month to month, at the same rate, for a further period not exceeding six months.

This or some other similar provision should be made in every instance of the hire of magazines, in order to meet the possible case of supplies remaining in store after the scarcity has ceased.

Their Lordships approve of the appointment of a non-commissioned officer of the constabulary, with an additional allowance of 2s. 6d. a day, to be attached to Deputy Commissary-General Kearney, or to be employed in such other manner as may from time to time be required.

Their Lordships regret the necessity of appointing a second Storekeeper at Limerick before any store has been established; and they desire that care may be taken in future not to engage any persons until their services are actually required.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVETTAN.

On the Shannon, February 24, 1846.

I RECEIVED your note just as I was stepping on board the steamer to go to Kilrush, from whence I returned yesterday, but remained in Limerick no longer than was necessary to arrange some business with Mr. Kearney, and am now on board the steamer going up to Longford, and thence to Sligo and Galway.

I should consider my task likely to be an easy one if I could flatter myself that every had district will be as well looked after as Kilrush promises to be. We shall see our way better as we go on, but there are some cases threatening us with which I hardly know at present how we shall be able to deal if they are numerous.

TREASURY MINUTE.

February 24, 1846.

Transmit to Commissary-General Hewetson copy of the letter from the Board of Ordnance of the 21st inst., stating that sacks of the quality of the specimen which he forwarded to this Board can be provided in London, and delivered at the rate of 4000 weekly after the expiration of three weeks from the date of the order, and at the cost of one shilling and fivepence halfpenny each.

In his letter of the 22d inst., Mr. Hewetson states that the sample No. 2 of five-bushel meal-sacks, being one of the samples which were sent to him from hence, will in all respects answer for the special service for which they are wanted; but he has not replied to the inquiry of this Board to what extent, in his opinion, the offer to supply these sacks ought to be accepted. The price of them is one shilling and eightpence halfpenny each.

Under these circumstances, my Lords will direct that 5000 five-bushel meal-sacks, according to the sample No. 2, may be provided, marked in the manner requested by him, and consigned to him at Cork; and he may calculate on receiving them in about ten days.

He will report, for their Lordships' information, whether he considers that a further order should be given for the same description of sacks; and if so, to what extent; or whether any, and if any, what number of sacks of the description referred to in the first part of this letter, corresponding with the specimen sent by him, might with advantage be provided here and forwarded to Ireland.

Transmit to Sir R. Routh, for his information, copy of the letter to be written to Mr. Hewetson.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance, and request he will move the Master-General and Board to direct that an immediate order may be given to Messrs. T. and D. Henry to supply 5000 five-bushel flour-sacks, marked as in the margin, at one shilling and eightpence halfpenny each, according to the sample No. 2 annexed to their offer of the 12th inst., received with Mr. Byham's letter of the same date.

Further, request that these sacks may be consigned with the least practicable delay to Commissary-General Hewetson, at Cork, who has been informed that he may calculate on receiving them in about ten days from the present date.

Add that it will depend upon Reports to be received from Ireland whether any additional number of sacks will be required.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 24, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter and Protest from Commissary General Hewetson, reporting considerable damage to the cargo of the American ship 'Atlas,' on which my Lords will find it necessary to communicate with Messrs. Baring Brothers.

Not knowing in what terms the insurance, if any, was effected, but bearing in mind the very prudent instructions of Mr. Ward, in regard to the purchase, and the annexed extract of Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn, and Co.'s letter, who seem to have been quite aware of the danger of shipping the new corn, I cannot offer any decided opinion; but I am inclined to doubt the liability of the shippers. Great caution seems to have been used, and we have now only Mr. Hewetson's first report, which may be modified by his subsequent examination.

In the meanwhile every care shall be taken to ventilate and expose to the air the heated grain; and it will be desirable to have the result of their Lordships' communication with Messrs. Baring Brothers made known to us at your early convenience.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from a LETTER of Messrs. GRINNELL, MINTURN, and Co., to Messrs. BARING BROTHERS, dated 31st Dec. 1845, New York.

"Our separate letter will acquaint you with the progress made in the execution of your valuable order for Indian corn and corn meal. The only description of corn which can now be obtained (since the first cargoes were purchased) is of *this year's growth*, of which so little has been shipped to Europe at this period in former years, that it is impossible to obtain facts to assure us of its safe keeping; for which reason we had suspended shipments to allow the grain to become dry; but in view of the importance of dispatch, Mr. Ward, upon consideration of the whole matter, has decided to have it go forward immediately, and we shall therefore rapidly proceed in chartering and loading vessels. It is certain that the grain this season is in an unusually fine condition, and all possible care has been used in selecting the parcels purchased; and although we feel great confidence that it will go safely, we recommend that the vessels should be discharged as soon after arrival as possible; should any be heated, it will be the upper surface of a cargo, and the remedy is drying by exposure to the air."

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 27, 1846.

Transmit this letter and its enclosures in original to the Commissioners of Audit, in continuation of previous letters from this Board on the subject of the cargo of the "Atlas," and state that their Lordships do not propose to communicate with Messrs. Baring, as recommended by Sir R. Routh, until they shall have received a report from the Commissioners of Audit, suggesting any proceedings which it may be proper to adopt, in reference to the cargo of this vessel.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 25, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 23rd, and I shall not be at all sorry if you should have influence enough to procure us an office in the Castle, for I lose so much time in going and coming, that the day is gone before I perceive it. I will also again speak to Mr. Pennefather on the subject, for I am obliged to sit up by night to hurry through my correspondence. I am now writing to you at half-past 10 o'clock.

I thank you very much for the interest you take in regard to the Secretaries of the Local Committees, but I am not quite certain that the staff-officers you name will, in point of fact, be more efficient than the painstaking, hardworking constable, who is doubly responsible to his own chief and to us, and knows the

character and persons of every man he has to deal with, and can require the services of all his corps. The others have the advantage of the rank, which is a great advantage if we can be sure of the other qualifications. It is a question for reflection.

I have been obliged to put a few queries to Mr. Hewetson before I can lay before you a cost price. I am quite aware that the price of oatmeal must affect the decision.

I did not understand the Chancellor of the Exchequer to refer the applications in any other sense than as you describe, but still I am glad to have it confirmed by you.

The Commander of the Forces has agreed to place a sufficient infantry force in Dundalk, but the prosperity of Drogheda, partly from the railroad and other causes, occupies every storehouse in that town. My best resource is Dublin, with a store between the mouths of the two canals, which will command an immense tract of country, and be evidently a more comprehensive source of supply, and a rapid channel of communication with your arrangements at home. As soon as I have half a day to spare, I shall lay these views officially before you.

We have been engaged the whole of this day in certain details of order and routine in our instructions to Local Committees, so as to make them as practical as possible; and we shall, I hope, bring this to a conclusion to-morrow. It is most important that a deliberate and mature consideration should be given now to each item before we put them forth, that they may be clear to every one's understanding, and require no subsequent explanation. The old maxim "caution in devising and determination in executing" is worthy of all our attention.

The Lord Lieutenant appears much pleased with the new constitution of the Commission. He is very kind, and affords to us every means of assistance we can desire, and never fails to express an interest in what is passing.

I have just received the bread, which I find excellent, but there is not enough of the Indian meal to give it a fair trial; but it was excellent. I have eaten a plate full. I sent a loaf of each kind to the Lord Lieutenant.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, February 26, 1846.

I now fulfil my promise of sending you Lists of the Out Pension Officers and Adjutants of Militia, with memoranda from Colonel Tulloch of those among them who would be likely to be most useful to your Commission.

I also send five spare copies of the List of Staff-Officers of Pensioners, without the private memoranda.

Colonel Tulloch mentioned to me that you would do well to communicate on this subject with Major Swan, the senior officer at Dublin, and if you require any special or circular orders to be issued to these officers from the War Office, you will let me know.

I will send you the List of Officers selected from the Secretary at War's List of Candidates for Out Pension Paymasterships, as soon as I receive it from Colonel Tulloch.

My own inclination, however, would be, when the choice lies between two officers of nearly equal qualifications, one constabulary and the other belonging to the out-pension department, to prefer the constabulary officer, because he would be backed by a more powerful and efficient organization than the other, and one better suited to our purposes.

The officers and other trustworthy persons belonging to the coast-guard may be employed with advantage on the coast, as they were by Sir John Hill in 1836, (see page 18 of the Printed Correspondence relating to former periods of scarcity, under the head of "Allocation of Oatmeal, &c.") unless there should be other parties whom it would be more desirable to employ.

In some cases the Commission will, I presume, avail itself of the assistance of the officers and others of the Revenue Police, and I am sure you will have Colonel Brereton's hearty co-operation.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co.

Treasury, February 27, 1846.

On full consideration, I think it would not be advisable to send instructions to the United States that any charterparties which may still have to be entered into for the conveyance of Indian corn to this country, should contain a provision for the cargo being deliverable in any part of Ireland.

Such an arrangement would, as you observe, enhance the freight on the whole quantity sent, while it is doubtful whether we should have occasion to avail ourselves of the power of sending on the vessels to places on the West Coast, even if we possessed it.

I shall, therefore, be obliged to you to take no notice of the matter in your correspondence with your agent in America.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, February 27, 1846.

I SEND for your information copy of a correspondence I have had with Messrs. Baring on the subject of your remark, that the charterparties do not allow of the vessels being sent to places on the west coast of Ireland.

I retain my original impression, that the safest and most convenient course will be to discharge all the ships from America at Cork as they arrive, and to send on the meal to the different depôts as it is required.

The plan of discharging the ships from America into a store-ship, after the magazines and warehouses are full, appears to be a very good one, and I hope you have been able to make arrangements with the Admiral for the purpose.

I am particularly desirous to avoid, if possible, sending any *grain* from Cork to the different depôts, unless it should hereafter be required in certain quantities to be eaten as *hominy*. The stock of meal you receive from America, in addition to what you yourself grind, will, I should hope, answer every demand for a long time to come; and if it should become absolutely necessary to grind elsewhere than in our own mills, I should be inclined to have it done at one place in Cork, under your superintendence, instead of sending the grain to be ground at the different depôts.

I will write to you separately about the damaged cargo of the "Atlas," and meanwhile I will only remark, that I consider it on many accounts of great consequence that the survey of all the cargoes should be made in a perfectly effective manner, and I shall be obliged to you to be guided accordingly.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, February 27, 1846.

OUR establishment, the vigour with which it is worked, the quantity of work done, and the fine appearance of the corn in our extensive lofts, is quite the admiration of this city, and does, as it should do, great credit to the Government; and I am of opinion, although the corn factors and other interested parties do not look upon us with favour, that Indian corn and meal will, before another six months, become in great request as a primary article of food among the peasantry and poorer classes; but it must not cost its present high price, which, in our shipments, originates in the United States, of course occasioned by the sudden and increased demand, and the exigency of the service; all this will settle down hereafter, and the grain be imported at a moderate cost.

I cannot seal this note without adding, that the prompt assistance I invariably get in every way from the Admiral Sir R. Pigot, and all his people, is most gratifying. No sort of difficulty is ever put in the way, whatever I ask; on the contrary, every facility is afforded, and that cheerfully.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, February 28, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a printed copy of the Instructions to Committees, of which about ten will be transmitted to various localities by this evening's mail.

I also submit to you in their rough state some directions in preparation for the secretaries of the Committees, to show in a simple manner the form of distribution of stores, which it is proposed to paste on the first page of a quire or two-quire book, ruled and prepared for the service, and which I have sent to Mr. Coffin and Mr. Hewetson for their observations, and shall report to you hereafter.

I have not touched in these directions on the sale of food, which will probably be the more general practice in the administration of relief, because, in this consideration, I am not yet ready with the estimate of the price which it would be just and reasonable to assign to it. The manner of account will offer no serious difficulty, and the same form will apply.

On this subject the result shows—

Per *Adirondack*, all charges included.

	lbs.	s.	d.
Per bushel, ground at Cork	56	5	3½
Barrel of meal	196	23	6½
Hogshead of ditto	784	99	3½

Rainbow.

Per bushel, ground at Cork	56	4	9
Barrel of meal	196	22	10

Atlas.

Per bushel, ground at Cork	56	5	1½
Barrel of meal	196	22	10½
Hogshead of ditto	784	97	5½

Liberty and Elsinore.

Per bushel, ground at Cork	56	4	2½
Barrel of meal	196	20	5½

Average price of the whole ground at Cork per bushel, is 4s. 11½d., something exceeding a penny per lb.

It is to be borne in mind, that none of the expected shipments are so dear as the first, and bear a nearer proportion to the quotation by the *Liberty* and *Elsinore*, so that one penny per lb. may be received as a fair average on all the shipments of the meal ground at Cork.

The excess on the barrels and hogsheads, which packages form about a tenth of the whole consignments, is next to be considered, and arises chiefly from the increased expense of the package. By the barrels, the price averages 6s. 5d. per bushel of 56lb., or 1½d. per lb. By the hogshead, the average is 7s. 0½d., call it 7s., or 1½d. per lb.

In grinding Indian corn, the loss is about 2 per cent. on the weight sent to the mill, chiefly in dust.

On oatmeal, 196lbs. oats produce only 112lbs. meal, making a loss of 84lbs. on 196lbs.

The price of oats here runs from 14s. 6d. to 15s. The price of oatmeal is 1l. 6s. 8d. per barrel of 196 lbs., which brings the pound of oatmeal to 1s. 4d., or something exceeding 1½d.

This is the best information that I can now offer, but I have some points yet to learn from Mr. Hewetson, in which I am not sure that I have comprehended his views. I should, therefore, wish to defer for a few days, my own opinion of the price to be assigned to it, when offered for sale, until I have had a further opportunity of communicating with Cork.

I have a few lines from Mr. Coffin, dated the 26th instant, at Longford, and I regret that my letter announcing to him their Lordships' intentions to send the oatmeal to Cork, in lieu of Dublin, had not reached him; and considering the demand for a store at that port pressing, and no other building to be obtained, he had closed with a Mr. Delany for the hire of his magazine, at the sum of 100l. for six months. The store is represented in a very favourable light, but the demand is certainly very high.

I lay before you the reply of Deputy Commissary-General Kearney relative to the engagement of a store-keeper at Limerick, which will not re-occur; and also in regard to the periodical continuation of the hire of the magazines in that town if required.

I beg to report to you the arrival of Assistant Commissary-General Sterens on the 23rd instant, and that he proceeded on the 26th, the first day on which he could obtain a place in the mail to Sligo, and I availed myself at the same time of their Lordships permission to employ Mr. Commissariat Clerk Moore, who accompanied Mr. Sterens to Sligo.

I shall lay before you on Monday the proposed arrangements for Dublin.

In closing this letter I submit to you a circular from the Poor Law Commissioners which has been circulated as the occasion required by the Commission, so as to give publicity to the means sanctioned by law at the disposal of the Board of Guardians in Ireland for the relief of destitute poor persons affected with fever.

I have received whilst writing the return of biscuit in charge of Mr. Booth, and I submit a copy of it for your information.

It is all in bags, and there will naturally be much dust.

The lateness of the hour will not permit me to enter on this subject till Monday.

ENCLOSURE.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
29th December, 1845.*

SIR,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under their earnest consideration the various means at the disposal of Boards of Guardians in Ireland for the relief of destitute poor persons affected with fever.

There are three modes sanctioned by law, which, with the entire concurrence and approbation of the Commissioners, have been adopted in different Unions for the relief of such patients. 1st. The causing them to be conveyed from the workhouse of the Union to any fever hospital, and the maintaining them in such hospital. 2ndly. The hiring or renting a house or houses in any part of the Union for their reception and maintenance. And, 3rdly. The erecting, for the same purpose, on the workhouse ground, fever wards, or a fever hospital, as a separate and distinct building.

Of these three modes of relief it may be observed, that the first would scarcely ever be available for dealing with fever on a large scale, as it is only from the Union workhouse, and not from any part of the Union, that Boards of Guardians can send patients to any fever hospital. The second mode, under certain circumstances, and in certain localities, may be regarded as highly valuable, but is a resource which may not always be readily at the command of a Board of Guardians. But the third mode, namely, the erecting on the workhouse ground fever wards, or a fever hospital, as a separate and distinct building, is a provision against fever, of general if not universal application to the Unions throughout Ireland; and the Commissioners have arrived at the deliberate conclusion that it is desirable that every workhouse, except under very peculiar circumstances, should be provided with a building of this sort.

The Commissioners believe that there is no such building on the workhouse ground of the Union; and they are, therefore, desirous of calling the serious attention of the Board of Guardians to this important subject. If the Board of Guardians concurs in the views above stated, or for any reason is willing to entertain a proposition for erecting fever wards or a fever hospital on the workhouse ground, the Poor Law Commissioners will have great pleasure in co-operating with the Board for this purpose, and they will request the architect of the Commission to furnish the Guardians with a plan, specification, and working drawings, for the proposed building, together with an estimate of the probable expense.

The Commissioners have only to add, that the plan which has been adopted in a few Unions of relieving fever patients in a part of the workhouse, has never received the sanction of the Commissioners; and is, in fact, a practice of which they strongly disapprove, as being dangerous to the health of the other inmates of the workhouse.

I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,

*To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the
Union.*

ARTHUR MOORE, Chief Clerk.

STATEMENT of the first Cost and Rate per Cent. of Charges on Indian Corn and Indian Corn-Meal Shipped in the United States, by the following Vessels, with the Rate of Freight thereon, to Cork; as also the Charges incurred on Landing, Storing, &c., the Cargoes, with the expense of Grinding the Corn at that place.

Ship's Name.	Rate of first Cost in American Currency of Cents.			Amount per Cent. on first Cost of Carg.	Premium on Bills drawn for Carg.	Freight from America in Cash, in Sterling.
	Corn, per Bushel of 56 lbs.	Meal, per Barrel of 196 lbs.	Meal, per Hhd. of 784 lbs.			
Adirondack . . .	83-40	..	..	10-626	8-25	1s. per Bushel.
"	81-00	..	..	..	..	1s. per Bushel.
"	..	423-05	..	..	..	4s. per Barrel.
"	..	..	1800-00	..	..	16s. per Hhd.
Rainbow . . .	74-02	..	..	10-728	8-5	11d. per Bushel.
"	72-0293	..	..	..	..	11d. per Bushel.
"	..	418-43	..	..	..	3s. 6d. per Barrel.
Atlas . . .	81-4805	..	..	10-812	8-25	11d. per Bushel.
"	80-6305	..	..	..	..	11d. per Bushel.
"	..	418-40	..	..	..	3s. 6d. per Barrel.
"	..	..	1800-00	..	..	14s. per Hhd.
Liberty . . .	63 @ 65	..	..	say 11-5	8-5	9d. per Bushel.
Elisire . . .	63 @ 65	375	..	say 11-5	..	2s. 10d. and 3s. per Barrel.

Ship's Name.	Rate of Cost, and Charges on Delivery at Cork, in Sterling Sterling.			Rate of Charges at Cork for Grinding, Landing, &c., in Sterling Sterling.			Total Rate of Cost and Charges in Sterling Sterling.		
	Corn, per Bushel of 56 lbs.	Meal, per Barrel of 196 lbs.	Meal, per Hhd. of 784 lbs.	Corn, per Bushel of 56 lbs.	Meal, per Barrel of 196 lbs.	Meal, per Hhd. of 784 lbs.	Meal, per Bushel of 56 lbs.	Meal, per Barrel of 196 lbs.	Meal, per Hhd. of 784 lbs.
Adirondack . . .	4-835	..	..	4-496	..	..	5-331	..	..
"	4-725	..	..	4-496	..	..	5-221	..	..
"	..	28-645	..	..	1-133	..	..	23-578	..
"	..	..	98-777	..	..	5-333	..	..	99-310
Rainbow . . .	4-816	..	..	4-496	..	..	4-812	..	..
"	4-223	..	..	4-496	..	..	4-719	..	..
"	..	22-715	..	..	1-133	..	..	22-848	..
Atlas . . .	4-670	..	..	4-496	..	..	5-166	..	..
"	4-630	..	..	4-496	..	..	5-126	..	..
"	..	22-773	..	..	1-133	..	..	22-906	..
"	..	..	96-916	..	..	5-333	..	..	97-349
Liberty . . .	3-708	..	..	4-496	..	..	4-204	..	..
Elisire . . .	..	20-341	..	..	1-133	..	..	20-474	..
Average							4-930 4s. 11½d.	22-451 22s. 5d.	98-379 98s. 4½d.
Average Rate of Meal, from Grain ground at Cork, per Bushel							4s. 11½d.	..	..
Ditto of Meal, received in Barrels							6s. 5d.	..	..
Ditto ditto in Hhds.							7s. 0½d.	..	..

Dublin, 28th February, 1846.

R. J. ROUTH, C.G.

The invoices of the two last-named vessels have not yet been received; but the rates reported as prevailing at the time they were loading, being considerably less than previous shipments, they have been added to those of which the invoices have come to hand, in order to give the average of the cargoes of the highest rates, with those of the lowest.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 2, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Coffin, dated Sligo, 28 February, reporting in detail his proceedings from Limerick to Longford, and the engagement which he had entered into with Mr. Delany for the hire of a magazine at the latter place to the 1st September; and I beg to acquaint you that I shall prepare forthwith to forward a small dépôt of Indian corn meal and oatmeal by the canal to that port.

I have this morning engaged store room within the Custom-House Docks,

payable at the rate at which the Trade is charged. These prices are reasonable being 2s. per week per hundred barrels, and other packages in proportion; and Mr. Scovell, the lessee, has agreed to keep our stores distinct.

The intention of this dépôt is to keep the live of the two canals supplied, and to have the means of relieving the demands of county Meath, of reinforcing Dundalk, and of sending, if called upon to do so, supplies to Antrim.

I trust to hear at an early period of the appointment of Deputy Commissary-General Doherty for Waterford, in the neighbourhood of which there is much distress.

I fear that Assistant Commissary-General Kearney's health renders him unequal to the charge at Sligo, and, with their Lordships' permission, I shall take an opportunity, without offending his feelings, and the zeal he has really manifested, to allow him to return into private life, for which I believe he will be thankful. In the mean while Mr. Stevens appears to be active and intelligent, and, as far as I can judge, equal to the duty.

I understand Assistant Commissary-General Gelston, though at the age of 68, is equal to serve. I desired Mr. Hewetson to see him, and his report is herewith. I thought of him for Bannagher on the Shannon, or for Limerick, leaving the selection to Commissary-General Coffin. He appears to have much local knowledge at Limerick and in that county. May I request of you to obtain for me the permission of my Lords to call for his services if required, and I shall then communicate with him.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTE.

Treasury, March 4, 1846.

WHEN I mentioned to Mr. Robertson that the ration to be allowed to destitute persons is ordinarily to consist of 1½ lb. of Indian corn meal, and ½ lb. of oatmeal per diem, he stated at once that it would be more than they could consume; and when the quantity of water absorbed, and the manner in which the meal swells in baking is considered, he would appear to have good reason for his remark.

I am awaiting your further official communication on the price at which the meal is to be disposed of. This is a very essential point, which will require careful watching and much delicate management. If we fix the price higher than oatmeal, nobody will thank us for our interference; while if we fix it much lower, the whole country will come to our shop, and we shall interfere in an injurious way with the ordinary course of private trade.

I am also to hear from you separately on the subject of the stock of biscuit.

I feel unwilling to send Mr. Gelston of the Audit Office to Ireland, owing to the embarrassment likely to be caused in that important office by the removal of experienced persons; and unless the Commission is already in possession of information incontestably proving the necessity of establishing a dépôt at Waterford, the adoption of that measure is still open to much doubt.

SIR R. ROUTE TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 4, 1846.

As soon as Mr. Coffin returns to Limerick I shall direct Deputy-Commissary-General Kearney to proceed to Westport. The increasing distress at Achill Island, at Broad Haven, at Killery Harbour, and other adjacent points, make it indispensable that this position should not be disregarded.

There is a military force at Westport, and the regimental head-quarters are Castlebar. We have had accounts from this district, and the measure is one of necessity.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 5, 1846.

You will have seen from my letter of yesterday, that I wish to know in what manner it is proposed that out-pension officers should be fitted on to the machinery of the local committees; and that, even if there were no doubt on this point, it is necessary that the sanction of the Treasury and War Office should be obtained before any of these officers are employed on stated duties connected with the relief, occupying much of their time, and requiring additional remuneration.

As the attention of the local committees will at first be given to collecting and communicating information, and devising modes of relief, and as it is very desirable that they should assume, as far as possible, the character of voluntary associations, administering their own means on their own responsibility, might it not be sufficient if the Lord Lieutenant were, in the first instance, to appoint a qualified out-pension officer, or other person, to be a *member* of the Committee; in which capacity he might, by giving his active assistance in the transaction of the business, and keeping up a close correspondence with your Commission, give the desired direction to the proceedings of the Committee, who would, in this case, select their own Secretary.

When a committee becomes accountable to the Government for the distribution of food or money entrusted to it, your Commission may, if you think proper, insist on the appointment of a government officer as paid Secretary; and, in any case in which a Committee might apply for the assistance of a qualified person from the constabulary force to act in that capacity, their application would not, I suppose, be refused.

You will have observed from my letters of yesterday, that it is desired that more central or branch depôts should not be established, nor Commissariat officers appointed, without the previous sanction of this Board; but we are ready to give that sanction, without any delay, on receiving an explicit statement, supported by the requisite explanations, of the necessity of each measure; and I think that the present advanced state of your operations in the execution of the service entrusted to you, makes it desirable that you should make a report, showing at one point of view, the establishment as it now stands, and stating the additions which you consider to be immediately required to it, and the reasons for them.

I do not doubt that we shall be able to supply you with the proper assistance when it is shown to be necessary; but no measure will be taken for the purpose, until the above report shall have been received.

With regard to the kiln-drying and grinding, my opinion is, briefly, kiln-dry all the grain, and grind to the utmost possible extent; first, in our own mill at Cork, and secondly, by contracting for the grinding at Cork, by open competition; so that nothing but *meal* may, as far as possible, be sent from Cork. If we must employ private millers, they had better be employed at Cork, under the efficient superintendence of our establishment at that place, which is appropriated to the object of preparing the Indian corn for use, and sending it to the different depôts in such moderate quantities, as may from time to time be required. By concentrating our grinding and storing at Cork, and considering the other depôts, as much as possible, as "issuing stores," we shall do our work cheaper and better, and shall be able to give up our store-houses, and withdraw our establishments sooner, when the work is done.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 6, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that the arrangement which has been made by Commissary-General Coffin for the hire of a store at Sligo appears to be quite satisfactory.

With reference to that part of Mr. Coffin's letter which relates to calling for tenders for the supply of sacks and for grinding at Sligo, their Lordship's are of opinion that the grain received from America should be ground, to the utmost

possible extent, at Cork, and that the subordinate dépôts should be supplied from thence with such quantities of meal as may from time to time be required; and it is desired that this course of proceeding may not be departed from without the sanction of this Board having been previously obtained on a full representation of the circumstances of the case.

If the Commission are of opinion that it will be necessary to make arrangements in the Commissariat Department with a view to relief being afforded in the neighbourhood of Westport, and the Lord-Lieutenant sanctions the measure, their Lordships approve of Deputy Commissary-General Kearney being directed to proceed to that quarter; and in the case supposed, the appointment of Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Campbell to the charge of the dépôt at Longford, and of Commissariat Clerk M'Climock to do duty in Sir R. Routh's office are also approved.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 6, 1846.

TO-DAY we have been changing office to the Castle, and to-morrow I shall be installed there, though not settled, as we have to get our few articles of furniture from the Board of Works. We shall have to pay for our present office until the end of the month, the 20th instant, but the public has only been charged with an office since the 20th January; previously to that date the duty was transacted in my room. I am informed at the Castle that they cannot give a messenger, and that the person who cleans the rooms and lights the fires receives 5s. per month, and a messenger from 15s. to 20s. per month.

I thank you for your explanation in regard to the staff officers of pensioners, and shall be guided by it. We are scarcely advanced enough to judge how we may act with the constabulary accountants, until the obligation forces itself upon us. It may not be possible to attach a member of this corps to the local committees as a sole accountant of the district; we may find it expedient to send him direct from a central dépôt to a given point, or different accountants to several given points within the same district, there to issue on certain authorities to persons employed on works or to the destitute, and in all cases to be prepared for sale. I cannot tell the Treasury exactly how this service may be carried on, because I do not know precisely the shape in which the event may present itself. You must, therefore, allow me a discretionary power, and you must be certain that no one has a greater interest in doing it rightly, for success depends upon it.

I send you officially Mr. Hewetson's report upon the question of kiln-drying, which concurs with mine. The damp of this climate is quite as prejudicial, if not more so, than the heat of others. My mind is quite made up, that we cannot omit this precaution with prudence, or without the greatest risk. Open with a penknife the end of the grain near the stalk, and you will find a soft part, and this can neither resist great heat nor great damp.

I observe what Mr. Robertson says about my proposed ration, and his opinion where he utters it, is right, but not as I see the question here. The price of labour is 8d. per diem; the price of the meal 1d., or thereabouts, per lb. It is a new kind of food, to which the palate is not accustomed; and one of our difficulties, and not the least, is to make it acceptable. The ration, as I put it, will cost about 2d. to 2½d., and we give it to a labourer who, if he were paid in money, would earn 8d. It would never be prudent nor right, nor a well-timed economy, to bring to bear against us quantity as well as quality. No doubt, after a time, they will like it; but if we hurt their pride by paying their labour at so reduced a rate as 2d. to 3d. per diem, we already indispose them to pass over their first objection to it as a new food. Nor is there anything extraordinary in this, for persons of the first rank or education, in passing from one country to another, and changing their habitual eating or drinking, feel a repugnance which, however temporary, is strong at the first experiment.

Besides, the Irish require more sustenance in meal than labourers of other countries. They are accustomed to potatoes which satisfy by repletion, and a

more nourishing substance, which does not fill the stomach, leaves a craving sensation, a want of support and strength, as if they had not eaten enough.

With regard to the price, I have called upon Mr. Hewetson for some explanations which I wait for to bring before you. I will not say my mind is made up on this subject, but I have a great leaning to the opinion I expressed to you of 1d. per lb. I have laid before you officially a reply to Sir Robert Kane, from the Mining Company, to whom he had written, at my request, to inquire into the particulars of their charge of 11s. per cwt. to their workmen of some Indian corn meal imported by them. This exceeds the penny, being 16½d. per stone of 14 lbs., whilst our price would be 14d. The men (I was informed from a source I considered entitled to credit) expressed unwillingness to purchase it at that price.

We have to obtain favour for this new food at the beginning, which, in the end, will be the greatest possible boon to Ireland; for I apprehend as a food the potato will never be what it has been, nor can the people ever place the same confidence in its growth. It will in time resume its proper station as a vegetable, and cease to be a staple article of food.

It appears to me, there can be no reasonable competition between corn meal and oatmeal, the latter, from long habit and prejudice, enjoying a pre-eminence against which the former has to contend. The corn meal should, therefore, be offered at a price which would enable it to succeed against the public prepossession in favour of oatmeal. To sell at a price which would effect this would not, I imagine, interfere with the ordinary course of trade, for it is a law in trade that the value of an article is what it will fetch, and men submit to a first loss when they introduce a new article unknown to the trade, so as to make its qualities known and establish its value. I should think that the only way in which this price would interfere with the course of trade would be by its inviting speculators to buy it up, to sell again at a higher price; but this could hardly occur, for we should only sell in large quantities to local committees, who would tender subscriptions in payment. All other sales would be in small quantities under due check.

The Commission have been very much engaged in preliminary matter, which does not show immediately, but I trust that the result of the next few days will satisfy you on this point.

You are aware that we require some time yet to be ready. In setting so large a wheel in motion, there are a great many details to attend to, and we have used every exertion to employ the people, and stave off the moment of the actual issue of provisions.

I have written to Mr. Hewetson for 4000 barrels of meal for Dublin, and if you send any oatmeal, I should wish it to be addressed to this port. I have apprized him that Sligo is ready to receive 4000 barrels of meal; that Westport will, I trust, shortly be prepared for a similar quantity; that Limerick, with its numerous dependencies in Kerry and Clare, and Banagher, if we can obtain an officer for the charge, will require 7000 to 8000 barrels.

I have asked Mr. Hewetson what quantities of corn he could cause to be kiln dried and ground in the town by public competition over and above what is ground at the Lee mills; for I quite agree in the expediency of concentrating the grinding in Cork, if enough can be ground in Cork to meet the demand. It is very inconvenient to grind in Limerick, for the duties of Mr. Coffin require him to be more actively employed, and I am not sure of the assistance he has with him to run the risk of a failure by overtasking their powers. I applied for Assistant Commissary-General Gelston, in order to station an officer at Banagher, at the head of the Grand Canal, subject always to a certain watching of the event, for we have very bad advices from Tralee, in County Kerry, and all round into Dingle Bay, and even Killarney. Mr. Gelston, the Assistant Commissary-General, was stationed many years in Limerick, and is in possession of all the localities.

Mr. Dobree is arrived, and went down this morning to Waterford, in consequence of the "Harriet Rockwell" having overshot the Port of Cork, and gone into Waterford, and the master says she has shifted her cargo, and it would not be safe for him to take her back to Cork. Mr. Hewetson presses much for Mr. Dobree's assistance, but I have written to him by all means to order the "Harriet Rockwell" to Cork if possible, and not to unload her at Waterford.

Without this event I should not have sent Mr. Dobree immediately to Waterford, though it fully requires such an arrangement, but the demands of Armagh, Monaghan, and Meath, compete with it. These last counties are more wealthy, but also more populous, and some railroads are about to intersect them. We have strong applications from Kilkenny, from Carrick-on-Suir, and as high as Carlow and Tipperary, which will naturally look to Waterford. Mr. Hewetson is so much engaged with his particular duty that I cannot calculate on the same assistance from him towards the interior of the country, and Mr. Dobree, at Waterford, will supply his deficiency.

There is no doubt we want an officer for Dundalk, and I wish, indeed, you could assist me, but I know not how you can.

I must now conclude for to-night, and to-morrow I will add, if anything should appear to be omitted or require explanation in my official letters. But, before I conclude, let me ask you, in case of an official representation from the Commission, for one or more of the staff officers of pensioners, what you would conceive to be a reasonable extra allowance to apply for.

March 7.—I have your letter this morning, but the business, that is, the correspondence of the Commission, has been so heavy, and my own also, that I have no time to add.

I shall take care that a weekly report, besides the Minutes, is made direct from the Commission in future, so that Sir James Graham may have regular information of every detail through the authorities here.

I have been obliged to bring specially before the Lord Lieutenant to-day the progress of fever and dysentery. I hear there is a Bill pending, or in contemplation, to give certain powers to the Lord Lieutenant, but I do not know its details. All we want is power to order medical inspection or attendance in those cases which the Poor Law does not reach.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 7, 1846.

In reference to the considerations which attend the fixing of a cost price for the Indian corn meal, I have the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honorable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from the Mining Company of Ireland, addressed to Sir Robert Kane, on the subject of the price which that Company had fixed on the cwt. of Indian corn imported by them for the use of their workmen.

ENCLOSURE.

THE MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND TO SIR ROBERT KANE.

*Office, 30, Lower Ormond Quay,
Dublin, March 4, 1846.*

In reply to your enquiry, "What induced the Board of Directors of the Mining Company to purchase Indian corn meal for the labourers employed by the Company, in the present season?" I have to acquaint you that it has been customary for the Board in all seasons, when a scarcity of provisions was apprehended, to make similar arrangements; and having in the present season received early intimation of the afflicting calamity by which the labouring class has been deprived of the customary supply of potatoes, their usual food, the Board instituted enquiries as to the best and cheapest substitute; and Indian meal being so considered, the price being 11*l.* per ton, whilst oatmeal ranged from 15*l.* to 17*l.*, a temporary supply of the former was purchased, which is delivered to the men in small quantities as required, at cost price, 11*s.* per cwt., the Company bearing the expense of removal and delivery, with interest on capital. The price was named to the men when they entered into contracts for the weeks in progress, in order that they might know the price they are to pay for this now necessary of food during the period of their contracts for work, and with a view to the further assistance of the labourers in this respect, direction has been given for adopting the Company's mill for grinding Indian corn, as well as oats, so soon as the present import duty shall be remitted.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 7, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable My Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a memorandum from Commissary-General Hewetson, in relation to the expediency of kiln-drying the Indian corn previously to grinding; and to state, to the best of my knowledge and experience in this article, that I believe the principle on which he founds his opinion to be correct; and that I recommend the continuance of this practice, as one that it might be dangerous to abandon.

ENCLOSURE.

Lee Mills Depot, Cork, March 4, 1846.

MEMORANDUM by Commissary-General HEWETSON in reference to Mr. Trevelyan's Letter dated Treasury, February 28, 1846, addressed to Sir R. J. Routh.

The introduction of large supplies of Indian corn into this country to be manufactured into meal for human food being altogether new, it is not possible at this early period of its manufacture to give a correct opinion how long the meal will keep good without the corn being previously kiln-dried. It must be kept in mind that, in Ireland, wheat is invariably kiln-dried previously to grinding it into flour, the extreme damp of the climate rendering this process necessary, not for the security of the grain, but of the meal manufactured from it.

All meal exported from the United States to Europe and to foreign possessions is manufactured from kiln-dried corn.

I should hesitate in our peculiar case (although it is so desirable to keep the expense of its manufacture within the closest limits) discontinuing to kiln-dry, looking to the important object to meet which the corn is imported: were it for any other purpose than security against prospective want, I should, without hesitation, say the experiment of not kiln-drying should be tested for a period of six months.

Our master miller thinks the meal from kiln-dried corn better than when it is not kiln-dried, and that its manufacture is more rapid. There are now nearly 900 sacks of meal of 20 stone each in the granaries ground from corn not kiln-dried, and it is in excellent condition; but having only been ground within the last three weeks, no judgment can be formed as to how long it will keep so: it will be the first disposed of. One kiln turns out sufficient to keep the mills going, and to reduce the expense of further gangs of kilnmen and consumption of coal, one only of the two is kept in operation, observing it is worked night as well as day.

An experiment will be made upon a whole cart from the kiln, say 400 bushels, to ascertain the difference of weight between corn kiln-dried and corn not kiln-dried: the result shall be given when completed.

I conclude, as a matter of course, that all the United States' manufactured meal is from kiln-dried corn; Messrs. Baring's order was to that effect; and I observe in Messrs. Grinnell and Minburn's letter to that firm, dated 20th December, the meal is called kiln-dried: what has been received of "Adirondack's" and "Atlas" cargoes is kiln-dried.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

March 10, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, that their Lordships concur in opinion with him, that all the Indian corn belonging to the Government ought to be kiln-dried previously to its being converted into meal.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 7, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the arrival of Deputy Commissary-General Doherty on Thursday, the 5th inst., and to acquaint you that he proceeded to Waterford on the following morning. I lay before you a sketch of that county, with the decimal number of the loss in each electoral division; and I add to them some reports from Carrick-on-Suir, as a specimen of the applications from it.

You will observe that Commissary-General Hewetson's exertions are now so much absorbed in the special duty on which he is employed, that I can scarcely

expect from him at this moment even the care of the interior of his own district, much less the necessary attention required to the counties of Waterford and Tipperary. The former has 14 electoral divisions which have lost half their crop, 13 which have lost seven-tenths, and 14 which have lost eight-tenths. Tipperary has 54 electoral divisions that have lost half their crop, 11 which have lost seven-tenths, and 20 which have lost eight-tenths.

At the same time, under all these pressing circumstances, I should have hesitated between Waterford and Dundalk, if I had not been forced into the measure by the arrival of the "Harriet Rockwell" at Waterford, which had overshot her port; and the statement of the master, that in consequence of the vessel having shifted her cargo, he could not with safety attempt to return to Cork. A survey has been ordered, to substantiate the case; but, in fact, the two ports are most important, and both appear to me to be indispensable.

I shall lay before you early in the week a sketch of the counties Meath, Monaghan, and Armagh, which must look to the nearest port of Dundalk. You are, I believe, aware that these populous counties have suffered very considerably, but they have also more resources, and may resist the effects of their loss for some further period. Still there are very bad points, particularly in county Meath.

It was my intention to have detached Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Campbell for this duty, but other claims intervened from county Mayo. The western district is the most poverty-stricken of all Ireland, and the least advanced in civilisation. I received the most pressing complaints from Ballinalinch, Killery Harbour, Achill Island, and all along the coast up to Broad Haven. They were accounts that could not be overlooked. You will perceive by the map that the resources at Sligo are sufficient only for the coast beyond Broad Haven and the north side of the bay of Donegal, and the interior to the east of Sligo and towards Rosecommon. It became absolutely necessary to place a *dépôt* on the coast between Limerick and Sligo, and Westport was selected as the most central, being a military station, with the head-quarters of the regiment at Castlebar. I had no officer for this duty but Deputy Commissary-General Kearney, and this arrangement leaving a vacancy at Longford, it has been filled up by Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Campbell. Thus I have no officer for Dundalk.

In the meanwhile the duties of Commissary-General Coffin at Limerick are of a nature to press hardly upon him. The villages of Clare and Newmarket will very shortly come upon him. The demands from Kilrush and Kilkee are only overcome for the moment. County Kerry, from the neighbourhood of Tralee round into Dingle Bay and in the interior, is already calling for his exertions, and it may become necessary to occupy Bannagher at the head of the Grand Canal upon the Shannon.

Under these circumstances I solicit the appointment of Assistant Commissary-General Gelston to be stationed at Limerick, where, from long residence, he is possessed of much local knowledge, to be attached to Mr. Coffin, in lieu of Assistant Commissary-General Thomas Kearney, who has been obliged by sickness to retire again upon half-pay.

I shall forward to you early in the week some of the reports from the western district, which have forced upon me the establishment at Westport, and which want of time and means now prevent me from accomplishing.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 13, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, that under the circumstances of the alleged serious deficiency of the potato crops in the counties of Tipperary and Waterford, and of the accidental arrival of the ship "Harriet Rockwell" at that port, my Lords approve of his having deputed Deputy Commissary-General Dobree to Waterford.

Their Lordships are pleased to authorize, for the reasons explained by Sir R. Routh, Assistant Commissary-General Gelston being employed under the directions of Commissary-General Coffin.

As Mr. Craggs, who was for some years engaged in the examination of the Canada Militia accounts, appears qualified to render useful service in Ireland, he has been directed to proceed to Dublin without delay, to place himself at Sir R. Routh's disposal as a temporary clerk, with the usual pay of 7s. 6d. a day without allowances.

A further communication will shortly be made to Sir R. Routh on the subject of the appointment of a qualified officer to the charge of the dépôt at Dundalk.

Write to Mr. Craggs that their Lordships have been pleased to select him for employment in Ireland as a temporary clerk on the usual pay of 7s. 6d. a-day without allowances: and they desire that he will proceed to Dublin without delay, and there place himself under the orders of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships have selected for the charge of the dépôt at Dundalk or such other duty connected with the relief of the people during the expected scarcity in Ireland, as the exigencies of the public service may require, Mr. A. Waller, of their own office, who was formerly employed on a similar duty in Ireland under the orders of Sir John Hill.

It is their Lordships' intention that Mr. Waller should be employed, under Sir R. Routh's directions, in every respect on the same footing as the Commissariat officers on the establishment in Ireland; and Sir R. Routh is authorised to issue to him an allowance at the rate of a guinea a-day as his remuneration for this service, besides lodging allowance, the rate of which will hereafter be fixed.

Add that Mr. Waller has been directed to proceed to Dublin without delay, to place himself at Sir R. Routh's disposal.

Write to Mr. Waller that the experience acquired by him when he was employed under Sir John Hill on the western coast of Ireland in 1836 in affording relief to persons suffering from scarcity, and the satisfactory manner in which he acquitted himself on that occasion, have induced their Lordships to select him for the performance of similar duties in connection with the measures now in progress for the relief of the people during the expected scarcity in Ireland; and they desire that he will proceed without delay to Dublin, and place himself under the orders of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh.

Sir R. Routh has been authorised to issue to Mr. Waller an allowance at the rate of a guinea a-day as his remuneration for this service, besides an allowance for lodging, the rate of which will hereafter be fixed, and his actual travelling expenses.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 8, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable My Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of my Instructions to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree at Waterford, if it is their Lordships' pleasure that he should remain at that post.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir R. ROUTH to Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE.

Dublin, March 7, 1846.

In undertaking the charge at Waterford, your first step will be to look out for a secure and sufficient magazine, accessible to the water and to military protection, and sufficient to contain at least 4000 barrels.

You will submit such tenders as you may be able to obtain for buildings in proper situations to me for approval, and for the information of my Lords of the Treasury.

It is not intended that you should undertake grinding, or any other duty but that of the dépôt, and the supply from it to the County of Waterford, and the adjoining parts of Tipperary and Kilkenny, and County Wexford, and the country on the borders of the Barrow, and generally to meet the demands of the people suffering under scarcity.

I transmit to you some printed copies of the Instructions to local Committees which have been promulgated by the Commission, having for their object to engage the co-operation of the inhabitants to work simultaneously with the Government upon the principles therein explained.

I know not if we shall be able to give complete effect to this intention; but we must promote this cordiality with every effort in our power, as it offers the best hope of our success. When the distress shall become imminent and general, as I fear it will in the month of May, the common danger will unite all parties.

The instructions to the Committees, if fairly carried out, will, I hope, embrace another object, that of testing by their regulations the reality of the crisis.

I shall forward to you an order to the head of the Constabulary, the County Inspector, to give you every assistance, and I place much reliance on the exertions of this corps. You will

observe, in the last item of the instructions, it is proposed to attach a constable as an accountant to the Committee; but you may be called upon to send supplies to various points in either of these counties, also under the charge of constables; and you should move the Committee to appoint a quorum or sub-committee in such directions, to assist and act with you. These may probably be only temporary duties. In all cases you will receive instructions from me, for the applications from the distressed districts will in the first place be made direct to the Commission acting under the orders of the Lord Lieutenant, and when approved, an immediate communication will be made to you. This will relieve you from the inconvenience of direct applications to your depot, which you could verify by no test.

As soon as the exact price at which the maize is to be sold shall be established under the authority of the Treasury, some quire books, with short printed instructions for keeping the accounts, will be forwarded to you; for your principal duty will be the sale of food throughout the interior of your charge, either in exchange for subscriptions collected by the Committee, or in smaller quantities by persons designated by them, or by such other authority as the Lord Lieutenant may approve.

I shall also at the same time communicate the plan by which issues will be regulated to the districts, to persons from whom a task of work is exacted, or to those working in gangs under the orders of the County Surveyor or other superintendent of works; and further, I shall state to you the quantity and description of the ration, and the voucher on which it is to be issued; and I shall endeavour to reduce this information and the plan of account into the narrowest limit and upon the most simple form.

All transport required by you will be obtained through the medium of the Constabulary.

The Constabulary will also provide escorts, but not guards; and for this last protection you must look to the army, and act in concert with the officer in command at Waterford or elsewhere.

You will also make yourself acquainted and be on good terms with the officers of the Coast Guard, who are throughout zealous and intelligent, in the event of your requiring their assistance on the coast, which they will be prepared to volunteer.

I fear that the Revenue Police are too much engaged in their own duties, to afford you any efficient support.

I shall forward to you an order on the County Inspector for one constable to be permanently attached to you during the continuance of this service; and you will submit an application for such further assistance as your duties may require, and with such satisfaction that they may receive the previous sanction of my Lords of the Treasury.

I shall cause a sufficient number of the sheets on the use of the Indian corn for the lower classes to be sent to you, with a few of the pamphlets on the same subject.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 10, 1846.

Writes to Sir R. Routh in reply to his letter, dated the 28th ultimo, with its several enclosures on the subject of the Instructions furnished by the Relief Commission to the Local Committees, and other matters connected with the relief of the people under the expected scarcity in Ireland; and his letter dated the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of the Instructions furnished by himself for the guidance of Deputy-Commissionary-General Dobree, in the service entrusted to him at Waterford; and state that their Lordships have no objection to offer to any of the arrangements reported in these letters.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 9, 1846.

I HAVE received very full and satisfactory letters from you to-day, both private and official.

I now consider it as settled that all our grain is to be kiln-dried before it is ground.

Your reasoning, both in regard to the quantity of meal of which the ration is to consist, and to the price at which the meal is to be disposed of, appears to me to be just and satisfactory.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 9, 1846.

WITH reference to the cost price of the Indian corn meal, I have the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson of the 6th instant.

And I submit at the same time copy of a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Stevens from Sligo, dated the 7th instant, which is very encouraging.

I send two samples received with the last letter; No. 1, is in my opinion, the best, and has most flavour. It is not an advantage to grind Indian corn too fine; it impairs the flavour.

Our highest cargo is the "Adirondack." I had lately occasion to sell two sacks of the meal to a Dublin baker (who paid the transport from Cork), which I charged at 10s. 6d. per cwt., and which covered all expenses of first cost, shipping, freight, and grinding at Cork. Our other cargoes will be lower.

s.	d.	d.
10	6	per cwt. is equal to 1½ per lb.
11	8	ditto 1½ "
9	4	ditto 1 "

The "Liberty" and "Elsinore" do not quite average the 1d. per lb., including the loss in kiln-drying and grinding.

The corn meal received in barrels and hogsheds from the United States forms no part of this calculation. It stands at a much higher rate, nearly one-third more; but I attribute this increase entirely to the expense of the packages: there can be no other reason for it. The corn ground at Cork is shipped in bulk, and we use sacks and not barrels, and if sold in sacks, the value of the sack should be added to the cost price of the meal, or paid separately.

My own feeling is in favour of 1d. per lb., but my Lords have the subject before them as fair and unbiased as I can present it, and I submit it to you for their consideration, always requesting you to bear in mind the great object of making it acceptable to the people.

ENCLOSURES.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Lee Mills Depot, Cork, 6th March, 1846.

In reply to your questions, conveyed to me in a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Cameron, dated the 1st instant, I am now enabled, having completed an experiment necessarily on rather a large scale, to state as follows, viz.:-

The kiln-dried corn turns out well; the progress making, is at the rate of 1800 sacks of 16 stone each per week, observing, that as this quantity is more than is required to feed the mills, but one of the two kilns is used; putting both into operation, would, of course, occasion a double expense, in additional gangs of kiln-men, and in the consumption of coal, which for one averages about three tons per week.

The process of kiln-drying causes (and I have tested this result upon 100 sacks of 16 stone each of corn) a diminution in weight by evaporation of 3½% per cent. The master-miller states the kiln-dried corn is manufactured, if anything, quicker than that not kiln-dried, and that the meal, though dried, is quite equal to, if not better, in quality than the green.

Grinding, I am assured, can be done in Cork by public competition to the extent of 2000 sacks of meal, of 20 stone each, per week, by steam and water power mills, but I must here observe, with reference to my report, No. 11 of the 12th ulto., that a considerable saving of expense will ensue, if instead of bringing the whole of the corn up here to be ground in this city, a large portion of the grain should be sent direct from Haulbowline to the different depôts on the east and west coasts of Ireland, to be there kiln-dried and manufactured on the spot. Mills calculated for this service are to be had, as far as my information goes, at all those points, and by dividing the manufacture of so large a quantity of meal between different districts, the cost of grinding will of course be less than if confined to one spot, say the city and environs of Cork.

Touching the quantity of bran extracted from the meal (second fine or once ground), I am now enabled, under a new arrangement of our dressing machinery, to state it (and which result is obtained upon a quantity of 200 stone of meal), at certainty, under one per cent.; the previous experiment was made with too fine a sieve; indeed, the manufacture of Indian corn into meal being altogether a new process here, our people have had much to study and learn before proper results can be obtained; the present, I hope, will in the end prove correct and satisfactory. A sample of the meal, the produce of this experiment, I now forward, with a sample of the bran extracted; the loss in grinding and separating averages two per cent.

In the United States a certain portion of hewn (see extract from Dr. Bartlett's pamphlet below*) is separated from the meal, apparently to a greater extent than our dressing throws off: in my opinion for our purposes the once ground hewwith, as I before observed, is that best suited for distribution to the people as a substitute for potatoes, and is manufactured with less expense than the twice ground.

It will be highly desirable if a fixed rate could at once be established for its sale throughout the country, not to be deviated from, and if that rate could be 1d. per lb. of meal whether United States ground or Irish manufacture, a great desideratum would be obtained, as regards its use: this must, however, be a question to be determined by Her Majesty's Government, as no doubt, at that rate, taking also into account the employment of the steamers and numerous other contingencies, the balance sheet at the close of this service will be much against the public.

P.S. I shall be prepared to ship supplies for Dublin, when demanded; at the same time I request to be informed by what conveyance, whether by steamer engaged for the service in Dublin or otherwise.

Assistant Commissary-General STICKENS to Sir R. ROUTE.

Sligo, March 7, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a small sample of Indian meal at present used in large quantities at Armagh, which a gentleman left with me yesterday, and selling at 11s. to 11s. 6d. per 112 lbs. (oatmeal at 16s.). The poor people seem to like it, and the dealers are selling five tons of Indian corn-meal for one of oatmeal.

I have deemed it my duty to give you the information.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 13, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Route that my Lords concur in opinion with him and Commissary-General Hewetson, that it will be advisable to fix the price at which the Indian corn meal is to be disposed of for the purpose of affording relief during the expected scarcity at 1d. per pound, and their Lordships desire that all issues to Local Committees and others may be made at that price.

Their Lordships also desire that prompt payment may invariably be required from intending purchasers, except in the extreme case of urgent necessity combined with an absolute want of means of payment, when satisfactory security must be taken for due payment being made at the earliest practicable period.

Mr. STEPHEN to Mr. TREVELLAN.

Downing Street, March 10, 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, requesting that they may be authorized to direct the Government Emigration Agents to take no steps for preventing the substitution of maize or Indian corn for potatoes on board ships clearing out under the Passengers' Act.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir,

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, February 27, 1846.

REFERRING to the exigencies of the case, we have to apply for Mr. Secretary Gladstone's authority to direct the Government Emigration Agents to permit the substitution of maize or Indian corn for potatoes on board ships clearing out under the Passengers Act. The law requires that there shall be on board provisions sufficient to admit of the following issues weekly to each adult, viz., 7 lbs. of bread, biscuit, flour, oatmeal, or rice; and if one-half of the issue consist of bread or biscuit, the remainder may be made up by an issue of potatoes, 5 lbs. of potatoes being equivalent to 1 lb. of the other articles. The Legislature having expressly declared the description of food to be supplied to the passengers, we have not felt at liberty to sanction any departure from the law without the Secretary of State's authority; but, considering that any penalty for its non-observance can only be recovered by a Government officer, we have thought proper to apply for that authority, believing it to have been the intention of the Legislature to invest the Government with some discretion respecting the enforcement of the

* "The meal should be carefully sifted from the bran, which is good for pigs or poultry."

provisions of the Passengers' Act. Whenever we receive an approval for the course we propose to adopt, we will give the Agents the necessary instructions respecting the relative quantities between the two descriptions of food to which we have referred, and will also communicate with the Board of Customs.

We have, &c.
(Signed) T. FREDK. ELLIOT,
C. ALEXANDER WOOD.

J. Stephens, Esq.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 10, 1846.

Transmit copies of this letter and of its enclosure to the Commissioners of Customs, and desire they will convey the requisite instructions to their officers for permitting the substitution of Indian corn for potatoes on board ships clearing out under the Passengers' Act, as proposed by the Emigration Commissioners.

Acquaint Mr. Stephen, for the information of Mr. Secretary Gladstone, that, in concurrence with his suggestion, my Lords have given the foregoing directions.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 11, 1846.

I HAVE tried Indian corn in various ways, and am decidedly of opinion that once-ground corn is sufficiently good, if it is not equal to that which has been twice ground. Mr. Robertson informs me, that to grind Indian corn twice is a thing quite unheard of in the United States.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 11, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of the Report and Board of Survey on the "Harriet Rockwell."

I write in reply to Mr. Hewetson to land as little of the cargo as is possible at Waterford, so as not to interfere with the active usefulness of the depot under the charge of Deputy Commissary-General Dobree.

I beg to submit to you for the approval of my Lords, that I have applied to Colonel McGregor to attach a constable from the police force under his orders to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree at Waterford, and another to Deputy Commissary-General Kearney at Westport, both at 2s. 6d. per diem.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to SIR R. ROUTH.

Cork, March 3, 1846.

My letter of the 2d instant acquainted you with the arrival of the "Harriet Rockwell" at Waterford, having been obliged to make that port in bad weather. I also acquainted you that she had suffered damage at sea, and sprung a leak. I now regret to add, that I have been, as per enclosed copy of a survey held on the state of the ship, under the necessity of ordering her immediately alongside the City Quay at Waterford, there to discharge either a portion or the whole of her cargo, as circumstances may render necessary: the apropos arrival of Deputy Commissary-General Dobree at Waterford facilitated this measure, and I have given him full directions thereon. From samples of her grain which have been sent me, obtained by boring, I do not expect to find extensive injury;—it is evidently grain of 1844, and in good preservation. Knowing from experience here that Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, a stranger at Waterford, should have some person with him acquainted with the mode of landing and storing the corn and meal, I dispatched an intelligent and active man from my establishment, George Bailey, chosen from his previous acquaintance with Waterford, where he has been employed in grain and millers' premises: he came to me as dresser when I was hard pressed, consenting to hold that appointment until one more suitable to his utility should turn up. Subject to their Lordships' pleasure I have given him the situation of Assistant Storekeeper, under Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, with the usual pay of that grade, and whatever allowance in lieu of lodging may be granted persons in his capacity.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

March 13, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships approve of the Instructions which he has issued respecting the disposal of the cargo of the "Harriet Rockwell."

State that it appears to their Lordships to be so important that the grinding of the Indian corn should be concentrated at Cork, and that the officers stationed in different parts of Ireland should be left free to devote themselves to the various duties consequent on their receiving the consignments in the shape of meal for the supply of their several depôts, that it is deserving of consideration whether it would not be advisable that only such portion of the meal, if any, which has arrived in the "Harriet Rockwell," should be retained at Waterford, as may be required for the supply of the depôt at that place, and that the whole of the grain should be sent to Cork, either in the vessel in which it arrived from America or in other vessels, in order that it may be ground with the rest of the grain, under Mr. Herveyson's superintendence.

State that their Lordships approve of Sir R. Routh having applied to Lieutenant Colonel M'Gregor for the appointment of a constable to assist Deputy Commissary General Dobree, and another constable to assist Deputy Commissary General Kearney, with an extra allowance of 2s. 6d. a-day each.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 12, 1846.

It is important that it should be clearly understood by all the parties concerned, that by the concluding paragraph of your instructions, dated 26th January last, you are authorized to make any issue from the sum placed to your credit at the Bank of Ireland which may be ordered by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, for the purpose of instituting medical inquiries, or for any other temporary purpose connected with the relief of the people during the expected scarcity; and I shall be obliged to you to wait on his Excellency, and mention to him that such is the case.

You will, of course, immediately report to this Board any special issue of this description which you may be directed to make, sending at the same time a copy of the letter, or other document by which the order was conveyed to you.

You will take care to apply to this Board for a fresh credit when the funds which have been already placed at your disposal require to be replenished.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, March 12, 1846.

THERE are several cargoes of Indian corn unloading, and expected on private account. The meal is selling at about 11s. for 112 lbs., and the consumption of it is rapidly increasing.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 13, 1846.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer hesitated, as I expected he would, at the ordinary rations proposed for destitute persons; but he leaves you and your colleagues to take your own course in the matter, on the understanding that you will not preclude yourselves from reducing the ration hereafter, if circumstances should make it desirable, by publishing it to the parties interested in an authoritative manner; and the directions as to the quantity and component parts of the ration will, therefore, be confined to that portion of your instructions to your officers which is intended for their own information.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 13, 1846.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of this day's date, on the insufficiency of the two steamers employed in conveying meal to the depôts on the coast of Ireland to perform this service with the necessary despatch, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that my Lords have ordered the "Monkey" to proceed to Cork to assist Commissary-General Hewelson in this service, until the arrival of the "Rhadamanthus."

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 17, 1846.

Transmit copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh, with reference to his letter dated 14th instant, No. 60, and state, that as the "Alban," the "Dee," and the "Rhadamanthus" will all be employed for some weeks to come in completing the depôts on the western coast of Ireland, and a large quantity of meal has to be conveyed to depôts on the eastern coast, their Lordships have requested that the "Monkey" may also be considered as appropriated to this service until further orders.

The Master-General and Board of Ordnance have been instructed to forward 4000 sacks to Mr. Dobree at Waterford, without delay.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty to the effect of the first paragraph of this Minute.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance, and request that he will move the Master-General and Board to direct that 4000 sacks, at 1s. 8½d. each, according to the sample, No. 2, in the offer of Messrs. T. and D. Henry, of the 12th ult., which accompanied Mr. Byham's letter to this Board of the same date, may be provided, marked in the same manner as the other sacks supplied for the service in Ireland, and forwarded by the earliest opportunity to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, at Waterford.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 17, 1846.

I SEND herewith an extract from a letter from Messrs. Baring, from which you will see that 100 loads of oatmeal are awaiting your disposal at Liverpool. I shall expect to hear from you on the subject.

I shall be glad to know, as you go on, how far you find it necessary to mix oatmeal with the Indian corn meal.

I received from you yesterday two boxes of very good Indian corn cakes and biscuits, part of each of which I sent to Sir Robert Peel.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 18, 1846.

I LAY a copy before you of a letter from Commissary-General Coffin, who reports the results of his visit to Killaloe, to be present at a large meeting at that place.

The failure of the crop was not very considerable at Killaloe, but it is the resort of a large body of labouring men connected with the works on the Shannon.

The last paragraph in Mr. Coffin's letter refers to the Arran Islands, for which we are taking measures with the officers of the Coast Guard to keep their station supplied. As for the complaints from the town of Galway, the Mayor and Corporation must first put forth their own exertions. The herring fishery was very productive this season.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, March 16, 1846.

I RETURNED this morning from a visit in the neighbourhood of Killinac, where I had a pressing invitation to make myself acquainted with the circumstances of the locality, and to give my advice with regard to the proceedings to be adopted for the purpose of obtaining relief. The adjacent district is represented to be already in a state of alarming destitution, and finding that a Memorial to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, signed by the principal residents, was about to be forwarded, the purport of which appeared to have no reference to the printed instructions, I communicated a copy of them to the Bishop, when his Lordship immediately undertook to indicate the measures therein prescribed. I ascertained from communication with other parties that the expectation of gratuitous relief was very generally entertained, and even the necessity of it insisted on; but I took some pains to counteract this impression, and to make it distinctly understood that the assistance of the Government could only be obtained under the conditions prescribed by the regulations.

I have reason to believe that a similar notion is very widely extended through the country, and has had much influence in retarding the adoption of those measures which alone can be effectual for the relief of the want arising from the failure of potatoes. It also seems to me that there is a general disposition to throw the whole supply of the people on our depôts as soon as the potato food fails, which I think is almost equally important to oppose, except where justified by the inability to provide food for them from the ordinary resources of the markets. At present I believe that these resources are in most situations still open to those who can earn reasonable wages in money, and I accordingly do my best to urge not only the employment of those who are, or are likely to be destitute, but that exertions should be used to provide for them such employment as will afford money wages, in order that they may as long as possible, subsist on the natural supplies of the country, and that those imported by us may be held in reserve for the period when the ordinary resources of the market shall fail. Unless this precaution be observed, I fear that there is great risk of our stores being exhausted before the period of want is at an end, or of the Government being obliged to pay exorbitant prices in order to replenish them as the season advances. I nevertheless doubt the practicability of deferring, in all cases, to so late a date as the 1st of May the granting of assistance in food. The case noticed in the enclosed copy of a letter received by me from the coast-guard officer at Galway seems to be one of the exceptions, and I have reason to apprehend that some others, equally urgent, will ere long be made known.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 19, 1846.

I THINK it will be unnecessary to make any more purchases of oatmeal, and never was anything so calumniated as our corn meal. The bread I sent to you had only one-sixth or a seventh of wheat flour, merely sufficient to mix up the yeast, which rises better with the flour than with the meal; and immediately that process commences, the corn meal is mixed up with it, with the necessary addition of water.

The biscuit is the pure meal.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, March 19, 1846.

THE price of potatoes is so high, and they are of so bad a quality, that they are no longer used in the poor-house here, bread being substituted. I have requested the mayor to introduce the intended Government ration of Indian corn and oatmeal by way of experiment, and of familiarizing the inmates to the different modes of preparing it; and he was to propose it to the Board to-day. Many who may return to their districts might benefit by this little experience, when they shall receive the Government ration direct. Nearly all the potatoes on the quay come in coasting-vessels from the county of Wexford, where it appears the soil is sandy, and where the mayor informs me the disease has done very little injury; but the price is 6d. per stone of 14 lbs., which is quite beyond the reach of the poor. You are, perhaps, aware that the labourer will eat from 7 to 10 lbs. of potatoes a-day, and that this large bulk of food daily thrown into his stomach gives it a constitutional expansion which grumbles very much when it is suddenly

replaced by only *two* pounds of meal. It is to be hoped that the organ will by degrees adapt its capacity to circumstances. Persons who have imported meal or corn have raised the price here 6s. per ton, on the plea that they *may be obliged to* discharge the duty bond they have given. The pauper is paying for this suspense.

MR. TREVELYAN to the COMPTROLLER of VICTUALLING.

Treasury, March 20, 1846.

I HAVE just received the following from Sir R. Routh:—

"The Commander of the Forces does not like to give up the biscuit, unless the new supply be ready to replace it.

"I apprehended this might be his reply, for, if removed and not replaced, he could not, perhaps, count under all circumstances to be able to put his troops in movement."

Under these circumstances, you will, I think, agree with me that it is advisable that the new supply of biscuit intended to replace that now in Ireland should be forwarded without delay; and I shall be obliged to you to inform me what measures were taken for this purpose, in order that I may advise Sir R. Routh.

THE COMPTROLLER of VICTUALLING to MR. TREVELYAN.

Somerset House, March 20, 1846.

DIRECTIONS were given on the 5th instant for 3000 bags of biscuit to be sent from Portsmouth, and 3000 bags from Plymouth.

Of these, 2220 have been already forwarded; and the remainder, to the extent in the whole of 10,600 bags, will be shipped as expeditiously as means can be provided.

Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot has been requested to forward the biscuit, as it arrives, to the several depôts, communicating on the subject with the proper authorities in Ireland.

As the whole of the biscuit required to replace that in depôt has been prepared, its shipment for Haalbowline will be hastened.

MR. PENNEFATHER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 20, 1846.

I AM directed by the Lord-Lieutenant to recommend that the Lords of the Treasury may be pleased to sanction the employment of four additional clerks in the Relief Commission Office at 30s. each of weekly salary, as applied for in the annexed copy of a letter from the Commissioners, dated 18th instant.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. PENNEFATHER.

Dublin Castle, March 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will obtain the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury for the employment of four additional clerks in the Relief Commission Office at 11. 10s. per week each, as the increase of labour is so great that much of the business is reported in arrear by the Secretary, notwithstanding the efforts he makes to keep it up by frequently detaining the whole of the clerks to a very late hour of the night.

Care shall be taken that the moment any diminution of the week in the office shall admit of it, a corresponding diminution shall immediately be made in the number of the clerks.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 20, 1846.

Write to the Secretary-at-War, that as there is reason to believe that the staff-officers employed in Ireland in the payment and superintendence of the Chelsea out-pensioners may render valuable assistance in the measures in progress in that country for the relief of the people during the impending scarcity, their Lordships request that instructions may be immediately issued to the officers in question in the counties of Clare and Tipperary, to give all the assistance in their power in the execution of this pressing and important service, which may not interfere with the due performance of their ordinary duties; and that they will accordingly act as secretaries or members of local relief committees, or in such other modes as may be considered to be conducive to the object in view, receiving their instructions, so far as this service is concerned, from Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, and acting in concert with the Commissariat officers and the officers under the orders of the Board of Works, employed in their respective districts.

Their Lordships propose, if the Secretary-at-War shall see no objection thereto, that any extra remuneration to which the staff-officers of pensioners may become entitled for this special duty, should be fixed after the service shall have been brought to a conclusion.

Write to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and state that the pressing nature of the service in Ireland renders it desirable that a fifth steam-vessel should, if possible, be immediately appointed to Cork for the purpose of assisting in the prompt conveyance of the Indian corn meal to the different depôts.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 21, 1846.

It cannot, I think, be necessary that the different depôts should be completed before the issues commence. The first supplies have arrived at Limerick, and if I am not mistaken, at most of the other depôts, and there is nothing to prevent the issues being commenced without delay, ample provision having been made for sending further supplies before they can be required.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, sundry communications in relation chiefly to county Clare, where the progress towards destitution is advancing, except in such degree as it may be arrested by employment on public works, or by private labour among the farmers, which will be forthcoming as the weather clears up.

I submit to you an extract of my letter to Mr. Coffin of this day, which I trust will encourage him to look forward to the result of our operations with less apprehension.

I also transmit a copy of a letter which has been addressed by the Commission to Colonel Wyndham, the great proprietor of Clare.

I hope to be able to enclose this evening the proof-sheets of forms of our store account, and the instructions, which have been drawn up in the most concise and simple form.

I do not despair, notwithstanding the refusals we have encountered, of obtaining finally some contributions; and I attribute some of the backwardness of the people to the delay in issuing our instructions, which, though they have been sent to every county, are not even now generally known.

I see, however, that they are now finding their way into the newspapers, which will prepare the landed proprietors for the course expected of them; and I almost wish that they could find their way into the "Times," so as to meet the observation, and call forth the sympathy and co-operation, of the absentee landlords.

Lastly, as a general remark, I should observe to you, that the circumstances of the failure of the potato crop, and the difficulty of finding good seed, have retarded the usual period of farm labour; but it must soon commence, and, in conjunction with the other works of relief, will, I trust, afford to us a temporary or partial cessation of our apprehensions, and give us time to complete our own operations.

ENCLOSURES.

THE SECRETARY TO THE RELIEF COMMISSION TO COLONEL WYNDHAM.

Dublin Castle, March 21, 1846.

I AM directed by the Relief Commission respectfully to represent to you the distressed state of the county Clare, of which you are understood to be the principal proprietor, and to submit to you the views entertained by the Government for the administration of relief, as detailed in the 5th and 8th articles of the enclosed Instructions to Local Committees.

The Commission have no doubt of the liberal spirit in which you will be disposed to come forward, but they are even still more anxious to obtain the influence of your example; for they feel there is a difficulty in urging the poor proprietors, for contributions if those who are rich and powerful shall fail in their own persons to point out the course to be pursued.

The Commission are assured that your example will be followed up with the most beneficial consequences; and it is this consideration which has induced them to take the liberty of addressing you on a subject which they are certain requires only to be known to you, to call forth the full exercise of your benevolence.

The Commission earnestly hope that you will not allow yourself to be deceived in regard to the reality of the distress.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Sir R. ROOTH to Commissary-General COFFIN, dated 21st March, 1846.

We cannot give up the principle of subscription that we have laid down; if we do so now we throw down the barrier to every inroad of importunity, and with the certainty of failure in being able to comply with it.

Insist, therefore, and state the readiness of the Government to come forward with supplies or money as soon as the proprietors set the example.

I am just returned from the Commission, where I have seen Sir Lucius O'Brien, and have made an arrangement with him, and I believe it has been this day carried into execution, that a Sub-Committee should be established at Newmarket, of which Mr. Soddert will be the chairman.

The Sub-Committee will consist of what is called the seven parishes, and they will call upon all the neighbouring gentlemen to subscribe; and if they should require of you a supply of meal, you will of course meet with their wishes immediately. You are aware that the Treasury admitted the price of a penny per lb., but as there would be transport to pay, it would be better to fix the price deliverable at Clare at 10s. 6d. to 11s. per cwt.

With respect to Sir Lucius O'Brien, his estates are situated in Clare, Ennis, and Currind, Newmarket, and Six-miles Bridge. He is quite ready to come forward with his quota, but they are anxious not to precede the event. He is of opinion that the event is coming, but not come; and that if there was a little dry weather a large portion of the indigent population would be taken up and employed by the farmers, and thus afford a temporary relief to the distress.

He states that the landed proprietors are desirous to husband their resources and not to hasten the expenditure. This is evidently our policy, and should be our maxim. Sir Lucius has authorised his agent to subscribe for him in certain given sums, to be repeated as the occasion demands.

I do not think that it would be necessary for you to have a permanent depôt, or an office, or even a clerk, at Clare. I should hope that a certain provision for the use of the Sub-Committees in the charge of a constable would be sufficient for that establishment.

Benagher will be a much more important spot; all that baryony of Longford, in county Galway, will require assistance, but I am persuaded that the more immediate duty of the department will be the sale, rather than the issue, of the meal.

I beg to acquaint you that I have applied to the Board of Works to furnish an engineer or a competent person to lay out works in certain distressed localities in county Clare and part of Galway, so that we may have the means of employing the poor for food under a superintendent left in charge by the engineer. Thus I propose that we may always have the means of meeting the demand for food by directing the claimants to immediate means of employment.

Sir Hugh Massey has sent a subscription of 1000. to his Sub-Committee at and I have immediately brought it under his Excellency's notice, with a request that he would add to it a donation to follow up the object of that subscription.

I should hope that Mr. Wood's absence at Benagher would not be prolonged much beyond the commencement of that duty, and that Mr. Rolleston might succeed to it, and allow of his return to you at Limerick on your being supplied with another clerk. All these, however, are arrangements within your consideration in which I shall not interfere.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, March 21, 1846.

1. IN Waterford the March pits have been generally, not universally, opened, and I can bear witness to the fact that, in the immediate vicinity of this place, a proportion of one-third to one-half, and in some cases the whole, has been found totally injured, fetid, and fit only for the dunghill (there might be strong reasons for not using it even as manure). I do believe that, with the exception of Wexford, where the crop is said to be in a very tolerable state of preservation, but whence the people are already opposing the exportation, the same state of things, more or less, exists throughout my district. At Carrick-upon-Suir, twelve miles distant, I hear that want has already declared itself. It is impossible for any one to obtain data to form an opinion how long the supply of potatoes will last, for no one can say how soon the article now good may become unfit even for the pigs.

2. From all I can collect, no measures whatever have been adopted in any part of this district (beyond private charities) to afford relief when the crisis may come. It appears evident that those persons on whom the moral responsibility is constitutionally vested are doing nothing more than thinking upon what Government is going to do, intending thereby to oblige Government to take the initiative, and to throw the onus upon their shoulders. I send you a Cork paper which reports the proceedings of a meeting at Fermoy, which broke up *vs infecta*, although Lord Mountcashel states that the instructions for the purpose of forming district committees had been sent him by the Commissary-General; the intervention of the Lieutenant of the County (who might be in Italy) being considered an indispensable formality. Of course I can only see the machinery of this relief measure through a glass darkly, but it would appear that something like a proclamation, emanating from Government or the Castle, and rendered imperative on the local authorities, will have to be issued before they will set to work and provide measures to prevent the evil accumulating all around them before it be too late.

3. Although the large importations of food on private account must increase the means of supply in the country, I scarcely see how they will operate in relieving the distress, unless wages, as the return for labour, are within the pauper's reach—and it is here that the authorities seem asleep; for although railroads and other public works may do much essential good in their immediate vicinity, they can barely tempt the cottier with a wife and five or six children to abandon his hut and *disjunc* in another county. If the city and parochial authorities would set about giving their roads, &c., extra repairs, prepare road metal for a year or two in advance, and devise local employment in their own respective parishes or districts;—if the landlord would commence a general system of drainage, or other improvement, on his land, and this year take such labour as the price of his rent (where it can be done), or give moderate wages—the private importations would then greatly assist Government, the means of relief would be legitimate, and the impositions, which we must be prepared for, more easily detected.

Some of the crops of potatoes planted in January have been examined, and the seed has been found to have generally rotted; the ground will most probably be turned up in April, and sown with oats or barley.

There have been about 100,000 bushels of Indian corn imported into Waterford, and the demand from the interior is so great that the prices rise, and holders keep back; they, however, very much dread the effect which the Government supply, when brought into operation, may have on the price of their commodity, and all parties in the country are most anxious to know your intentions.

Mr. GREGORY O'NEILL to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

9, Merchants' Quay, Cork, March 21, 1846.

LIEUTENANT FRIEND, R.N., Her Majesty's Government Emigration Agent at this port, having notified to me that I may be permitted to substitute Indian corn meal for the potatoes allowed to emigrants, by the 5th and 6th Vict. cap. 107,

I have to request your Lordships will be pleased to give directions to the Commissary-General at Cork to grant me a supply sufficient to enable me to meet the wishes of the Government on this subject, on paying such price as may be demanded for same.

Mr. MURRAY to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Cork, March 21, 1846.

HAVING been informed by Lieutenant Friend, Emigration Agent at this port, of your Lordship's order to allow the shipment of maize or Indian corn meal as a substitute for potatoes on board of emigrant vessels, I beg to acquaint your Lordships that the parties in charge here have not received any order for the delivery of it; your Lordships' order will therefore remain inoperative if instructions are not immediately issued for the delivery of it, as most of the emigrant ships will sail between the 25th March and 25th of April from this port.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above LETTERS.

March 27, 1846.

Write to the parties that the Indian corn meal belonging to the Government in store at Cork was provided for the relief of persons suffering from scarcity, who have no other resource, and it will therefore be necessary for the victualling of the emigrant ships to be completed by purchases from private stores.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Lister, conveying the assent of the Royal Canal Company to the remission of the usual tolls by that route; also a tender of Messrs. McCann and Sons for the transport of supplies between Dublin and Longford, which, as the most advantageous that can be obtained, I beg to recommend.

ENCLOSURES.

Assistant Commissary-General LISTER to Sir R. ROUTH.

Dublin, March 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, the accompanying documents.

A letter from the secretary of the Royal Canal Company, acceding to an application for the remission of the tolls on all provisions the Government may find it necessary to forward to those districts traversed by the Royal Canal.

A tender from Messrs. McCann and Sons, for the transport of supplies hence to Longford.

Competition having been invited by inquiry, and this tender being the most advantageous that can be obtained, both in regard to price and expedition, it is recommended for acceptance.

*Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland and Royal Canal
Company's Office, 23, College Green, Dublin,*

Sir,

March 17, 1846.

In reply to your favour of to-day. I am instructed to state that the Directors of this Company feel a great anxiety to give every facility in their power to the Government in their arrangements for supplying food in those districts traversed by their canal; and they have accordingly directed their officers to remit the toll on all provisions which shall be certified as being the property of the Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. BRAUN, Secretary.

Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

JOHN MCCANN and SONS to Assistant Commissary-General LISTER.

Sir,

North Wall, Dublin, March 17, 1846.

WE beg to inform you that we will undertake to convey Indian cornmeal, or oatmeal, in bags or barrels, by our boats on the Royal Canal, from Dublin to Longford, at the net freight of 7s. per ton, exclusive of the tolls, 5s. 10d. per ton. The supplies will be delivered by us at the Commissariat store in Longford in good order and condition, agreeably to our receipt for same.

P.S. We will deliver at Longford the 600 bags we are to receive to-morrow during this week and the next.

It may be well to observe, that as our boats travel night and day from Dublin to Longford, they reach the latter place 24 hours sooner than any other boats on the Royal Canal.

Dublin, March 18, 1846.

Competition having been invited by inquiry, and this tender being the most advantageous that can be obtained, both in regard to price and expedition, it is recommended for acceptance.

(Signed) AMOS LISTER, A. C. G.

Recommended,

R. J. ROORH, C. G.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

Write to Sir R. ROUTH, that their Lordships, relying on his assurance that the tender of Messrs. McCann and Sons for the transport of supplies between Dublin and Longford has been ascertained by inquiry to be the most advantageous that can be obtained, are pleased to authorize its acceptance.

Their Lordships have been gratified by observing that the Directors of the Royal Canal Company have refrained from making any claim for toll on provisions, the property of Government, transmitted by their canal for the purpose of affording relief to districts suffering from the failure of the potato crop.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 21, 1846.

IN return to your letter of this day's date, relative to the employment of Her Majesty's steam vessels in conveying Indian corn meal from Cork to the different depôts in Ireland, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the "Confiance" was yesterday ordered to proceed from Plymouth to Cork (in lieu of the "Monkey"), to be at the disposal of Rear-Admiral Sir H. Pigot for the above service, and that the "Myrmidon" will follow her next week; and the Rear-Admiral has been acquainted that, in the event of pressing necessity, he may employ any other of Her Majesty's steam-vessels nearest at hand in the same service.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Commissaries-General ROUTH and HEWETSON, for their information.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a schedule of tenders received by Commissary-General Hewetson, at Cork, for kiln-drying and manufacturing Indian corn into meal, and carting the same to and from the Lee Mill granaries.

I beg leave to observe that Mr. Hewetson has accepted the whole of the offers made for this service, having succeeded in obtaining an abatement on the tenders Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, to 8s. 6d. for the twenty stones of corn, and which amount to 1900 sacks per week.

I likewise enclose a newspaper containing the advertisement for kiln-drying and grinding; the tenders and agreements for which, Mr. Hewetson states shall be transmitted at an early opportunity.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 31, 1846.

Write Sir R. Routh acquainting him that my Lords approve the arrangements which Commissary-General Hewetson has made in accepting the tenders alluded to in the schedule enclosed in his letter.

Transmit the schedule and newspaper, with copy of Sir R. Routh's letter, to the Commissioners of Audit, for their information, apprising them of the above direction.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, Sunday Morning, March 22, 1846.

O'BRIEN, the baker, will not, I think, sleep very quietly to-night. He is beyond anything pleased. He is to send a new sample, with a detail of the ingredients; but, in fact, it was not quite a sixth of wheat flour, and all the rest maize. The biscuit had no mixture whatsoever, and was the pure maize. That sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the white southern maize, and kiln-dried, made in consequence of a report from Professor Lindley to Sir Robert Peel, and the sample was sent to Mr. Goulburn as the best reply.

It was a sample rather whiter than the yellow maize produced. O'Brien sends on Tuesday night the further samples, addressed to you at the Treasury.

The lightness of his bread consists in his mixing the yeast first with a little wheat flour, and when it rises, adding the meal.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 23, 1846.

THERE has been a large meeting at Limerick, and meetings in other places, and the impression seems to have been to apply to Government first, and then to subscribe afterwards, under an impression that the publicity of such subscriptions would diminish the expected liberality of the Government. It is in this line that I am working to induce subscriptions first.

The speakers at these meetings seem to consider their subscriptions as included in the one-half of the sum they pay for the public works, in lieu of considering it as an obligation they are under to the public for the completion of advantageous public and private works, for which they only pay one-half of the cost. The truth will be brought to bear on these points.

The meeting at Limerick pressed Mr. Coffin to sell a certain quantity of his stores at reduced prices, to keep down the market; but I have written to him to be on his guard against these applications, and, without subscriptions, to make no sale in large towns, where there are other resources.

We shall have a dreadful pressure in May, June, and July, and we must be economical of our resources, except in cases where the locality is poor and without means, and really requiring our interference.

We shall have demand enough for all, and more than we have, and I wish to delay the commencement as long as it is safe, acting through other channels, until the emergency compels us to appear direct.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 24, 1846.

If you examine your map, you will see the head lands and promontories which divide Clew Bay and Galway Bay, and at times the detention to anything but steamers is very great on that coast, the most difficult of all Ireland. Added to this, Galway and Clare are two of our worst counties—I mean in the interior as well as on the coast. I propose to supply Kerry by the coast-guard stations, where I shall deposit on the coast small depôts for sale. We cannot have a depôt

at Tralee; there is no practicable port there. If anything too far from the coast to be supplied from the coast-guard stations should require attention, it must be sent by land under charge of the constabulary. Our chief depôt of the coast-guard on the coast will be Dingle.

Reverting to Bannagher, it will also assist the interior of Clare and Galway bordering on the Shannon, and the lower part of Roscommon.

We had a subscription of 500*l.* from Limerick, to which the Lord-Lieutenant adds on this occasion 400*l.* They expect to raise 1000*l.* more. To Sir Hugh Massey's subscription of 100*l.*, he gives the same sum as an incentive and example for the rural district of county Clare, being the first subscription.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 24, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, that as it is important that the vessels arriving at Cork with Indian corn on account of the Government should be discharged with the least practicable delay, and as it has been represented to this Board by Commissary-General Hewetson, that it would facilitate his operations if he were permitted to avail himself of the services of Mr. Dobbin, Paymaster and Purser of the Flag-ship at Cork, who has already rendered useful assistance in matters connected with this service, my Lords request that the Secretary will move the Board of Admiralty to direct that Mr. Dobbin may be placed at the disposal of Commissary-General Hewetson so long as there shall be an urgent demand for his assistance; and if the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty should approve, their Lordships will be prepared to authorise an extra allowance of 5*s.* a-day to be paid to Mr. Dobbin from Commissariat funds during such time as he may be so employed.

Transmit copy of this minute to Sir R. Routh and Commissary General-Hewetson, for their information and guidance.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 24, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that as it is important that there should be no misunderstanding as to the extent of the discretion with which he has been vested, in order to enable him to meet every case of real emergency connected with the impending scarcity in Ireland, in whatever form it may arise, my Lords have directed a communication to be made to him as follows:—

The five Admiralty steam vessels, the names of which are noted in the margin, have been appointed for the conveyance of the Indian corn meal from the central depôt at Cork to the different subordinate depôts; besides which, Rear Admiral Sir H. Pigot has been acquainted that, in the event of pressing necessity, he may employ any other of Her Majesty's steam vessels nearest at hand in the same service, and Sir R. Routh is availing himself of the steamboats belonging to private companies plying between Cork and Dublin to assist in supplying the depôts on the eastern coast; but if, notwithstanding all these means which have been placed at his disposal, he should still at any time be of opinion that reasonable doubt exists whether the supplies of food can, without further aid, be conveyed with sufficient promptness to the places on the coast at which they are required, he is at liberty to hire, in any of the ports of Ireland, or at Liverpool or Glasgow, any number of steam vessels that may be required for this service, and he may do this, if necessary, without a previous reference to this Board, only taking care to report his proceedings without delay.

In cases in which subscriptions have been raised by Local Committees, acting under the instructions of the Relief Commission, there can be no objection to the fund so provided being laid out in the purchase of oatmeal or other food belonging to private individuals in the neighbourhood, by which means recourse will first be had to the store of food already in the country, and the meal belonging to the Government will, as far as possible, be reserved as a last resource.

In cases in which the food has to be supplied entirely by the Government, it is their Lordships wish that the meal which has been procured from abroad, and already belongs to the Government, should, as far as possible, be brought into use;

Des. Alban, Steam-
boat, Constance,
Myrmidon.

but if real and pressing exigencies should arise, which Sir R. Routh would be unable to meet if he were to adhere to this rule, he is under such circumstances authorised to direct purchases to be made in the neighbourhood of the distressed locality, taking care to caution the officers employed under him to secure the purchases being made at fair prices from disinterested parties, and to report their proceedings to him without delay for the information of this Board.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, March 25, 1846.

I WILL write to you more fully on the subject to-morrow or next day; but meanwhile, I think it right that you should inform the owners and masters of the emigrant ships who have applied to be allowed to purchase Indian corn from the Government stores, that those stores were provided for the relief of persons suffering from scarcity who have no other resource, and that they (the owners or masters) must complete that portion of the victualling of their ships which is to consist of Indian corn, by making purchases from stores belonging to private persons.

However it may be at Cork, there is certainly no want of Indian corn at Waterford and Liverpool; and even supposing Indian corn not to be procurable, may they not, under the Passengers' Act, complete the whole of the second moiety of the victualling from rice and oatmeal, the common food of Ireland next to potatoes?

You had better communicate with the naval officer who is acting as Sub-agent of Emigration at Cork.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY to Mr. CARDWELL.

Admiralty, March 26, 1846.

IN reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will acquaint the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury that they have given directions to Sir Hugh Pigot to place Mr. Dobbin, the paymaster and purser of the flag-ship at Cork, at the disposal of Commissary-General Hewetson, to assist in discharging vessels arriving at Cork with Indian corn, and that Mr. Dobbin will be allowed 5s. a-day from the Commissariat funds while so employed. My Lords desire me, however, to add, that it is probable the flag-ship at Cork will shortly be required to proceed to sea for the conveyance of troops.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 26, 1846.

I now to submit to you that Sir James Donohue has represented to me the advantage to be derived in the disembarkation of stores from the large steamers, if the "Vulcan" Revenue Cutter Steamer, now, he believes, at Weymouth, could be spared from that service, and employed on the West of Ireland or in the Shannon, to transfer these cargoes to the small ports on the coast, or to Limerick.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 27, 1846.

Transmit an extract of this letter to the Commissioners of Customs, and state that their Lordships concur in opinion with Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, that it would much facilitate the important object of promptly conveying supplies of food to the places at which they are required for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity on the western coast of Ireland, if a steam vessel of the description of that adverted to by him could be placed at his disposal for the service in question; and their Lordships desire to be informed whether any sufficient objection exists to the "Vulcan" being replaced by another vessel, and being despatched without delay to Limerick, to be employed as Sir R. Routh may direct.

Deputy-Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, March 26, 1846.

I HAVE pleasure in informing you that in this and the adjacent counties the prejudice against Indian meal is wearing away very fast, and that its value is beginning to be very much appreciated by all classes; it is in great demand from Tipperary and Kilkenny, and large importations are being made on private account. One cargo has been imported from Odessa, and another from Naples, in addition to several cargoes from the States. The price of the meal is about 10s. 6d. per 112 lbs., whereas oatmeal ranges from 16s. to 18s. I have induced poor-house guardians, the medical men in charge of hospitals, &c., and some bakers, to bring it into consumption generally, and the result so far has been most favourable. I hope to make you soon a report on the experiment at the poor-house, where they have more than a thousand inmates, with a large proportion of able-bodied men in good health, but starving for want of work. There seems to be everywhere around us a total stagnation of employment; the farmer employs no one because he has no food to pay his wages with; 6d. per day, with two meals, being the usual price of labour in this part of the country; and if the labouring population is found standing all day idle in the market-place, it is because no man hireth them. The sub-inspector of police reports this week that three-fourths of the potatoes here have been totally spoiled, and I have myself witnessed that the disease is making great ravages amongst those which three or four weeks ago were picked and repitted. For want of food to give them, the people are bringing in their pigs for exportation before they have attained their usual marketable weight. The Lieutenant of this county has issued orders for forming the five relief committees whose labours will soon come into operation.

I fear that the grand juries, or other authorities in whom rests the presentment of local works, &c., to be devised and carried on for the employment of the poor, may burn their fingers, if not cautioned betimes in their proceedings. A magistrate called on me yesterday from Kilkenny, and on my inquiring, with a view to this point, how they meant to carry on the detail of the public works they were devising for the relief of the poor, his reply was, "Oh! we shall make a contract, and the contractor will arrange for the employment of the poor." Now if these *charity* works are to be performed generally by contract, and that some stringent clauses be not introduced therein, reserving to the committees the right of employing on them such labourers as they shall designate, I fear they will soon find that the interests of the contractors will often clash with the object of the work. Things are done loosely in detail in this country, and perhaps in this particular case the usual mode of contract may be found very objectionable.

Sir R. ROUTE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 26, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the form of Store Account to be kept by the Constabulary in the receipt and issue of meal conveyed into the interior of the country in their charge, and also a form of the Return for Rations issued to labourers and their families, and to the destitute unable to work.

It appears to me that the form of Store Account will apply as well to our depôts as to the Constabulary.

We shall require a certain number of portable steelyards for this service, and I find we can obtain from the Ordnance here 15 calculated to weigh to the extent of 36 lbs.; but I think this number will hardly be sufficient, and I recommend that 24 additional, of the same description, should be furnished from the Tower to Cork, to be distributed from thence.

For these Forms,
as they were first
settled, see pages
119 and 120.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 27, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Route, acknowledging the receipt of these letters, and state that their Lordships have no objection to offer to any of the arrangements detailed in them, subject to such modifications as experience may show to be desirable in

the price at which meal is to be sold for the relief of distress, and in the quantity of food of which the rations for men, women, and children are to be composed.

State that an extract from his letter has been transmitted to the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, who have been requested to cause 24 additional steelyards of the description adverted to by him to be transmitted to Commissary-General Hewetson at Cork with the least practicable delay; and Sir R. Routh will furnish Mr. Hewetson with directions for their disposal.

Write accordingly to the Secretary to the Ordnance.

Lord LYTTELTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Downing Street, March 27, 1846.

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th inst., I am directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, with a copy of one from the Government Emigration Agent at Cork, representing that the persons interested in shipping in that port are desirous, for the reasons stated, of obtaining authority from the Board of Treasury to the Commissary-General to issue Indian corn to them from the Government stores at such price as might be deemed reasonable.

ENCLOSURES.

SIR,

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, March 24, 1846.

WE have the honour to transmit herewith for the information of Mr. Secretary Gladstone, the enclosed letter from Lieutenant Friend, the Government Emigration Agent at Cork, stating that the owners and charterers of emigrant vessels at that place would be very glad to employ Indian corn meal instead of potatoes, but that none of the former article can be procured except from the Government stores, and that the persons interested in shipping are therefore anxious to obtain authority from the Treasury to the Commissary-General to issue Indian corn to them at such price as the Government may deem reasonable. We have the honour to apply for instructions in what manner Lieutenant Friend should be directed to answer these inquiries.

We have, &c.,

T. FREDERICK ELLIOTT.
C. ALEXANDER WOOD.

J. Stephen, Esq.

SIR,

Government Emigration Office, Cork, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and enclosure relative to the substitution of Indian corn meal instead of potatoes on board emigrant ships. As all the Indian corn meal is in the hands of Government, I have applied to Commissary-General Hewetson, who has charge of it, but find he cannot supply any without a Treasury Order. The owners and charterers of emigrant vessels are anxious to avail themselves of so desirable a description of food, and have agreed to my suggestion of taking the moiety of provisions in flour and Indian corn in equal proportions, as it can be made most readily into bread in that proportion. The parties here are quite ready to pay such price as the Government may determine on charging. This measure will also have the effect of keeping a greater proportion of potatoes, flour, and oatmeal, in the country, and thus meet the intentions of Government in providing for the approaching scarcity. The vessels are now fitting out, and no time should be lost to enable them to avail themselves of the Indian corn, should the Board think proper to apply to the Treasury for the requisite order.

I have, &c.,

S. Wallcott, Esq.

(Signed) CHARLES FRIEND, Lieutenant, R.N.

It is desirable that I should know the intentions of the Board on this subject as soon as possible, as some vessels will delay ordering their provisions in consequence.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 30, 1846.

Write to Mr. Stephen, that as the Indian corn-meal belonging to the Government at Cork has been provided for the relief of destitution arising from the failure of the potato-crop in Ireland, and it would be very objectionable for the Government to interfere with the provision market to a greater extent than is indispensably necessary for that purpose, my Lords request that the applicants may

be informed that it will be necessary for them to complete the victualling of the ships by making purchases from private stores.

Transmit to Sir R. Routh and to Commissary-General Heurston a copy of the letter directed to be addressed to Mr. Stephen.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 27, 1846.

As it appears that further assistance is pressingly required for carrying on the duties confided to the officers of the Commissariat at present employed in Ireland for the relief of the necessitous poor in that part of the United Kingdom, my Lords avail themselves of the proffered services of Captain Geo. R. Pole, on the half-pay unattached, and their Lordships are pleased to appoint Captain Pole to be employed under Sir R. Routh's directions, in every respect on the same footing as the Commissariat establishment in Ireland.

My Lords approve of the pay of Captain Pole for this special service being allowed at the rate of one guinea per diem from the present date inclusively, to be continued so long only as his assistance may be required on this duty in Ireland, and a further allowance of lodging-money at such rate as may be hereafter fixed.

Write Captain Pole a letter of appointment according to the above stated terms, and desire that he will proceed forthwith to Dublin, and on his arrival at that city report himself to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, from whom he will receive further instructions.

Transmit to Sir R. Routh copy of the foregoing Minute for his information and guidance, adding that Captain Pole will be entitled to travelling expenses, according to the rules of the Commissariat service.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 27, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that on the receipt of his letter, dated 16th instant, reporting an application which had been made for payment of a municipal toll on Indian corn meal imported into the town of Limerick for the relief of the people, their Lordships called upon the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and the Master-General and Board of Ordnance to report whether such tolls had usually been paid on stores and provisions belonging to the Government; and transmit for his information copies of the replies which have been received, from which he will perceive that no such tolls have ever been paid; and that when they have been demanded, they have been successfully resisted, under competent legal advice.

State that it is their Lordships' desire that applications for the payment of toll, or other local taxes on food belonging to the Government; and transmitted to different parts of Ireland for the relief of the people, may not be complied with; and that if any such application should be persisted in, he (Sir R. Routh) should apply to the Lord-Lieutenant for the assistance of the law officers of the Crown, in order to enable him effectually to resist it.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 28th, 1846.

WITH regard to the staff-officers of pensioners, I have only to express my hope that the Commission will make all the use they can of them, whether as members or secretaries of local committees.

Our meal ought never even to be sold, except in cases of real distress. We must carefully avoid assuming the position of an ordinary dealer, and confine ourselves to those exceptive cases which the operations of the ordinary dealer do not reach. If we open our stores for the general sale of meal, we shall have the whole country dependent on us, and the supplies of different kinds of food in the hands of private persons will be exported.

The owners of emigrant ships about to sail from Cork, lately applied to be allowed to purchase Indian corn from the Government stores at that place, but they were informed that those stores had been provided for the relief of persons suffering from scarcity who have no other resource, and that they (the owners) must complete the victualling of their ships by purchasing from private stores.

I have sent for Mr. Hughes, and shall dispatch him to Ireland early in next week on 7s. 6d. a-day; and I think he should go direct to Cork, where one or two experienced persons are required to superintend the grinding at the private mills. The Admiralty mill at Deptford was established solely in consequence of the inveterate habit of the millers of adulterating their flour.

I have written to the Commissioners of Customs about the "Vulcan."

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, March 28, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that a deputation, consisting of the mayor and two other gentlemen, waited on his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, from Limerick, with propositions of certain works now under consideration; but at the same time they stated that it was the intention of the town to raise a subscription of about 1500*l.*, to be employed in small works for the relief of the poor, and of which 500*l.* was already subscribed.

The Commission having been instructed to take this case into consideration, recommended to his Excellency a donation, on the part of Government, of 400*l.*, which sum has been granted accordingly.

Sir Hugh Massey also tendered a subscription to a sub-committee of the county Clare of 100*l.* As this was the first offer in that county where it was most required, the Commission recommended a donation of a similar sum.

Notwithstanding the many difficulties we have encountered in promoting these contributions, I do not despair of ultimate success. When once thoroughly commenced, the force of example will carry us on.

The Commission have received an answer from Col. Wyndham, detailing the arrangements which he had entered into for employing the people whilst he was improving his own estate. I have every belief in the liberality of this gentleman, and I trust on the further representations that have been made to him, that he will yet give us the advantage of the influence of his name in the public manner in which we have solicited it in the sense of the Instructions.

The organization of the local committees is improving. I fear that the staff officers of pensioners will not be available to any great extent; for it appears that they are obliged to be absent on their staff duty from the 1st to the 10th or 12th of each month, and this unfits them altogether for the office of secretary. We have therefore desired each committee to appoint their own secretary, who will probably be the clerk of petty sessions, or the schoolmaster of the village, to be paid out of the funds of the committee, probably at the rate of 2s. 6*d.* for each working day. I have thought it best, whatever might be determined hereafter, that it should be so paid for the present.

In some parts of county Clare, such as Kilkee and Kilrush, there seems to be a determination to subscribe nothing; but I am not altogether without hopes that they may find it difficult to sustain this resolution.

The Board of Works have 1600 workmen in employment in the county Clare, and some further works have been this day ordered for other localities.

The Commission are now directing their attention to county Tipperary.

I beg to acquaint you that the private steamer "Ocean" has made two special trips from Cork to Dublin, at the rate of 15s. per ton. She takes about 1800 barrels or sacks at each trip. The great object of this employment is to fill the depôts of Banagher and Longford, two very important positions, and where a reasonably large supply will be required. The "Ocean" will make one more trip to Dublin for the same purpose.

I have written to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. at Liverpool to inquire on what terms they could charter a steamer to make two trips to Dundalk, where Mr. Waller has succeeded in engaging a convenient storehouse (become vacant since Mr. Lister's visit) on the quay, and contiguous to the guard, at the rate of 40*l.* to 1st September, and 10*l.* for each subsequent month.

D. A. C. G. Campbell, who is in charge at Longford, requires some assistance, and if you think well of employing Mr. Hughes, I think he has that sort of experience which Mr. Campbell wants.

I have seen Mr. Parker, who applied to their Lordships' Board for employ-

ment, and I think he is well adapted for the duty at Waterford, on which subject I wait their Lordships' orders.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 30, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships approve of his proceedings as reported in this letter.

State that as their Lordships are strongly impressed with the importance of establishing such a system of examination of the Indian corn meal which is now being ground in private mills at Cork, as will effectually prevent its being adulterated, they have instructed Mr. Hughes to proceed direct to that place, where he will be employed under Commissary-General Hewetson's orders upon this or such other duty as it may be thought proper to assign to him; and he will receive pay at the rate of 7s. 6d. a day, without allowances.

If the services of another subordinate officer should be required at Waterford, or elsewhere, and Sir R. Routh should continue to be of opinion that Mr. Parker is well qualified for the duties which will have to be performed, he is authorised to employ him at the same rate of 7s. 6d. a day, without allowances.

Write to Mr. Hughes, and state that their Lordships have been pleased to appoint him on a special service at Cork, and desire that he will proceed to that place with the least practicable delay, and place himself under the orders of Commissary-General Hewetson; and state that he will receive pay at the rate of 7s. 6d. a day, without allowances, from the present date inclusively.

Transmit an extract from this minute to Commissary-General Hewetson for his information, and state that he may consider himself authorised to take any temporary steps that may be necessary to secure the meal which is being ground at Cork by private millers from being adulterated.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 28, 1846.

I HAVE desired Mr. Hewetson to apply all the naval steamers in the first instance to the western coast. The following is my calculation, which I believe is nearly correct:—

	Barrils.
Stromboli - - - - -	800
Myrmidon - - - - -	300
Dee - - - - -	1000
Alban - - - - -	430
Confiance - - - - -	300
Rhadamanthus - - - - -	1300
	4130

My plan is, that they shall take four trips to the west before they come on the east coast, and in the meanwhile I shall ply the Cork and Dublin steamers for this depôt, and the "Ocean" steamer, and I shall be glad if Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. can assist me with another to Dundalk, until the four depôts of Dublin, Dundalk, Banagher, and Longford are completed. You will observe if my information is correct, and I have it from the master of the "Alban," that the "Confiance" and "Myrmidon" are vessels of small capacity.

THE SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY to MR. TREVELYAN.

Admiralty, March 28, 1846.

In reply to your letter of this date requesting the assistance of two lighters for discharging, and a hulk for storing the Indian corn and meal now in course of arrival at Cork from America, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, that two victualling hoys have been ordered from Portsmouth and Plymouth to Cork, to be placed at the disposal of the Commissary General; and that my Lords will provide a receiving hulk as soon as possible.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 30, 1846.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Commissary General Hewetson for his information, with reference to the application which he has made to the Admiral commanding at Cork, for the assistance of two lighters and a hulk.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships having been informed that Commissary General Hewetson had made an application to the Admiral commanding at Cork for the assistance of two lighters and a hulk, a letter was addressed by their directions to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, representing the importance of this application being promptly complied with, and a copy of the reply which has been received from the Admiralty is transmitted for Sir R. Routh's information.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 30, 1846.

I wish you fully to understand that, considering the object for which the present Irish establishment has been formed, and the vigour and dispatch, combined with the exercise of a sound discretion, required for the successful accomplishment of the ends in view, it is absolutely necessary that there should not be one person on the establishment who is not fully equal to his duties; and if any of your officers or others employed, no matter who they may be, fall short of what may reasonably be expected from them, I must beg that you will make a proper statement of the matter in an official letter to me, in order that efficient persons may be selected to relieve them.

Commissary-General COFFIN to MR. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, March 30, 1846.

I did not attach much importance to the refusal of the people in the workhouse to eat the Indian corn meal. Great pains have been taken by ill-disposed or interested persons to excite a prejudice against it; and, considering it as an attempt to lower the scale of their food, English paupers might probably have done the same under the same circumstances. Those out of doors also treated it contemptuously at first, calling it, I understand, "Peel's brimstone;" but a few of the bolder or more hungry ventured to try the poisonous stuff, and the number of purchasers has gradually increased so much, that the Relief Committee have now bought a cargo of 400 quarters of Indian corn on their own account, and were so unwilling to interrupt the sale, that I continue to let them have it from the store, on condition of their replacing it in kind as soon as their own corn is converted into meal. For my part, I have never had the slightest apprehension about the use of the Indian corn; it is much too good a thing to be long rejected by starving people; and all my fear is lest they should eat it faster than we can supply it. The meal sent here is of excellent quality; and a Scotch lady, to whom I gave some for trial, absolutely acknowledges that it makes better porridge than oatmeal. After this I think we need fear nothing from prejudice.

I hope there is now some prospect of filling the depôts, as the steamers are not only increased in number, but we are finding out by degrees the most advantageous distribution of them. Many difficulties attend all the harbours on this western coast, which it depends upon proper arrangement to diminish; and I think this is now beginning to be understood; besides which we may look for more favourable weather. The "Alban" was a fortnight on her late passage from Cork; and the commander tells me that if he had attempted to keep the sea we should have heard no more of him. She is for the present employed in this river, discharging the larger steamers of their cargoes at Tarbert, and bringing them up, while they return at once to Cork for fresh loading. I have also made an arrangement for discharging them there into lighters when necessary.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. ARCHER.

Limerick, March 30, 1846.

THOUGH the outcry is probably greater than the occasion yet justifies, I have no doubt that the distress from the failure of the potatoes is already becoming in many instances very severe, more especially in the country adjacent to this place. The quantity still remaining is very great, for it is allowed on all hands to have been an immense crop, estimated by some at double the average of ordinary years; but the decay during the last month has been most rapid; and I have been assured by people who had no interest in deceiving me, that when they thought themselves secure of a supply through the season, they have all at once been obliged to go to market for their immediate wants. Yet others say that they have scarcely had a bad potato; and the only invariable fact which I have been able to ascertain in my inquiries through the country is, that the richest soil is that in which the disease has caused the greatest loss. To this must be attributed the great failure in this neighbourhood, the counties of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick, containing some of the most productive land in Ireland. The land manured with sea-weed appears to have suffered nearly in the same degree as the deep alluvial soils, and hence arises the great distress on the sea-coast, naturally a poor country, and growing but little corn.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General COFFIN.

Treasury, March 31, 1846.

YOUR letter is of too grave and important a nature to admit of my returning an answer to it without careful consideration, and I shall confine myself at present to sending you the accompanying copies of documents, which define, to a certain extent, the views I entertain on the questions discussed by you.

The subject has two opposite sides, both of which are full of doubt and difficulty; and, between the evils of doing too little, and attempting too much, I fear that our only real satisfaction will be that we shall have acquitted ourselves to the best of our ability in the difficult task which has fallen to our lot, and that all that human aid could do, has been done to avert the calamity.

See the Correspondence relating to the Victualling of the Emigrant Ships, page 60.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, March 31, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, recapitulating the order given by their Lordships for the supply of sacks to carry on the service with which I am entrusted at this station; and I now beg to state, as the private mills engaged by me to grind and manufacture Indian corn into meal, will, with our own establishment, produce four thousand sacks weekly, the 13,500 sacks remaining to be delivered for my use by the Ordnance, will not be sufficient to meet the demand the arrangements necessarily made for grinding will occasion. I therefore request a further supply, to the extent of 10,000, may be shipped to my usual address here, so soon as they can be provided. I have now remaining in hand only the 4000 which arrived yesterday, per "Tiger;" the 1500 originally received from the storekeeper at Haulbowline, are used exclusively for loading the corn.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 3, 1846.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance with reference to his letter of the 1st instant, and state that, as my Lords have since received a further requisition for sacks for the service in Ireland, their Lordships request that the Board of Ordnance will desire Messrs. Henry to supply without loss of time the 5000 sacks at 1s. 5½d. each, alluded to in their letter of the 30th ultimo, and that the Board will cause to be provided for the same service 4500 of a quality already supplied at the price of 1s. 7½d. each, and that these quantities may be consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson with as little delay as possible.

Acquaint Commissary-General Hewetson with the direction given.

Acquaint also Sir R. Routh.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 31, 1846.

I PERFECTLY agree with your opinions as to the issue of our meal, and act entirely on them. We must be very careful to whom we sell; and I am anxiously impressing this care on all our depôts, so that it may be directed to the real object of its importation—the distress of the country.

We have 5,487 men employed in county Clare, by the Board of Works, and 1,114 in county Meath.

The demand is so great for the pamphlet on Indian corn, that we have determined to let the printer dispose of it by sale, which, as the press is set, he will be able to do at from 4s. to 5s. per 100 copies. The larger pamphlet is more sought after than the single sheet. If you thought it desirable to circulate it in England, you might probably allow it to run its natural course in the same way, but a note should be added to page , on the word "Saleratus:"—*Note.* "Saleratus is an alkaline substance used to make the meal rise, and is sold by the druggists in America prepared for use under that name. It is the bi-carbonate of soda."

I am getting on with subscriptions. In Ennis we raised 200*l.* in one day; at Kilrush they are beginning to subscribe. Colonel Vandeleur sent down 50*l.* yesterday; and in other places it is gradually taking the lead. In all the letters from the Commission we insist on the necessity of exertion on the part of the petitioners in their own behalf before the Government interferes.

We received to-day the notification of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of the appointment of the Board of Health. We propose to meet twice in each week. The two medical gentlemen, the chief surgeon Sir Philip Crampton, and Dr. Corrigan a physician; indeed Sir Philip is that also. They are both first-rate men. They cannot attend until 4 o'clock, P.M., rather late in the day, but we must consult their convenience.

I am most anxious not to disturb your orders about the grinding; and I do not think it safe to grind at any mill at a distance from a garrison town.

The SECRETARY to the BOARD of CUSTOMS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Custom House, April 1, 1846.

WITH reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, transmitting extract of a letter from Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, respecting the employment of the "Vulcan" revenue steam cruiser, in order to facilitate the conveyance of supplies of food to places at which they are required for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity on the western coast of Ireland, and signifying the desire of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to be informed whether any sufficient objection exists to the "Vulcan" being replaced by another vessel, and dispatched without delay to Limerick, to be employed as Sir R. Routh may direct.

I am commanded to acquaint you that directions have been given, in accordance with the desire of their Lordships; and the Commander of the "Vulcan" has been accordingly instructed to proceed to the Shannon; but I am at the same time to state that the Comptroller-General of the Coast Guard has intimated that he cannot pledge himself that the services of the "Vulcan" will not be required for the immediate duties for which she was provided, and to which no other vessel could be appropriated.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 3, 1846.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Sir R. Routh, with reference to the last paragraph of his letter, dated 26th ult., No. 83, and desire that he will furnish instructions for the guidance of the Commander of the "Vulcan" and the Commissariat and other officers in communication with whom he will be employed, which instructions should be issued in time for them to be received by the Commander of the "Vulcan" on the arrival of that vessel in the Shannon.

Write to the Commissioners of Customs acknowledging the receipt of this letter, and state that Sir R. Routh has been directed to furnish the Commander of the "Vulcan" with the necessary instructions for his guidance in this service, and that these instructions will await the arrival of that vessel in the Shannon.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 1, 1846.

I AM glad to report the conciliating language and manner of the parish Catholic priest at Kilrush, in his communications with the people, showing them, in true and proper colours, the evil consequences of disorder. The landlords are also coming forward. There are several private speculations in Indian corn, and the holders are selling at 1s. 6d. per stone, equal to 12s. per cwt., which is not unreasonable, being about 1½d. per lb.

Our Commission correspondence has increased beyond all measure. The relief committees, and the distribution of the Pamphlet on the use of Indian Corn, have in part contributed to this, some demanding explanations on all descriptions of questions, and others requiring the corn as well as the book. The meal is becoming exceedingly popular, and O'Brien has produced a new kind of biscuit much superior to the last. In Dublin the shops selling it are crowded, and no doubt it will effect the great desideratum of a large loaf at a small price.

The potato (like the apple of late years in England,) is beginning to wear itself out, and in a few years it will resume its station as a vegetable, which will be, in the end, a great advantage to Ireland, in obliging the people to cultivate a food that requires more labour. The little industry called for to rear the potato, and its prolific growth, leave the people to indolence and all kinds of vice, which habitual labour and a higher order of food would prevent. I think it very probable we may derive much advantage from this present calamity.

We sit as a Board of Health for the first time on Friday, at 4 P.M., but the first sitting will be merely preliminary.

Will you have the goodness to send us about 18 copies of the Revised Code of Instructions to the Commissariat to distribute, for I do not find there are more than two or three amongst us.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 1, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a schedule, with tenders, received by Assistant Commissary-General Lister, for the transport of supplies by the Grand Canal from Dublin to Banagher; and also a letter from the secretary of the Canal Company, remitting the tolls under the same circumstances as that granted in the year 1822.

ENCLOSURE.

*Grand Canal House, William-street,
March 21, 1846.*

SIR,

I AM ordered by the Directors of the Grand Canal to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, 17th instant, stating that you were desired by Commissary-General Sir R. J. Routh, to submit, for the consideration of the Court, whether during the impending scarcity a remission of the tolls, similar to that granted in 1822, will not be authorized on such supplies as it may be requisite to send by the Grand Canal to Banagher, or any intermediate place, to meet the wants of the people; and I am desired to inform the Commissary-General that the Directors have resolved to grant such remission, and have instructed the Superintendent of Trade to put himself in immediate communication with you for the purpose of adopting such arrangement as may be necessary for carrying such resolution into effect.

I have, &c.,

SAMUEL HEALEY, *Pro Secretary.*

*A. Lister, Esq.,
Esq. &c.*

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

April 3, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that my Lords approve of the acceptance of Mr. James Baylis's tender for the transport of supplies by the Grand Canal from Dublin to Banagher.

Their Lordships have been gratified by observing that the Directors of the

Grand Canal Company have refrained from making any claim for toll on provisions, the property of Government, transmitted by their canal for the purpose of affording relief to districts suffering from the failure of the potato crop.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Castle, Dublin, April 2, 1846.

THE demands on our depôts are increasing fast, and the inconvenient precedent of the large issue at Limerick, at 1d. per lb. holds out an invitation to them, which I find it difficult to combat. It is astonishing how much effect this issue has produced. I must raise the price to 11s. per cwt., otherwise the whole country will be on us, and we have yet the great struggle to face after the farm labour is over, for which the dealers are holding back, in expectation of higher prices in May, June, and July, and indeed August. I urge as much as possible the efforts of the people in their own behalf.

We have ordered the printer to sell the Indian Corn Pamphlet, and not to distribute any more at the public expense. He is able to sell them at a half-penny each. The demand is beyond credibility.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 2, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson, stating in the margin the ships then unloading under his orders, and the obligation under which he was called upon to act of hiring a small granary on Anderson's Quay, close to where the vessels are lying, capable of containing 20,000 bushels of corn, for the purpose of effecting a more rapid discharge of their cargoes, and avoiding all claims for demurrage.

Concurring entirely in the measure adopted by Mr. Hewetson for the purpose of economy and dispatch, and referring to his own statement, I beg leave to recommend the same for their Lordships' favourable consideration and approval.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Lee Mills Depot, Cork, March 31, 1846.

So many vessels are now in port from the United States of America, as per margin, with supplies to my order, the Lee-mill Granaries cannot afford sufficient dispatch in discharging them; to avoid, as far as possible, grounds for claiming demurrage, and having induced several of the ships to come up from Passage to the City Quay with a view to more rapid delivery, and to save expense of lighterage from thence (lighters are, moreover, exceedingly difficult to obtain in anything like sufficient number), I have engaged a small granary on Anderson's Quay, close to where the vessels lie, capable of containing 20,000 bushels of corn. With the aid of these premises and a separate gang of men, I am now able to effect the delivery of four ships at the same time, the Lee Mills taking from three. This extra dispatch not only affords strong inducements to the masters of the vessels to bring their vessels up from Passage to the city, but it is the means of a great saving of expense in lighterage and cartage. The terms upon which I have engaged these premises, slightly situated in every point of view, are per month 15*l.*, by the month only, in order to their being given up so soon as the pressure of this service subsides.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 3, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships entirely approve of Commissary-General Hewetson's proceedings in this matter.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 3, 1846.

THE accompanying Circular contains some interesting information on the state of the Corn Trade.

The large introduction of Indian corn into Ireland, on private account, is very gratifying, and points directly both to the solution of our present difficulties, and to the permanent use of a better description of food than the potato.

Deputy Commissary-General DORRIS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, April 4, 1846.

THE supply of potatoes in this district (Wexford excepted) is calculated to last to the end of the month, though a great portion of those in good condition are now being planted, which of course must diminish the stock for consumption, especially as, where they can afford it, the farmers take the wise precaution of planting them "whole." I myself doubt the calculation being founded on data to be depended upon, believing that the evil is rather chequered than general, some having a supply for a longer, some for a shorter period; whilst many are already totally destitute, and have sought and obtained admission in the poor-houses; this applies equally to the counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny. The price of potatoes here on the quay is 7d. per stone of 14 lb., and 8d. by retail in the market; quite beyond the reach of the poor, the whole supply coming from Wexford.

I have succeeded in introducing here a quality of bread which the bakers are retailing at 1d. per lb., with sufficient profit to themselves and the greatest benefit to the poor, who buy it up faster than it can be made; and I beg to submit to you the ingredients and cost. My principal object was to remove the prejudices which still exist against Indian corn when it is doled out as *charity* (for they do still exist in this sole exception, as was exemplified last week in our poorhouse, where it was sturdily refused as an article of diet on the plea that a few persons who had died there the preceding week, had been poisoned by it); and the surest way was to bring it into the market at a price far below the public expectation.

The importations of corn and other food on private account might, I think, be kept under a very salutary control as regards price, if Government would now and then at large towns or elsewhere place at the disposal of the authorities or Committees a supply of meal, to be sold with discretion at cost price. The dealers express the greatest disquietude as to the effect which the Government relief may have on their importations, and a broad hint of this kind now and then would keep the market at its fair level.

There is only now one opinion, if honestly expressed, of the wisdom and judgment with which this relief measure has been provided by Government. As a succedaneum to the potato, Indian corn comprises more advantages than any other attainable article of food in existence, both as regards its price, its nutritious qualities, its facility and variety of preparation, whether as the staple subsistence of the able-bodied labourer, the child of all ages, the inmate of an hospital ward and workhouse, or as a palatable variety on the well-spread table of the wealthy; and it furnishes every individual with a daily wholesome food at nearly the same price paid in average seasons for their former deleterious nutriment. This is the blessing which has resulted to the pauper; but it also reaches, most essentially, every one of the more favoured classes of society, for, by the determination of Government to make all their purchases out of the kingdom, the prices of all comestibles have been kept within the range of ordinary seasons: and I cannot find a person to assert that, with the exception of the article of potatoes alone, he believes the domestic expenses of any family at all increased by the existing state of things. Thank God there is now plenty of food in Ireland: let man find employment.

ENCLOSURE.

RESULT of a Quantity of BREAD Manufactured from Indian Corn Meal and Wheat Flour in the Proportions of Two-thirds of the former and One-third of the latter.

	Rs.	£.	s.	d.
224 Indian meal, at 11s. 6d. per cwt., cost		1	3	0
112 second quality wheat flour, at 14s. 6d. per cwt.		0	14	6
	396			
Increase of 236 on being made into dough.		1	17	6
	572			
Diminution of 35 in the process of baking.				
Produced 537 lbs. of bread of excellent quality, which was sold at 1d. per lb.—say		2	4	9
Profit to baker		0	7	3

At Waterford, April 2, 1846.

The peculiar process under which the two ingredients will properly amalgamate must be studied, and can be easily acquired by any baker after a few trials; the best result has been by baking it in tins.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 4, 1846.

Now is the time for the means of the landlords, and the exertions of the local Committees, with a little well directed assistance from us, but it is an object to reserve our supplies, without some just motive for their issue, until after the farm labour is over, when there will be a considerable rise in all sorts of provisions, and our presence in the market will have the happiest influence. Where it is indispensable, we are not now backward; but where the petitioners have other resources, we think it just that those resources should be used, and those of the public economised for their great and simultaneous effect during the summer months. I regret to say that I have lost the use of the steamer of the Cork Company, and I must stop the supply from Dublin to Bannagher, where I have placed 2000 sacks, and confine myself to Longford, which has no present communication with Limerick, but is a most important inland dépôt, as well as Bannagher. Longford has about 1100 sacks. Bannagher will continue to be supplied from Limerick. I have been able to do nothing yet for Dundalk, but I write to Mr. Hewetson to send thither one of the small Government steamers. I fear also I must send a cargo of whole Indian corn grain to Sligo, but I shall not do it until the last moment, hoping to hear of the arrival of the "Cornelia" and "Empire," which have a large supply of the meal. We shall require some sacks at Dublin, for the meal barrels are so bad, and the cooerage so expensive, that it is almost ruinous to think of mending them, and it is better to put the meal into bags than attempt it.

The oatmeal is rising in some localities to 18s. and 20s. per cwt., but it is not a fair sale, and these prices are obtained chiefly on long credits.

I still think, as I have always thought, that we shall succeed in our operations, though I perceive that our stock is limited when compared with the probable demands upon it. I therefore preach economy and reserve to all the department, so that nothing may be premature, or done without reflection. If I were to throw open our dépôts now, there is not an effort nor a landlord that we could enlist through any other channel. All to whom I have an opportunity of speaking, approve the grounds on which I am acting.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. PENNEFATHER,

Dublin Castle, April 6, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the weekly return of the stores at the different dépôts; but the weather has been so tempestuous, that less has been effected than I anticipated.

The "Alban" and the "Myrmidon" have been both driven into port, near Bantry Bay; and the "Dee," if she has been able to keep the sea, must have encountered very heavy gales.

In the meanwhile, I have taken up four fine topsail Plymouth schooners, three for Dundalk, and one for Dublin, and I expect to get a fifth.

These vessels were employed by Government to bring over biscuit for the military depôt, and on unloading, they have agreed to take one cargo of Indian corn meal at 10s. and 11s. per ton.

I have no account yet of the "Rhodamantus" or the "Porcupine." The naval steamers consist of the "Stramboli," "Myrmidon," "Allan," and the "Doe."

The Cork and Dublin Steam Company expect a large screw steamer, which they propose to offer to me for this service. I understand that she is expected next week.

The reports from the interior are more urgent, but the landlords and country gentlemen are exhibiting a very general activity; and I have been continuing to issue in various localities small quantities of meal, which have had their due influence on the market prices.

Upon the whole, it may be stated that the difficulties of the impending exigency are steadily and gradually approaching.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 6, 1846.

I SHALL see Mr. O'Brien in the course of the day. I have my doubts about the rye in Dublin; people here do not like it, and I apprehend there would be no sale for it. We had yesterday a loaf of Indian corn meal, which I sent to the Lord-Lieutenant, and they could scarcely tell it from wheaten bread, except by the colour, so light and well prepared, and everybody eat it in preference. I had received a similar communication to yours of the shipments of Indian corn for Ireland, chiefly Limerick and Waterford. I have no doubt that the introduction of the Indian corn into the United Kingdom will be a blessing to the poorer classes; and here particularly I feel satisfied that it will be the means of weaning the Irish from the potato, which is one of the causes that impede the civilization of the country.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Deputy Commissary-General DOUGLASS.

Treasury, April 7, 1846.

I THINK it right to advert to a point touched upon in your letter dated 4th instant, upon which our views appear not to be quite coincident. I conceive our true policy to be to relieve the disquietude of the dealers, by causing it to be generally understood that our stores will be appropriated *only to the relief of extreme distress*, and by keeping them as much out of sight as possible.

The large importations of Indian corn in progress in Ireland on *private account* are very gratifying, and point directly both to the solution of our present difficulties and to the permanent use of a better description of food than the potato.

I will add copies of documents which have a direct bearing on this subject.

See the Correspondence relating to the Victualling of the Emigrant Ships, at p. 66.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Lee Mills Depôt, Cork, April 7, 1846.

REFERRING to my letter, No. 8, of the 31st ult., I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the very fragile, and I may add unmerchantable, state of a large portion of the American barrels in which the meal I am receiving from the United States has been packed, is such as to render them altogether unfit for secure transport coast-ways to our depôts. The reports I receive of the condition, on arrival, of many of those already despatched, though selected from amongst the best in store, is so unsatisfactory and discouraging, that I see no alternative but to sack as many as time and circumstances will permit, and to meet this object I request an additional supply of 10,000 may be sent me at an early period; and I may here remark there is little doubt that this, as well as our ordinary packing of meal, 10,000 more will shortly have to be called for.

The barrels, I hope, may sell by public auction for half the cost of the sacks, and a considerable expense of cooerage will also be saved under this arrangement, which, with my present experience, I regret was not adopted from the first.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 9, 1846.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance, requesting he will state to the Master-General and Board that a further quantity of sacks is required for the public service at Cork; and my Lords request that they will cause an additional supply of 10,000 sacks, at the price of 1s. 7½d. each, to be provided and forwarded to Commissary-General Hewetson, at Cork, with as little delay as possible.

Acquaint Commissary-General Hewetson and Sir R. Routh.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 7, 1846.

LORD LINCOLN sent for me at 4 P.M., just as I was leaving the Commission, and mentioned that he had received statements from Carrick-on-Suir that led him to fear an outbreak or some riot, unless employment were given to the people, and he asked me if I had any one whom I could send down with a small sum of money. I said that I had not, but that Mr. Dobree, a Deputy Commissary-General, was at Waterford within 12 miles, and I gave a note of his name, and that he was there to act in any manner in which he might be ordered. His Lordship did not mention any details, but his object seemed to be the employment of the people, and he sent for Captain Larcom. I mention this to you in case it should reach you through any other channel. I am not aware of any particulars, but I know that Carrick-on-Suir is a lawless place, and that the richer class are quite indisposed to make any effort on their own behalf. They were very earnest with us to grind corn there, for it is full of mills, but it would have been a most unsafe project.

We have had 12,580 employed during the last week under the 9 Vict. c. 1. We have had 30,000 men during the week employed on the Shannon, and about 7000 on drainage. Of the first there were 10,870 employed last week in County Clare.

Since the heavy rains and tempestuous weather of last week, the weather appears likely to moderate, and we shall no doubt begin immediately the usual farm labour of this period of the year, which usually continues until the 15th May. I am anxious to see this begin, so as to keep our supplies, almost only a monthful to such a mass, until after that period, when we must open all our depôts, as well as those entrusted on the coast to the officers of the Coast Guard. It is then that our reserve and economy now will tell, both in supplying a wholesome food and in putting down combinations of dealers. We are obliged now to keep up our prices to prevent the whole population from being upon us; 12s. per cwt. for the meal and 9s. 6d. for the whole corn, and then only in very small quantities in most urgent cases. From 15th May to August, there will be nothing but the hay season to afford any relief. It will be a very active busy period for us, but I fear Mr. Hewetson's operations may be rather slow, though unavoidably so. It will be July before he has finished his grinding.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 8, 1846.

I ONLY write three words to say that there was nothing extraordinary at Carrick-on-Suir, beyond a movement of Tipperary impatience for employment, with reference to certain works which had been submitted, and as some of Captain Larcom's people were still in that neighbourhood, a temporary employment was substituted *en attendant*, which sufficed.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, April 8, 1846.

SINCE I wrote to you on the 30th, the cry of distress in this part of the country has rapidly increased, and I think that no reasonable doubt can be felt that it is a cry of real distress. Not a day passes in which I have not applications, personally, or in writing, for the purchase of meal. These applications come from various and distant points in the three or four adjoining counties, but all turn upon the same general representation of the failure of the poor man's stock of potatoes, of the deficient quantity, and high price of those brought to market, of the similarly high price of oatmeal, the readiest substitute for them, and of the good effect expected from bringing the Indian corn meal into competition, even though in very small quantities, in the way both of reducing prices, and of drawing out the remaining stocks of potatoes, which many are said to be hoarding, in hopes of an exorbitant price, though at the risk of a total loss by decay. On these grounds I recommend a cautious opening of our depôts, the absolute refusal of which would, I am sure, cause great disappointment and dissatisfaction, and perhaps end in bringing the relief of the distress wholly upon our hands, without the intervention or aid of the committees; and considerations of this kind seem to have had weight in Dublin, as I have lately had directions to sell small quantities to committees, whose subscription funds show them to be working in earnest.

I still labour to convince applicants of the importance, for their own sake, of reserving our supplies for the approaching period of real scarcity, and with some nevertheless they seem now to be persuaded of this; but I think that all are exceptions surprised to find that the Government provision of food is so limited, having been led to believe, not only from common report, but from the indefinite terms of the printed instructions, that the resource was of much larger extent, and would be available whenever the contingencies under which it is there promised should arise. The money grants in aid of private subscriptions are to many, however, almost an equal surprise, and go far, I think, towards allaying the discontent that would otherwise be expressed, as they show that the Government is in earnest, and not, as was at one time commonly apprehended, deceiving them with a mere show of assistance. The strongest proof, however, of the real scarcity of potato food is the earnestness with which they still press for ever so small a quantity of our meal, with the view of influencing the markets, and also of satisfying the poor that something is doing for them.

I have within a few days submitted, and yesterday received a favourable answer to a proposal made by me, tending to encourage and facilitate the purchase of private cargoes of Indian corn when brought in for sale. It was founded on an application made to me by Mr. Mansell, of Tervoe, who was very desirous of buying, in concert with some other large proprietors, a large supply of this kind for distribution in their localities, but found himself stopped by the difficulty of its safe custody during the period of gradual consumption. This I have endeavoured to get over, by obtaining permission to receive it into our charge, and deliver it to the parties from time to time in quantities suitable for their more detailed distribution, the question of the expense of storage, &c. remaining open for reference to the Treasury. I am led to expect that cargoes of this kind will be imported, perhaps freely, if they find a ready sale, but I doubt if they can be purchased much for country use, at low prices at least, unless encouragement of this kind is given; but as every such purchase must serve to relieve the pressure of demand upon our depôts, it seems to me well worth our while to incur the additional trouble, if not the additional expense of such an arrangement. I have mentioned it to other country gentlemen since Mr. Mansell talked to me about it, and the idea seems to take. The Limerick Committee want also to avail themselves of it, but this I resist, because I do not see the same grounds for relieving them of the charge of their own property. As usual, however, they catch at every kind of assistance from the Government.

This being the focus of immediate distress, I believe that I am doing good by my daily communications with the numerous applicants for assistance, who must partly be paid in words, in order to economise our more substantial food. But for this, I should probably have gone ere now to visit the coast of Kerry, on which I fear, there is very severe, though more silent distress. Of the districts to the

northward I now hear little, but I believe that Galway is in a bad state. Mr. Wood is, I understand, shortly to go to Galway city, to establish a dépôt, but at present he is occupied in initiating Captain Pole at Banagher.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 8, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that I have directed the following quantities of Indian corn meal to be held at the disposal of the Inspector-General of the Coast Guard, Sir James Donbrain, to be deposited at the undermentioned Coast Guard stations, to be disposed of by sale only, viz.—

	Tons.
Castletownsend	5
Bantry	10
Berehaven	10
Dingle	25

Further quantities will be required at Dingle during the season, probably to the amount of 150 tons.

Killybegs	10
Lochree	5
Dunkcechan	3
Belmullet	7
Achil Island	5
Ballinakill	5
Roundstone	5
Arran Island	5
Ballyvaughan	10

Leaving to Commissary-General Coffin to settle the quantities required at Turbert, and other points at the mouth of the Shannon, with Captain Mann.

Total 105

The present price at which I propose to sell is 11s. per cwt., or 1s. 4½d. per stone, and as soon as the farm labour is closed, and we are better prepared to issue (towards the 15th May), to reduce our price to 1s. 3d. per stone, or 10s. per cwt., subject of course to circumstances.

Further small quantities will be required at all the stations, from time to time, during the summer months.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 9, 1846.

BANNAHER is a dependency of Limerick, naturally from its communication by the Shannon, and because it has no direct mail route to Dublin, except *via* Athlone or Limerick. Galway, Westport, and Sligo have direct mail communications with Dublin, and only a cross post to Limerick, which makes it frequently more convenient to write *via* Dublin from the two latter posts. Thus, though forming part of the western district, they are in reality in direct correspondence with me. Limerick has the superintendence of great part of Tipperary, and all Kerry, and the mouth of the Shannon, and as high as Athlone. It has no communication with Longford.

As for the state of the country in reference to the distress, I believe we have the best accounts here. It is like a cheque-board, the white and black in close juxtaposition, which gives rise to such contradictory evidence from sources within a few miles of each other. The applications are becoming both numerous and urgent, and we shall, within even a few days, be in the midst of it. A

deputation has just come up from Galway, to state that the people are in so excited a state, that it will be impossible to restrain them, unless a depot is immediately established there, as the "Dee" was seen passing up to Westport, and the people are losing all hope of assistance.

Mr. Wood will be there on Monday, and Mr. Hewetson has orders to make the first shipment to Galway. There were reasons from the success of their herring fishery, to believe that the assistance at Galway would not have been so immediately required. The demands also for the neighbourhood of Dublin are becoming very pressing, and I strongly recommend to your consideration to send a cargo of Indian corn and any oatmeal that you may have at Deptford, consigned to Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

Colonel Goldie, who commands the detachment of the 66th at Clare Castle, has kindly consented to belong to the Local Committee, and has subscribed largely to the wants of the people. It is an object to enlist generous men of that character.

From Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, King's County, Good Friday, 1846.

It is no easy matter to separate the amount of existing distress from the late loss of crop, from the sum of distress annually falling on the poorer classes at this time of year in this country. The active measures of Governments cannot be concealed from the people, however careful their servants may be: printed instructions appear in the daily prints, and local preparations are quickly and easily ramoured over districts thickly and widely inhabited. That there is more distress than usual, besides being an admitted point, is evident. The upper classes know it by the extra pressing demands upon their individual charity and forbearance; the markets prove it by an increased price of provisions and a smaller quantity produced for sale. My observations are, necessarily, confined to my own locality. Potatoes are selling at 4s. and 4½s. a stone of 14 lbs., which to the very poor, who cannot purchase a sack, is 5s. This time last year they were 2s. and 2½s.: 2s. a stone is considered a remunerative price to the grower.

The multiplication of food by the creation of Government depôts of Indian corn meal, is a fact comprehensible by all, and has roused this people in a very evident manner. The present effects visible are—

1st. A confidence in Government. The poor, among whom I direct my private researches when walking, and who are perfectly unconscious of my being officially interested, turn their conversation on the "meal store in Banagher": their minds are full of it; they bless it and the Government which created it; and when I inquire what good it has done them, they say that its very presence has enabled them to live by keeping down the price of provisions. They feel no wish to get at the stores themselves; they feel content with the first results of the presence of plenty.

2nd. The forcing into the market now provisions speculatively laid aside. A feeling of jealous anger arose at first here among the small dealers against Government: men who, living as wretchedly to all appearance as the rest of the community, nevertheless possess some money, and lay it out in meal or potatoes, and seeing or hearing of the probability of greater demand from increased distress, keep it up for a better price. This is, I apprehend, a legitimate use of capital, and, moderately pursued, it is not in the wish of Government to check it until it tends towards monopoly. Well, this feeling of jealous anger on their part has subsided upon a calm view of the proceedings of Government: they have brought their stores into market more freely than before the meal arrived; and as the meal accumulated, though unused, their prices lowered.

At present, therefore, as far as I can judge, two great results appear from the multiplication of food in this country:—

1st. A great confidence in Government on the part of the poor.

2nd. A wholesome fear, without "disquietude," of over-speculation on the part of the dealers.

I have a nominal list at this moment before me of 1200 poor (families

included) in Banagher requiring food; represented as living on the scanty supply of potatoes, &c., which those not quite so poor as themselves give in charity to them. The population is between 3000 and 4000. This list was made out by the chief constable here, an active and intelligent man, who knows the place and people well.

There is no private sale of Indian corn meal in Banagher at present; but as to the disinclination of the people to eat it, I think it will not continue beyond the tasting. The same objection would exist if the object was to introduce macaroni. I travelled with a Mr. Robinson, of Clara Mills, in this county, who said he had got 11 tons of the corn, and was going to Clara to grind and see after it. I gave him my direction on parting in Dublin, and requested him to let me know the result. He called to-day and said he had ground it all in the common corn-mill; that he had given it to his workmen at 1d. a pound (his object being to keep down the market about Clara); and that, with the exception of four out of fifty, they all liked it. The object of Mr. R. coming in to Banagher to-day was, however, to allay, if possible, his own fears: he had heard of this great *dépôt* in Banagher, and that Government intended to undersell all parties: this alarmed him; but I explained the object of Government to him, so far at all events as to allay his fears as a dealer. I then asked his opinion of the matter, and he said there was no doubt the measure had kept down monopoly, and by the month of July he expected that provisions of all kinds would be very cheap.

The *dépôt* here is filling fast: there are at present half a million of pounds in store, and the stock will soon be doubled.

Inquiries from all quarters are made concerning it, and the mode of reaching it; and it is very difficult to satisfy the inquirers that their own exertions are to be the key to my stores.

There has been no issue from these stores yet, except two tons to Lord Rosse, of Parsons-town, whose character for science and philanthropy appears to be uniform; and five tons are promised to Sir John Burke, of Woodford, in Galway.

I have opened my diary, and it grows daily in interest, as do also the duties in which I am engaged.

I trust, from henceforth, the use of Indian corn will become general throughout Ireland, not to the superseding former articles of food, but as auxiliary to them; and that when the present anxieties and arrangements are forgotten, there will be found fastened upon this people the habit of using a new food, nutritious, cheap, durable and compact: then, indeed, no small object will have been achieved.

My predecessor here, Assistant Commissary-General Wood, goes to Galway to-morrow, where there appears to be great distress.

SIR R. ROUTE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 11, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Coffin, enclosing a correspondence with the Chairman of the Limerick Relief Committee, who had applied for permission to store £3000 worth of Indian meal purchased by the Committee for the use of the poor, in the Government stores, also for the use of sacks for the same purpose.

It appears that this purchase is intended chiefly for distribution to the poor at Limerick, whereas the previous arrangement agreed upon had only in view the issue in large quantities to rural districts, but for this distribution in detail we are by no means prepared.

Mr. Coffin has therefore been obliged to decline this application, which I trust their Lordships, on reference to the correspondence, will approve.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, April 9, 1846.

ADVERTING to my letter of the 4th inst., No. 54, and to your reply, dated the 6th inst. No. 33, I have now the honour to enclose for your consideration copies of letters which have since passed between the Chairman of the Limerick Relief Committee and myself, and to observe that I see no adequate reason for comprehending this Committee in the arrangement to which you have assented.

Sir,

Committee Rooms, Limerick, April 7, 1846.

I am directed by the Relief Committee to apply to you for permission to store three thousand pounds worth of Indian meal, purchased by the Committee for the use of the poor, in the Government stores, also for the use of sacks for the purpose.

N.B. A portion of this is for the rural districts.

I am, &c.

E. F. G. RYAN,

Commissary-General Coffin.

Mayor and Chairman.

Sir,

Limerick, April 7, 1846.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of this date, requesting, on behalf of the Limerick Relief Committee, permission to store £3000 worth of Indian meal in the Government stores (part of this being for rural districts), and also the use of sacks for that purpose.

With the desire of promoting, as far as depends on me, all efforts to provide cheap food for the people in the approaching period of distress, I lately asked, and have obtained leave, to take charge of supplies, purchased with this view, by Relief Committees, or other private parties associated for the same object, subject only to the question of expense arising out of such custody, which must necessarily be referred to the Treasury.

My proposal and the assent to it had reference, however, to rural districts alone, enabled to make purchases of the kind by combining their funds, but likely to be restrained from doing so by the want of facilities for the subsequent custody, preservation, and portion of the supplies purchased.

It appears to me that these considerations can in no respect apply to the position of the Relief Committee of this city; and as the occupation of the limited storage under my command by supplies intended for local use, would greatly curtail my ability to render similar aid to country districts, I do not feel myself warranted in complying with the request of the Committee without previous reference to Dublin.

I shall nevertheless have pleasure in submitting their application, if they will be good enough to inform me of the distinct grounds on which it is made, and of the separate extent of the storage required by them.

It may be proper for me to observe that I have no Government stores, properly so called, at my disposal; all which I occupy being hired expressly for the occasion, and the objects of the depot not being local, but extending to a large surrounding district, I am restricted by convenience to a particular situation in the selection of stores.

I have, &c.

E. F. G. Ryan, Esq., Mayor,
Chairman of the Relief Committee, Limerick.

EDW. PIERCE COFFIN.

Sir,

Relief Committee Rooms, April 7, 1846.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in reply to one of mine, in which I requested permission to store our Indian meal in the Government depôts; and in reply to that part of your communication, in which you request the grounds, on which our application was made, I beg to enclose you a copy of a resolution which was passed at a meeting of the Committee on yesterday, and which, I believe, will afford you all the information you require.

I have, &c.

E. F. G. RYAN, Mayor.

Commissary-General Coffin.

Relief Committee Rooms, Limerick, April, 7, 1846.

Proposed by WM. MANSSELL, Esq.; seconded by Wm. HOWLEY, Esq., D.L.

Resolved,

That there are a large number of opulent persons in this city and neighbouring counties, ready to purchase large quantities of Indian meal from private parties who have brought it into this port.

That the importers require any meal purchased from them to be removed from their stores within ten days from the time at which it is purchased. That throughout the country there are no stores fitted to receive large quantities of meal, and that, even if there were, it would be unsafe and injudicious to place large quantities of provisions in district depôts.—That our Chairman therefore be requested to call upon Government to provide stores in Limerick for storing meal, the property of district committees, and to appoint a Commissary to issue out the meal, purchased by local committees, to them in quantities not less than three tons at a time.

That this officer should approve of the quantity of any meal which local committees may propose to place in the Government store, and that he be responsible to the committees, not for the particular meal lodged with him by any committee, but only for an equal quantity of good meal.

EDW. COSTELLO,
Secretary Relief Committee.

Sir,

Limerick, April 9, 1846.

In reply to your letter, dated 7th inst., in which you refer me to a copy of the resolution of the Relief Committee for the grounds of your previous application, I beg leave to observe that I see none therein stated which can be considered applicable to others than country districts; and that although I shall forward the correspondence to Dublin, I find myself unable to recommend that the request should be complied with, so far as regards the city of Limerick.

I have, &c.

EDW. PINE COFFIN.

E. F. Ryan, Esq., Mayor,
Chairman of the Limerick Relief Committee.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 14, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, that although their Lordships consented to the Indian corn meal, which has been purchased by private parties for the relief of distress in the rural districts adjoining Limerick, being stored in that city under the charge of the officers of the Commissariat, and being issued by them in large quantities to the parties charged with its final distribution, they concur in opinion with Commissaries-General Routh and Coffin, that no sufficient reason exists to justify the adoption of a similar course in reference to the meal provided by private parties for distribution in the city of Limerick, and that the interference of the Government in this case would be open to serious objection.

Captain MANN, R.N., to Sir R. ROUTH.

Kilrush, April 11, 1846.

In my last letter I acquainted you with my intention of visiting Limerick to consult with Commissary-General Coffin, and on Monday, the 6th, I did so. A report that some cars had been to Kilbaha from Miltown Malbay to purchase seed potatoes, induced me to at once proceed to these places to inquire as to the truth of both statements. At Kilbaha I found they had begun to supply some parts round with seed, the price being 6d per stone, in small quantities, and 2d per barrel of 96 stone, and that there was a very good supply there. From that I went to Carrigaholt, and found the statements of the distress among the Knock tenants and labourers fully borne out. To help them, and to take off a little of the pressure on the supply of seed potatoes, I directed a further sale of four barrels of Indian corn meal at the original price, 1s. 3d. per stone, a measure that had been agreed on between Commissary-General Coffin and myself at our meeting. The increase in price had not been ordered then. I am happy to say it has had a very good effect on both the markets and the people, lowering the former and making the latter more contented. To-morrow it is

my intencion to store eight harrels more there, as a reserve, and I begin to have hopes that Mr. Patterson will reduce his meal so as to enable me to withdraw for a time. I found, while at Limerick, that Mr. Russell, a merchant, would sell Indian corn meal at 11½ per ton; and to carry out the principle suggested in my former letter, I offered, on your authority, to convey from his store, at Limerick, any reasonable quantity at a time, and at different times, by Government conveyance (the cutters), carriage free, to the Committees, who would subscribe and purchase from him Indian meal for distribution among the destitute, pointing out, that in all probability, he would allow, what I could not, the usual discount or per centage, as between merchant and retail dealer. There is every disposition on the part of Mr. Burton and Mr. Duggin to provide in this way, but there is a large population there. Not a person but themselves resident who could contribute, and I am sorry to say that positive refusals to contribute from landlords non-resident were shown to me. I have advised, as the letters are addressed to the Committee, that they should be forwarded to the Relief Commission.

On Thursday I attended a meeting at Knock, called specially to obtain information as to the manner in which it was necessary to proceed to obtain a supply of the Indian corn meal, and to select parties for work. Being an open meeting, the questions put to me, enabled me to explain to all, the absolute necessity of their exerting themselves to obtain supplies from private sources instead of either relying on, or doing anything that would tend to exhaust the Government depôts, and by that, leave the markets entirely in the hands of speculators, when the time came that it was likely the supply would be most wanted. I then pointed out, as above, where meal could be had, and repeated the offer to bring it close to them free of expense for carriage, and I understood the offer to be accepted.

It is the general opinion of respectable persons that but for the Indian corn meal that is in, and daily arriving in the river, potatoes would be 12d. per stone, and no bounds to other prices of provisions.

I have by this post received the enclosed note from Kildysart; if possible, I will go there and explain to them how to proceed; but the most important is one from Sir Lucius O'Brien, respecting some protection in the River Fergus, in consequence of a sloop laden with flour belonging to Mr. Russell having been attacked, and, I believe, plundered the night before last.

Commissary-General COPPIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, April 11, 1846.

I AM so thoroughly persuaded of the general truth of the principles laid down by Burke, in his *Thoughts and Details on Scarcity*, that I have always sought to excuse rather than commend the interference of Government on the present occasion, deeming it to be at variance with true policy in all ordinary cases, and likely even in this to have had consequences, but nevertheless justified, and indeed rendered unavoidable by the peculiar circumstances of this country. The explanation of this necessity seems to me to lie in the singular condition of a large proportion of its population.

The truth of Burke's maxims depends upon that of another general principle, namely, that individuals have a quicker and clearer perception of their own interests than their rulers can possess, the alternate union and opposition of which will work out a more practically beneficial result than can be attained by the more systematic measures of a Government. But those only can participate in this result who have an interest in the struggle, and the unfortunate Irish cottier has none. His condition excludes him from the circle in which commerce revolves, and as his labour avails him only for the direct production of the food on which he depends for subsistence, the failure of that food leaves him incapable of profiting by the resources of the market, and consequently liable to starve in the midst of plenty. Not having the legal claim to support of the English labourer, his only sure refuge is in the care of the Government, and in such circumstances is it possible for the Government to refuse it? The

answer seems to be already given. Right or wrong, the Government has committed itself to the principle of interference, and the remaining question is, to what extent it should be carried out.

I am almost inclined to believe that the Government would have acted more prudently in abstaining from any direct interference in regard to food. The essential difference in the condition of the great mass of the Irish population and that of England and Scotland, consists in the inability of the former to earn money wherewith food may be purchased. All, perhaps, that the occasion really needed was to remedy this inequality by extraordinary means of employment, when the certainty that the people had money to spend would have sufficed, in the ordinary course of traffic, to bring food within their reach. This course, however, has not been adopted—supplies of food have been provided by the Government, and the supposed extent of this provision is said to have stopped private speculation in the same direction, until, at a comparatively late period, it became known that the Government supply is inadequate to the probable extraordinary demand.

The duty of interference has now been so far recognized that, if it fails in effect, it may be expected that the whole blame of failure will fall on the Government, whatever may be the true cause; but as far as my limited view extends, the encouragement of importation on private account is the further resource most to be depended on. That there still exists a great quantity of food of various kinds in the country I am quite satisfied, but as the customary market for it is elsewhere, there can be no certainty of its remaining here for consumption, or, if it does remain, it may rise to an exorbitant price. Importation will tend to remove the difficulty arising from either cause, and may also serve greatly to diminish the drain on our depôts, and prevent them from being exhausted before the end of the season of want; but I fear it will be at any rate a hard struggle.

A further question of deep interest is, whether or not similar assistance will be required in the ensuing year. Even should the potato disease not re-appear, it is generally anticipated that the coming crop must be deficient in quantity by reason of diminished cultivation, for many will not have seed to sow, and others will be afraid to sow, at the risk of losing both crop and rent. In any case, however, I should hope that, with ample time for preparation and the benefit of this year's experience, any measures necessary will be effected with comparative facility; and I should also hope that it may be found possible to confine them to the care of enabling the people to buy food, leaving to private competition that of providing it. If a false step has been taken, it need not therefore be repeated.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 11, 1846.

THE subscriptions from the villages and rural districts, and from one or two of the towns, have been so numerous, and called so frequently for the donations of the Lord Lieutenant, and Mr. Hewetson has made a demand this morning for 1000*l.* for his grinding, &c., that I shall be obliged to call upon their Lordships for a further supply of funds. I do not think I have more than 1100*l.* to my credit in the bank.

In regard to payment of labour in food, it is only very latterly that we have had disposable supplies at the several minor depôts. The Board of Works, too, say they must have workmen who will work; and that, paid only by provisions, they could not, in remote localities, enforce that work, if even they could protect the provisions. Then the provisions themselves are of a new description, and by this enforcement would be rendered unpopular, and, in lieu of a favour, would be received in the light of a hardship. All these are considerations for feeling our way, and I yet trust you will be satisfied even on this point.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Liverick, April 11, 1846.

THE Admiral has made a very good disposition of the steamers, and when the weather is moderate they make rapid progress in the transport of the meal, but there has been great interruption from the gales. I hope they are now nearly at an end.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 12, 1846.

It is clearly advisable to appoint well educated intelligent persons on the spot to fill temporary situations in our establishment in Ireland, except when persons can be sent from the Treasury who are possessed of some peculiar qualifications for the service; but as we have begun, so I should wish to go on to the end—that nobody, either here or there, should be appointed without the express previous sanction of the Treasury.

We will ship off to Dublin the further accumulation of oatmeal at Deptford, but we must not lightly again disturb the market for Indian corn. Even supposing it were certain that we shall hereafter require more (which I hope we shall not), we had better allow free course to the private shipments to Ireland as long as we can, knowing that we can buy almost any quantity whenever we actually want it.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General COFFIN.

Treasury, April 13, 1846.

THE encouragement given by you to the laudable efforts which are being made by private individuals to help the suffering people through this season of distress is highly approved, and it is gratifying to observe that these efforts have taken a direction calculated to stimulate the importation of supplies of cheap and nourishing food on private account.

The extent to which a Government can assist in feeding a whole people is so limited, and, even to the degree to which it is in its power to assist, its interference is open to so many objections, that our first efforts should be directed to support the exertions of private benevolence, and to give the utmost possible scope to the importation of food on private account, and the gradual sale of that which is the produce of the country.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 18, 1846.

I now leave to suggest to you, for the consideration of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the question of purchasing a cargo of Indian corn, of which I understand there have been some late arrivals in London, and of consigning it to Assistant Commissary-General Lister at Dublin.

I do not propose to grind it, unless this should become by circumstances obligatory on me, but to issue it in grain on sale to committees on the banks, and in the vicinity of the lines of the two canals.

I am unwilling to divert the quantities in store at Cork from their original intention, that of being distributed as depôts in advantageous positions throughout the country; but the canals and the Shannon rendering Dublin so central, I think that this purchase would be a profitable investment, and offer a very convenient and ready resource to the necessities of the impending scarcity.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 13, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that Assistant Commissary-General Wood will have arrived this day at Galway to superintend the formation of a dépôt at that port, which, in addition to its having been the object of a petition from the magistrates and authorities of the town, has become urgently necessary from the progress of the scarcity in that county.

I lay before you a copy of my instructions to that officer, which indeed exhibit generally the character of the views which I have entertained and communicated to the department.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir R. ROUTH to Assistant Commissary-General WOOD.

Dublin Castle, April 13, 1846.

IN undertaking the charge of Galway, I have the honour to acquaint you, that in the first instance, until your dépôt is more complete, and that you receive further instructions, it is desirable that you should refer all applications for issues to the Relief Commission sitting in Dublin.

Except in urgent cases of distress, or to save the seed potato, it will be prudent to defer the distribution of our supplies until after the farm labour shall have closed, about the 15th or 20th of May.

It is believed that the scarcity will be very much increased after that period, and that there will be no employment, except that on public works, disposable for the relief of the poor, and under these circumstances our interposition will become more valuable.

I enclose you a few copies of the instructions of the Commission, both for towns and rural districts; and you will perceive that it is not in contemplation to make any gratuitous issues, except to the impotent destitute, and that every able-bodied man must give his day's labour for the food which he receives.

It will frequently occur, that a demand will be made upon you from distressed localities at a distance from your post; and to enable you to act under such circumstances, you will require some engineer assistance to lay out a work upon which such men may be employed.

To obtain this co-operation, it will be necessary for you to apply to me for the assistance of the county surveyor, or of one of his assistants; and immediately on receiving your letter, I shall apply to the Chairman of the Board of Works in Dublin, who will give the necessary order to the county surveyor to this effect, and he will have a superintendent in charge of the work, who will countersign the ration returns.

In sending a supply of meal to a distant locality, you will apply to the county inspector for a constable, who will take charge of the same, receiving 2s. 6d. per diem whilst so employed.

If proceeding by land, a constabulary escort from port to port should accompany the supply until it reaches its destination; if by water, this precaution will be unnecessary.

I send you ten books of accounts for this service, with some ration returns, and each constable should be furnished with one when proceeding on such duties, and bring it back to you with the vouchers when the service terminates.

To this book are attached some printed instructions for the constabulary, and also for the Coast Guard, for the same form of account will be applicable to both, and indeed it will also be applicable to the account of your own stores.

When you have the means of doing so, you will be called upon to issue to the Coast Guard five tons of meal for Rosendune, and the same quantity for Arran Islands; these being the quantities required by Sir James Donabrain for present purposes, to be increased hereafter as occasion may require.

The present price to be charged on the sale of meal is to be 11s. per cwt., or 1s. 4½d. per stone, but this price is to be reduced after the farm labour is over, towards the 15th or 20th May, to 10s. per cwt., or 1s. 3d. per stone, unless you should receive other instructions.

You will readily comprehend that it never was the intention of Government to undertake the task of feeding the whole population. We are here to act as auxiliaries to the landed proprietors, and the best assistance we can give is to husband and economize our resources, and to put them forth opportunely, so that we may succeed in putting down the exorbitant demands of dealers, and restraining within due limits the market prices.

This object is not so difficult as it may appear, for though the potato crop has failed there is generally no want of other supplies. Our appearance in the market will frequently be sufficient, and the sale of a few tons of meal will generally induce holders to be satisfied with a moderate profit.

If in the course of these sales the Government dépôt shall be exhausted, a given sum will have been received in lieu, and be re-employed in the purchase of other supplies of the same or some other description, so that the issues may not be discontinued.

Thus the same sum of money may be turned two or three times in the course of the season with advantage to the community and not much loss to the public; for though Indian corn may

not be in the market, there will be oatmeal or other supplies to be purchased for the occasion, and resold at cost price.

Of course you will bear in mind, with reference to Article No. 5 of Instructions to Rural Districts, that we are bound to supply with food, at the cost price established at your depot, the local committees, who have raised subscriptions, but always in small quantities at a time, and in this instance explaining to the Committee the object of our present reserve.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 13, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the weekly return of the depôts in Ireland, with copy of my letter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, enclosing the same.

The demands made for Indian corn are becoming very numerous and very urgent, and in view of the 5th article of the Instructions to Local Committees, I am bound to meet all these applications from such Committees as have collected subscriptions, but I do so in small quantities at a time, so as not to be unprepared for the severer pressure of the summer months.

I think it will be prudent to consider of the best measure to be adopted for replacing these issues by new purchases, and re-applying the funds arising from these sales to the same object.

ENCLOSURE.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS in the several Depôts in IRELAND on the Evening of Saturday, April 11, 1846.

Depôts.	Bushels of Indian Corn, 36 lbs. each.	Oatmeal.	Indian Corn Meal.	
Cork*	118,961	8,073 lbs.	2,929,340 lbs.	5,000 sacks of Meal with Malt.
Waterford	3,496	..	13,339	
Limerick	10	370 sacks	322,903	
Westport	..	345 bushels	79,350	
Sligo	..	..	193,658	
Longford	..	..	516,280	
Boonagh	..	..	591,369	
Dundalk, in transit from Cork, 1,500 barrels Indian Corn Meal.				1,500 barrels in transit from Cork.
Dublin	..	241,590 lbs.	180,892	
Galway	..	..	..
	122,467	..	5,479,002	

* "Hymelton" and "Porcupine" driven into port by bad weather. "Stronoh" with 500 barrels of meal, on her way to Liverpool. "Alban" awaiting heavier steamer at Tarrant.

"Rhodanthe" not yet arrived from Clontarf. "Den" expected hourly from Westport; it is to load 1,000 barrels for Galway. Five small schooners are taking cargoes for Dublin and Dundalk, say 3,000 barrels.

Dublin Castle, 13th April, 1846.

R. J. ROUTH, Commissary-General.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 14, 1846.

Write to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, with reference to the letter from this Board dated 4th instant, and desire that he will transfer a further sum of 5000*l.* from Civil Contingencies to the account of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh at the Bank of Ireland.

Let a transfer of 5000*l.* be made to Mr. Keonedy's account at the Bank of Ireland, on account of Civil Contingencies.

Acquaint Sir R. Routh, and desire that on each occasion of applying for a further credit for this service, he will furnish an account, for the information of this Board, of the manner in which the sum last placed to his credit has been expended.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 14, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and request that he will move the Lords Commissioners to direct any further quantity of oatmeal ground at the Admiralty mill at Deptford, that may be available for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity in Ireland, to be transmitted to Dublin with the least practicable delay, consigned to Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

Also request that the mill at Deptford may be employed to the utmost possible extent in preparing oatmeal for this service, until their Lordships shall cause an intimation to be given to the contrary.

Transmit a copy of this minute to Sir R. Routh for his information.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. WALLER.

Treasury, April 15, 1846.

It is very important that free scope should be given to the importation of Indian corn and potatoes, and I shall be glad to know to what extent cargoes have arrived, or are expected, at Dundalk and Drogheda.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 15, 1846.

SIXTY tons of oatmeal are available at Deptford, and will be consigned to Mr. Lister without delay.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 15, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that I have received the orders of the Right Honourable the Earl of Lincoln, Chief Secretary, for the purchase of 200 tons of oatmeal at Clonmel, for the supply, by sale, of the interior of Tipperary, which is much disturbed; and I have accordingly directed Deputy Commissary-Gen. Dobree to proceed thither immediately, and to establish a branch dépôt in that town. I think it likely he may be able to effect this purchase at 15*l.* per ton; and I have desired him to keep me advised of his proceedings, either that I may place the amount required to his credit at the Bank, or that he may draw upon me at Dublin at seven days' sight.

His Lordship also desired me to purchase a similar quantity at Sligo, partly with reference to the price there, which shows a more favourable quotation, and partly to save the employment of our steamers at this moment in transporting stores to the most distant dépôt.

As this order depends so much on the price, in which changes may have occurred since the last advice, my instructions will necessarily be conditional; and I have since acquired information which may probably suspend any immediate action on this order.

The applications to the Commission for the purchase of Indian corn have been during the last week both numerous and pressing, and this morning they are particularly urgent; and they are not isolated demands, but general from the west and south, and now also from the east.

Permit me, therefore, to press upon the attention of my Lords, not only my application for the purchase of a cargo of Indian corn, to be consigned to Assistant Commissary-General Lister at Dublin, but strongly to urge the same measure, a second cargo to be consigned to Commissary-General Coffin at Limerick.

I hope it may not be necessary to grind either of these cargoes; but as there are mills scattered throughout Ireland, I propose to sell the unground corn at a lower price, and transfer the business of reducing it to meal to the purchasers.

Mr. Coffin's exertions will be called for by the additional importunate demands from county Kerry, which of themselves are more than sufficient to absorb the whole cargo.

I have written to Mr. Herretson to place himself in communication with Mr. Dobree at Clonmel, which is situated 30 miles from Waterford, and accessible by barges by the river Suir; but his assistance will terminate with the supply to Waterford, from whence it must be conveyed by the river to Clonmel. In the neighbourhood of that town, at Clogheen and at Cahir, belonging to Messrs. Grubb and Messrs. Sargent, there are usually large supplies of oatmeal collected;

and the supply being required immediately, there is no alternative but the purchase.

It might have been more advantageous, if time had permitted, to purchase at Glasgow, for all along that coast, Greenock, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Dumfries, and Wighton, are places from which oatmeal is exported freely, and the Scotch meal is much better than the Irish; and I should recommend to the consideration of my Lords the expediency of entering into some provisional arrangements for this supply in Scotland.

The demand has begun in Ireland, and the wet weather is suspending work; and every day's post teems with a volume of applications, though at present all confined to sale; and these sales keep down the market prices, and force hoarded supplies into the market.

I, therefore, entreat their Lordships' attention to these facts, that while we are disposing *by sale* of our present stock, we may be preparing another to meet the summer demands; and that, while we continue to sell, we are affording relief at a small cost by economy and foresight.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 17, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, approving of the measures taken by him by desire of the Irish Government for the purchase of 200 tons of oatmeal at Clonmel, and the conditional purchase of an equal quantity at Sligo, as reported in this letter.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 15, 1846.

THE state of Tipperary is occupying as you see, our attention. The people of Clonmel refused to act upon the printed Instructions, or to organise themselves in any of the ways pointed out to them. The mayor was the principal opposer of these measures, but he is come round, and they are now acting.

I hope you will be able to order the purchase of the two cargoes of Indian corn, and even if you ordered a third, or had the means of doing so, it would be a source of great economy, and prepare this country for the reception of a food which will be its regeneration hereafter, and which is much better than purchasing oatmeal, which has not the same moral effect. In every sense the corn meal is better than the oatmeal.

The military were called out at Clonmel, and the artillery, but the people did not persevere, and there was no firing. I was glad to perceive that the principal persons acknowledged their error in refusing to organise themselves according to the Instructions.

I could not have believed that the Indian corn meal would have become so popular.

The Americans are beginning to prepare, but 40 steam-boats are not built so suddenly. I see the grain markets at Liverpool have experienced an advance. The news will have this effect, and if there is any Indian corn in the London market, there is no time to lose; and while we have a cheaper article to sell than the oatmeal, we shall always sell readily. It is, in fact, only an investment of capital.

COMMISSIONERS OF AUDIT to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Audit Office, April 16, 1846.

HAVING had under our consideration Mr. Trevelyan's letter of the 15th instant, enclosing a letter of Messrs. Baring Brothers of the 9th instant, together with the copy of Treasury Minute of the 7th instant, on the subject of the shipments of Indian corn and meal from the United States, for the service of Ireland, and requesting that, in the event of our considering it desirable that any further explanation should be required from the United States on the portion of the accounts of these shipments which has been examined, beyond that which Messrs. Baring have already called for, we would submit the same to your Lordships in the shape of queries, in order that they might be forwarded to Messrs. Baring for transmission to their correspondents by the steamer of the 18th instant,

We have the honour to report that, under the explanations given by Messrs. Baring upon the points referred to them by your Lordships, we do not consider it to be necessary to call upon Messrs. Baring to obtain from America any further information than that which they propose to furnish.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 17, 1846.

Write to Messrs. Baring Brothers with reference to their letter of the 9th instant, that it does not appear to my Lords to be necessary that any further explanation should be required from their correspondents in the United States, beyond that which has been already called for by them, relative to that portion of the accounts of the shipments of Indian corn and meal for the service in Ireland which has been examined.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 16, 1846.

I should like to have your opinion on the amount of the donations to Local Committee subscriptions, of which I enclose you a list, so that you may form that opinion. The smaller sums, where the donation is equal to the subscription, or nearly so, have been granted to meet the subscriptions of poorer Committees, where there is much distress, or where the contributions come from poorer classes. A great many of the rich landed proprietors, and amongst them Colonel Wyndham, have positively refused altogether.

You will observe also that I am frequently called upon to make advances to the Board of Works, for which they will, of course, account, but they are not repaid to me, so that my credits on the Bank have hitherto been scarcely applicable to Commissariat expenses. I annex to the enclosed a Memorandum of some of these advances, that you may understand it, and that it arises from the necessity, in certain cases, of employing the people.

The applications for sales of Indian corn continue to increase, and I hope you will see the necessity, as I see it here, of forwarding a cargo to Limerick, and a cargo to Dublin. I had such general good accounts of Kerry, that I did not expect such heavy demands from that quarter, but when one locality sends in an application, it is a kind of invitation to another to do the same. Begging is contagious. I have done nothing about oatmeal at Sligo. I think from later advices, it may be better to delay anything in that quarter until our magazines are a little more full, and that we can dictate a little to the markets. The purchase will probably be made at Clonmel, but I think it may only be for 100 tons; at least I requested Mr. Dobree, if he could, to purchase the second hundred *subject to approval by return of post*. Will you be good enough to tell me what you think should be the Government price of oatmeal. I do not know what the Deptford meal costs. It ought to be something lower than 15*l.* per ton, though we shall probably be obliged to pay that sum for it. What I mean is that we should keep a little under the market price, when we want to affect those prices, and bring them down.

Do you approve of adopting this principle?

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 17, 1846.

I HAVE seen Messrs. Baring this morning, and have arranged with them for the purchase of three cargoes of Indian corn,—one for Dublin, one for Limerick, and one for Sligo, an average cargo being understood to be about 400 tons; whole cargoes to be obtained if possible, and the corn to be preferred in the shape of meal, but this not to interfere with the object of obtaining entire cargoes in the ship, and ready to be sent at once to Ireland.

I particularly requested Messrs. Baring to take every possible precaution to

prevent its being known that these purchases are on account of Government, until in the course of events it must of necessity transpire.

The intelligence of our American purchases naturally checked the progress of private speculation for the relief of the expected distress in Ireland, but by degrees, partly owing to the real limits of our transaction becoming generally known, and partly to its having been ascertained that our stores were only intended to be applied to the relief of actual destitution, where no other resource exists, mercantile confidence became restored, and numerous cargoes of Indian corn have, as you are aware, been sent, and are now being sent to different parts of Ireland, not excepting those at which our own depôts are established; and the Local Committees of relief have made considerable purchases from the supplies so placed at their disposal, our own store being thus husbanded for the hour of extreme need.

In this state of things I considered it to be of public importance that the period for the Government again appearing in the market, should be deferred as long as possible, the disturbing effect in such a case being, as you know, quite out of proportion to the actual amount of the purchase, and depending upon the mere fact of the Government being known to be making purchases, and the uncertainty as to the extent of its operations, owing to the unlimited nature of its resources, and the presumption that nothing short of a severe emergency would have induced it to take this course; and the same reasons which made me wish that the measure should be deferred as long as possible, now lead me to hope that the knowledge of its having been taken, will not be suffered to transpire sooner than is necessary.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TSEVELTAN.

Dublin Castle, April 17, 1846.

You will see in some of the papers an account of an outbreak at Clonmel as well as at Carrick-on-Suir. The latter was an attack of a proportion of the populace upon the public workmen selected from their own poor employed by the Board of Works, breaking their tools, and giving as a reason the low rate of wages, 10d. per diem. The riot at Clonmel was of a more serious nature, and required the interference of the military, but was tranquillized without bloodshed. Neither of these towns chose to form itself into a committee, as officially suggested to Clonmel by special letter on 27th March, or to take any steps to preserve good order, or to meet the wants of the people. The mayor, who was here, acknowledged his error, and that he was in fault. They have since made a subscription of 500*l.*, and under the circumstances the Lord Lieutenant's donation was a similar amount. In paying this donation we require the receipt of the Bank or treasurer, that the several sums have been paid up, and a subsequent account of the whole expenditure.

The Cork Committee have been very bitter, and have indulged in many violent publications, because they could not obtain, on their applications to Mr. Hewetson, Indian corn meal as they demanded it, after the first issue of 50 sacks of 20 stone each.

This Committee had a fund of 1,250*l.* of a former subscription of a previous year of famine, but have added to that sum no subscription on this occasion. They were informed that a Town Committee, like that of Cork, had resources within themselves, more than could be looked for in a rural district; that they had a large port, and easy means of importation, and a large city capable of acting in behalf of the people; and that they should rather add to the stock of provisions in the country by their own efforts, than consume that imported by the Government for the use of the whole country, and particularly of the poorer classes.

They have not been deficient in abuse, but, finding it useless, they have finally followed the examples of Belfast, Drogheda, Limerick, &c., and imported a supply from Liverpool.

I know we are subject to all kinds of misrepresentation, but I know also, as a general principle, that the worst period will be during the summer months and that economy is most essential, always, however, meeting the real wants of the poorer or rural districts immediately.

I almost think there is as much difficulty in getting the supplies from Cork to the out-depôts, as there was in conveying them across the Atlantic from America.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 18, 1846.

THE proportion which the Government donations should bear to the Local Committee subscriptions depends so entirely on local circumstances, that the opinion which you ask me to give can be scarcely worth having; and I have no improvement to suggest in the rule which your commission appear to have adopted, that the Government contribution should vary from one-third to one-half of the private subscriptions, according to the means of the subscribers, and the degree and extent of the destitution.

I consider the plan of private subscriptions, aided by a Government donation, to be one of the soundest parts of the general scheme of relief, and am glad to find that it is proceeding with some success.

If a large proprietor, like Colonel Wyndham, really furnished employment to all the people on his estate throughout the scarcity, he would perhaps aid more effectually than if he confined himself to subscribing a given sum; and all you have to do in such a case is to take care that all persons residing on the estates of such Undertakers are referred to the proprietor for relief.

You ask me what I think should be the Government price of oatmeal. I agree with you that it should in each locality be fixed on the same principle on which the price of our Indian corn is fixed—that is, *a little under the market price.*

I do not think it worth while to enter upon the question of the cost price of the oatmeal from Deptford or elsewhere, because, for obvious reasons, the price at which our oatmeal will be sold must be regulated with reference to the *market price on the spot*, and not to the cost price.

Having had to advert to this subject, I cannot help expressing my continued sense of the superior advantages of the plan of supplying the wants of the different localities by means of imported provisions, over that of buying provisions on the spot; but, at the same time, I feel satisfied that if this last mode should, on any occasion, be resorted to, it will be found to have been justified by the necessity of the case.

Mr. Goulburn desires me to mention to you that more than one person spoke to him last night, in the House of Commons, about the liability of Indian meal to turn sour; and to express to you his wish that, if any portion of our stock be found to be so affected, it may be disposed of in any other mode than by distribution to the people.

If it be a fact that Indian corn meal is of a more delicate and destructible nature than oatmeal, it would be advisable to lay it down as a general rule that our Indian corn should be used first.

Mr. Meek has just been with me, to inform me that the "Rhodamanthus" will start for Dublin at six o'clock to-morrow morning, with 89 tons of oatmeal on board (instead of 60), and that the Deptford mill will, if possible, be worked with increased speed.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that although, as you are well aware, confidential private correspondence is, in the absence of personal communication, indispensably necessary for the successful working of a large establishment, however much the duties may approach to a merely executive character, yet such private correspondence must always be carried on in strict subordination to the authorities responsible for the general conduct of the service, who in this case are the Relief Commission and the Irish Government; and whatever I may suggest or remark in my private letters to you is to have no force or authority whatever, except so far as it may be approved and adopted by those responsible authorities—in saying which I do not, of course, mean to include mere *Commissariat details*, such as concern the conduct of the department in executing the duties prescribed to it, for which you and the officers under you are personally responsible. In order that there may be no mistake on this point in any quarter, and that even the appearance of your acting in any degree under instructions conveyed to you in my private letters may be avoided, I shall be obliged to you to show this letter, and all my

subsequent letters to you, to Lord Lincoln, and you will then at once ascertain what his Lordship's wishes are on any point of information or suggestion which they may contain.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELTAN.

Dublin, April 18, 1846.

I HAVE not written to you for some days, partly from a desire to communicate as late intelligence as I could, after the doings in Tipperary. It is a consolatory reflection that these really, so far as official and private communications may be depended upon, were not famine riots, but a regular set to for plunder. I understand the women were all provided with bags, and as soon as they filled them with meal, off they started.

At Carrick-on-Suir, where one of the Board's military officers was employing men, the mob attacked them, carried away their tools, and threatened them with vengeance if they worked for less than 1s. 6d. per diem; strikes have taken place on our relief works in other parts for higher wages than we have given, viz., 10d. per diem, but our officers being instructed not to yield, after a day or two they turned in again.

MR. GRIFFITH to the EARL OF LINCOLN.

Limerick, April 18, 1846.

IN addition to the report of my proceedings, it appears to be desirable that I should communicate my opinion relative to the present state of the people of the county of Limerick and the south-eastern portion of the county of Clare, and also as to the probability of their being able to support themselves independently of pecuniary assistance from the Government.

In the district alluded to, as far as I have been able to investigate the matter, one-third of the population at least, having neither provisions nor money, will be dependent on purchased food, the money to be derived from employment, either from the landlords, the farmers, or on public works. Where the landlords are resident, they have, in almost every instance, more than doubled the number of the labourers usually employed on their demesnes, and several have commenced the improvement of their estates by draining at a distance from their residences; they have likewise subscribed to the funds of the Local Relief Committees in the neighbourhood of detached portions of their property. The farmers, and even those holding considerable tracts of land, I regret to say, appear to be quite apathetic, and give less employment than usual; and the smaller ones, holding say from five to fifteen acres (plantation), owing to the failure in the potatoes, are unable to do so: so that the whole amount of labour to be derived from the ordinary sources, is comparatively small.

One-fourth, and in many cases upwards of one-third, of the rural population have no land, or at least less than half an acre, which is usually held under a farmer, or middleman. These people live chiefly by barter. They rarely have any money transactions, except, perhaps, from the sale of a pig. They are usually employed part of the year by the farmers or neighbouring gentlemen. They take from the farmer, on the con-acre system, a sufficient quantity of land, on which they plant potatoes for their support. If the farmer manures it, the amount charged varies from 5*l.* to 8*l.* per acre; but if the cottier has manure of his own, derived from the pig, scraping the road, &c., he is rarely charged any rent for the part so manured. The cottier plants his crop, and works out the rent with the farmer. When unemployed, he has his potatoes to live on, and with the small potatoes he rears and fattens a pig, from the produce of which the family are clothed. Such is the state of dependence of at least one-fourth, or probably one-third, of the Irish people.

In the present year, owing to the potato disease, this usual resource has partially failed, and at the present moment the cottier class of a large portion of this county, and of Clare, are bordering on starvation, and in the villages are in

many cases actually without food. On making inquiries from the several local committees, and from many gentlemen and farmers, I find that rarely more than one-half of the usual extent of *land will be planted with potatoes* during the present season, and that only a small portion, not one-fourth of the extent, will be planted with potatoes under the con-acre system. The farmers, apprehending they will not be repaid for their manured land by the cottiers, will have sown oats, in the potato land; and where the farmers or the landlords are willing to let the cottiers have the land at the usual rate, the people say they have no seed, and do not wish to undertake the responsibility. Now this is a fearful state of things, and it follows that next year, supposing even there was *no disease* in the potato, the cottier population will be entirely dependent on labour for subsistence; and who is to provide the labour?

In the year 1822, although there was deficiency in the potato crop, there was no disease, and then the potatoes were planted as usual, and the season being fine, potatoes and other provisions were abundant by the 10th of August, when I discontinued all labour on the roads; but at the same period of the present year the case will be different, the cottiers will not have the con-acre crop to resort to, and when the harvest work is over, they will require assistance as much as *at the present moment*, and if not employed, we must expect outrage. I regret being obliged to make such a fearful communication; but unfortunately it is true, and the contingency must be met.

As a proof of the deficiency in planting potatoes in this district, I may mention that the usual price of manure in the city of Limerick, at this season of the year, is 3s. a load; at present it is 1s. 6d. a load, and there is very little sale for it at that price: those purchasing use it as top dressing for meadows, and not, as usual, for raising potatoes.

I am quite aware, and I am happy to say so, that the same defalcation in the extent of potato ground planted will not occur everywhere. From communications I have had from some districts of the county of Cork, it is not the case there; but I apprehend there will be great distress on the sea-coasts of Clare and Kerry, and probably in some portions of Cork, not only during the present, but the next year.

In the counties of Limerick and Clare, the distress will have reached its full height by the 1st of June. At that period I do not think there will be any potatoes left, and the people must be fed altogether on the Indian meal, oatmeal, or wheaten meal. The Indian meal appears to be an excellent and cheap food, and, if possible, an ample supply should be provided. At present the price has been raised by the merchants from 10s. to 12s. per ton; but some prudent gentlemen, among others Mr. Maunsell, of Tervoe, have purchased cargoes at 9s. 10s. per ton, and by these means are enabled to supply their districts with food at a very moderate price. At this moment, when the demand is increasing and will continue to increase with rapid strides, there appears to be a deficiency in the merchants' stores, and they are holding back for higher prices; consequently the Government importations should now appear in the markets.

Sir J. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter, No. 62, of the 15th April, from Commissary-General Coffin, forwarding tenders for increased storage at Limerick, so as to afford room for 8,000 to 10,000 sacks of meal.

The commanding position of Limerick, in the centre of all the distressed and insubordinate counties of Galway, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, and Kerry, makes it necessary that a large supply should be collected at that point.

I also submit to you Mr. Coffin's letter, No. 63, in relation to the demands of the Limerick dépôt, and the whole of the transport now employed in filling the same.

The whole force of the naval steamers have been always directed to the western coast, and not one has yet proceeded east; but the tempestuous state of the weather has of course delayed our operations.

The arrival of the "Rhodamanthus" is most anxiously looked for, and she will be employed in the same direction.

Mr. Coffin's suggestions with respect to the hire of means of conveyance have been already anticipated, and it is through these means that supplies have been thrown into the entrepôt of Dublin, from whence Longford has been supplied to the extent of 3000 sacks, and the same quantity to Banagher, and 1000 more are now in course of shipment for the latter.

There are about 3000 barrels on the way to Dundalk.

The screw steamer, belonging to the Cork and Dublin Company, has not yet made its appearance.

The small "Vulcan" steamer is now employed in filling the coast-guard stations on the coast of Kerry.

Mr. Coffin is now in the active superintendence of the Galway, Banagher, Limerick, and Clare depôts, and the neighbouring committees in Tipperary, Limerick, and Kerry, are in communication with him.

I have not yet heard from Deputy-Commissary-General Dobree since his arrival at Clonmel, where I propose to lay in a branch depôt of 2000 sacks.

I think it very doubtful if he will be able to make any considerable purchase of oatmeal in that district, but his advices will soon determine it.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Limerick, April 13, 1846.

REFERRING to your letter of the 6th instant, No. 33, I have the honour to enclose for your information copies of the tender received from Messrs. F. J. O'Neill and Co., and of my acceptance of it, for part of a store adjoining that already rented from them. The addition to our storage thus made will be quite equal to the quantity which you consider necessary, and the remaining part of the store is occupied by wheat in bond, which may probably be taken out at an early period, when I have the promise of the whole building, if required. The rent is rather higher in proportion than that of the store first taken, but is nevertheless from situation and convenience much cheaper than any other which I can now obtain.

I have the offer of another store not far distant from it, which may be convenient for the separate storage of any supplies purchased on private account, but I shall not hire it until I ascertain the probable extent of any such supplies, the rent being at the rate of 100*l.* per annum.

FRANCIS J. O'NEILL and Co. to Commissary-General COFFIN.

Henry Street, April 15, 1846.

WE place at the disposal of Government two lofts of our warehouse in Henry Street, until the 1st September next, at 4*l.* per month each, viz., 8*l.* per month.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Messrs. F. J. O'NEILL and Co.

Limerick, April 15, 1846.

IN reply to your letter of this date to Assistant Commissary-General Gelston, offering two lofts of your store adjacent to that already occupied for the public depôt, at the rent of 4*l.* per month, until the 1st September next, I beg to inform you that your tender is accepted.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Limerick, April 16, 1846.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of yesterday's date, and adverting to the quantities with which you propose that the depôts should be stored at the outset, and to your letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 26, it really seems to me that occasion now exists for increasing the means of transport from Cork by the hire of private vessels. The Government steamers made such satisfactory progress while the weather continued moderate, that I had hoped they would alone be capable of completing the depôts in time; but the interruption from gales has since been so great, that the supply in this depôt does not yet reach half the quantity named by you, while that of Galway is only now commencing, and the Coast Guard stations, together with Clare, will require nearly 1000 barrels in addition to the quantities which you have specified. The "Rhodamanthus" does not seem yet to have become available, and the "Myr-

midon is now withdrawn from the service of transporting supplies, to be stationed as a guard-ship in the river. I accordingly think it would be advisable to lose no time in hiring temporary means of conveyance for the purpose of filling up the depôts; but as there is no opportunity at this port of engaging steamers, and the facilities for obtaining either these or sailing-vessels must be superior at Cork, I beg leave to suggest that directions to this effect should be given to Commissary-General Hewison.

The "*Alban*" has just landed a cargo brought by the "*Stromboli*," and is gone to Tarbert, in expectation of finding another consignment, after which it appears that she is to proceed to Cork for a cargo of biscuit, to be also brought here, intended, I understand, to replace the old supply in the Ordnance store.

I enclose the copy of a Report just received by me from Captain Pole. Not having received the copy of your instructions to A. C. G. Wood, I defer replying to that part of your letter which concerns the arrangement for the Galway depôt.

Very serious disturbances have taken place at and near Clonmel, and I was yesterday informed by a member of the Relief Committee at Tipperary, who applied to me for men, that great apprehension of similar outrages was entertained at that place. He purchased, I understand, some of the meal on sale for private account, for which there is so great a demand that the price has been raised to 12*l.* a ton; and the owner of the cargo imported at Kilmash, which has never been sold below that price, informs me that he has already disposed of more than half of it, chiefly, however, in this place.

Captain POLE to Commissary-General CORRY.

Banagher, April 13, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that (this day, after post hour, a meeting was held in this town, consisting of the most respectable of its inhabitants, the clergy of both persuasions; &c., W. Buchanan, Esq., magistrate, in the chair; at which resolutions were passed, and a local committee and a secretary appointed, and subscriptions entered into for the purpose of providing immediate relief to the poor in this town and its immediate vicinity.

I have further to state that I attended this meeting by particular request of the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, of the Established Church, and furnished the same with a sufficient number of printed instructions for local committees, and that nothing of an unpleasant nature occurred at the meeting.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 21, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that, adverting to the frequent reference in the communications received from him to the want of a sufficient number of suitable vessels to convey the meal required from the different depôts, their Lordships desire to remind him that he was empowered by the letter from this Board, dated 26th March last, to hire, wherever they are to be obtained, any number of vessels that may be required for this service without a previous reference to this Board, only taking care to report his proceedings without delay.

Mr. WALLER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dundalk, April 19, 1846.

MUCH will depend upon the stock of potatoes that remains after the general planting, and this we have not the means of judging of at present. The prices of the best, although very high for the time of year, have risen very gradually during this and the last month. They are now 4*s.* per cwt., or 6½*d.* per stone retail. Oatmeal is 16*s.* per cwt., and Indian corn meal may be procured here for 10*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

This last is becoming much better known; and excellent bread, made principally of it, may be bought at the rate of 2½*d.* for 2½ lbs. I induced an enterprising tradesman here to make some, and he has succeeded at last admirably, and is reaping the reward of his perseverance by a very rapid sale. A good deal of it is carried away by the market people into the country, so that by the time they are obliged to make use of it I hope the poor cottiers will be reconciled to it.

Further north, around Belfast, it is much used, and has been for some years past.

With regard to the relief operations, which you wish me to give an opinion of, I think there is no doubt that the depôt here will have a most beneficial effect in keeping down extravagant prices generally of those articles of food principally used by the poor; but should their means of purchasing fail, and it is found necessary to resort to road-making and other works in order to give them the opportunity of obtaining a livelihood, I doubt whether the *staff* of the Board of Works will be sufficient or active enough to meet the very numerous demands that must be made upon them from all quarters before such works can be proceeded with.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, April 19, 1846.

THE newspapers will have acquainted you long since, with the Clonmel riots. I was at Pernooy and Mitchelstown, to meet Committees, on the 15th, and had much conversation with one of the Clonmel magistrates. In reply to my question, why committees had not been formed there, if only to show the people something would be done for them ere long, he said the mayor had completely set his face against calling a meeting for that purpose,—why or wherefore I do not know. However, now the gentlemen have become alarmed, and a committee is by this time formed, and subscriptions largely contributed; but I fear there will be more of these riots, in different parts of the country, in the course of another month. The people here have an idea they are to be fed; they see large depôts established, and will not listen to our reasoning, that the supplies must be reserved for a later period. Mr. Burke's remarks you sent me are most just and statesmanlike; but I will not write more on this subject, or I shall never finish. We have certainly undertaken a most responsible measure to carry out, and I will hope for the best; but we must not longer delay our issues, or we shall everywhere be getting into angry collision with the people. Should it be proved that such issue will prematurely exhaust our supplies, steps must be taken to provide more. When once we begin, we must not halt.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 20, 1846.

It did not occur to me to add in my letter to you of Saturday, that if Lord Lincoln would like to see any of my former private letters to you, I should wish you to consider them all at his disposal, without any reserve.

Pray mention this to his Lordship, and lay before him either the whole series or any particular letters as he may wish.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 20, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury copies of two letters from Deputy Commissary-General Dobree at Clonmel, and to acquaint you that I have directed him to complete the purchase of the 200 tons of oatmeal, and to accept the tender for the magazine.

Commissary-General Hewetson has proposed to me the brother of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co.'s agent, Mr. Cummins, as a very fit person by his activity and knowledge of stores to assist Mr. Dobree at Clonmel; and as Mr. Dobree's superintendence will be divided between that place and Waterford, I have requested Mr. Hewetson to order him to Clonmel, if he will accept 5s. per diem as a remuneration, which I trust will meet their Lordships' approval.

I have directed 2000 sacks to be forwarded immediately to Clonmel.

ENCLOSURE.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Channel, April 17, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here yesterday afternoon in compliance with your orders; I immediately applied for the assistance of a constable to the county inspector, who attached constable Patrick Moylen to me, on my assurance that he would receive the necessary authority from Dublin; and I have to submit to you the application for his being borne on the establishment of this district at 2s. 6d. per day from the 16th April inclusive.

It has been indispensably necessary that I should preserve an incognito in the preliminary execution of my duties, and I have availed myself of the services of the mayor, Mr. Bianconi, who has just returned from Dublin, to initiate my inquiries after a magazine and a supply of oatmeal. The slightest suspicion that an officer of Government was in the markets would have run the latter article to 20l. per ton; it is now selling 25l. per ton *ex tunc*, say three months after date, with two securities, to the labourers, and for 18l. for ready money, with no desire to part with it at that price. I made every inquiry through a second party at Carrick, and the mills on the Suir, but ascertained that they had only a few tons for sale, which they retained at a high price. The extensive mills you refer me to at Clagheen and Cahir are purely wheat-mills, and do not grind oatmeal.

18th April.—The difficulty of concluding any business satisfactorily is so great, that I was unable to close my letter for yesterday's post, but I am now enabled to submit for your approval an offer for 100 tons of oatmeal at 17l. 10s. per ton, being 10s. less than I had hopes of procuring it for; the price was so much beyond the maximum you had stipulated, that I have deemed it best not to close the bargain without your sanction, which I can receive on Monday morning. Should your arrangements require the purchase of an additional quantity here, I think you had better give me positive instructions at once, for the price is more likely to rise than to fall, unless a large quantity of Government Indian meal were thrown into the depot, and that might keep the markets down. Though the town is quiet the neighbourhood is very disturbed and restless, the small mills have no grist for want of protection, and no supplies can be moved without a guard.

I hope before the post closes to be able to report on the subject of a magazine, but I meet with very many difficulties in procuring one.

From the Same to the Same.

Channel, April 18, 1846.

FOR fear of losing the post, I was obliged to close my letter to you this afternoon without communicating to you the result of my researches after a magazine. I have had the greatest difficulty in procuring one, and that has been at last effected through the assistance and accommodation of the mayor. I have the honour to enclose herewith the tender for these premises, which are very conveniently situated on the quay close to the river; they have been inspected and appraised of good security by the commandant who accompanied me to the spot, and has otherwise rendered me every assistance. The price is high, but there was no choice, nor have I been able in any other part of the town to find suitable buildings, except in a large brewery near the goal, which is now in Chancery, and which a Mr. Wright, living at No. 14, Ormond Quay, Dublin, has the disposal of; the fine front flats would suit our purpose, and the situation has also been declared eligible by the commandant, but it is some distance from the river. Should you deem it worthy of attention, it would be easy to ascertain the price, &c., at Dublin, before you approve of the enclosed tender.

I have met Captain Peebles, 59th Regiment, here, and have paid him 200l.

I have arranged with the Committee of this place to pay them their 500l. on Monday, when their subscriptions will exceed 1000l., deposited at the Bank, and I have written to Templemore to apply to me here for their quota when they are enabled to comply with the conditions of the grant.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

April 21, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, approving of the proceedings of Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, as reported in this letter.

Also state that their Lordships authorize the employment of Mr. Cummins as assistant to Mr. Dobree, with the daily pay of 5s.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 20, 1846.

It will be satisfactory that I should lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury,

a general view of the measures which have been adopted, or are in course of preparation to avert the effects of the impending scarcity in Ireland.

I submit to you the return of our depôts, under date of the 18th April, which will exhibit to you the quantities received from America, and their present distribution. There are two vessels, the "Cornelia," a large ship, and the "Almade," of 400 tons, containing the residue of the Indian corn purchased in the United States, which have not yet arrived, and one ship, the "Arab," was lost at sea in the early part of the season.

The oatmeal entered on this return was imported from Liverpool and from the Government mills at Deptford, as it has been laid down as a principle to obtain all these supplies out of Ireland, in order to add to the stock of provisions in the country, and to abstain from all interference with the course of trade.

A certain proportion of the supply of Indian corn has been imported from the United States in meal, and with reference to grinding, it is of a finer quality than that which has been ground in Cork, but not so pure or so unadulterated, and when time is not an object, I should always recommend its introduction unground.

The establishment at the Lee Mills is extremely well conducted by Commissary-General Hewetson, who has made himself master of the subject.

The whole of the corn is kiln-dried before grinding, and I lay before you a copy of Mr. Hewetson's instructions to his millers.

This establishment is divided into two, the one comprising the kiln-drying, the grinding, cooling, and sacking of about 100,000 lbs. per week; and the other, at the Cove, superintending the discharge of the cargoes from America, and the shipment of the ground corn or meal to the subordinate depôts along the coast for distribution.

The localities selected for these depôts and the quantities proposed to be deposited in them are as follows:—

- Sligo to the extent of 4000 sacks.
- Westport to the extent of 4000 sacks.
- Galway to the extent of 6000 sacks.
- Limerick to the extent of 10,000 sacks, as the central main depôt of the western coast.
- Banagher on the Shannon 4000 sacks.
- Longford on the Shannon 4000 sacks.
- Cork main sea depôt.
- Waterford 4000 sacks.
- Clonmel branch depôt of Waterford 2000 sacks:

Dublin an entrepôt for the supply of the line of the two canals, and of Banagher and Longford on the Shannon, and also to be considered as a main depôt.

Dundalk . . . 4000 sacks.

Each of these depôts is under the custody of an officer of the Commissariat, one clerk, and a constable acting as a storekeeper. &c. with the exception of Limerick, which, from its central position in the midst of the most distressed counties, exercises a more extended superintendence. Commissary-General Coffin is stationed at this point in charge of the western district, visiting occasionally the several sub-districts, inspecting and reporting upon the progress of the scarcity, and the effect produced by the measures undertaken to avert it. His ability and experience are peculiarly useful in all the duties under his charge, and I ground my best hopes of success in that quarter from his co-operation.

I have agreed with Sir James Domhain, who has zealously offered the services of the coast-guard, to establish a small store at each of the stations for the distressed localities on the coast.

These stations are as follow, and are to be supplied from time to time from the undermentioned depôts.

From Cork.

Castletownsend.

Bantry.

Berehaven.

From Limerick.

Dingle.	Kells.
Ballinskillega.	Ballybunion.
Turbert and other points at the mouth of the Shannon.	

Galway.

Arran Islands.	Roundstone.
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Westport.

Ballinakill.	Belmullet.	Achill Island.
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Sligo.

Killybegs.	Lochrua.	Dunkeelhan.
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The coast-guard vessels will convey these supplies from our depôts to their stations on the coast.

The assistance of the constabulary, under Colonel M'Gregor, almost more valuable from the greater extent over which it will be distributed, will be directed towards the interior.

The course adopted by the Commission in the formation of Relief Committees in the several baronies, and the printed instructions which were drawn up for their guidance, have been already before my Lords, but I beg to recall your attention to the Sections, No. 5 and 8, so as to explain the proposed interposition of the Constabulary to give effect to these measures.

Hitherto the several relief districts have been able, from subscriptions and resources of their own, aided by a donation from his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant out of the public funds, to purchase the Indian Corn meal, sometimes from the Government, and sometimes from private speculators, which I have always encouraged as reserving our means for a later date when the demand will be more urgent.

But during the heavier pressure of the summer months, it is to be apprehended that circumstances may arise, when these funds derived in part from the liberality of the proprietors, may fail, and that the assistance from our depôts and the employment given by the Board of Works, may be the chief resource.

In this case, I depend on the co-operation of Colonel M'Gregor, which he is ever ready to tender, for the escort of our supplies from post to post into the interior under the charge of a constable, not to be issued gratuitously, except to the impotent destitute, but for labour performed according to the principle laid down in the instructions.

It also may become necessary to retail food in small quantities, and at moderate prices, in certain localities where particular dealers may have succeeded in monopolizing the market; and if from some peculiar circumstances it may be impossible for the inhabitants to undertake this detail in their own behalf, the assistance of the Constabulary in the ramification of that corps throughout the country, for the protection and sale of the supply, and in the account of the expenditure will be most valuable.

I annex the form of account and the instructions prepared for this service, both for the Constabulary and Coast Guard.

I also submit a copy of my instructions to my sub-accountants.

I cannot say to what extent this assistance may be required, but the ready grant of it, whenever it is demanded, must have the happiest effect, not only in relieving distress, but in the reduction of high prices, which with this competition, and the approach of the harvest, cannot be maintained.

The immediate difficulty in which we are engaged, is the transport of these stores from Cork to the out depôts, which from heavy stress of weather at sea, has been much retarded, but the efforts which are now making, and the prospect before us of better voyages, are realizing all our expectations.

The undermentioned Government steamers are employed on this service.

The Dee and the Myrmidon,	
Stromboli,	Alban,
Porcupine,	Crocodile,
and the Rhadamanthus is daily expected from Chatham.	

These steamers have hitherto been employed in the conveyance of stores towards the Western Coast, and the Cork and Dublin Steam Company have brought supplies to this city, which have, for the most part, been forwarded to the inland depôts on the river Shannon.

Some sailing vessels are now in transit from Cork to Dundalk, with an aggregate cargo of nearly 4000 barrels.

In many instances, the proprietors of the soil have come forward freely and liberally, and without the continuance of those exertions, it is not pretended that the supply now in our custody will be adequate to the entire demand likely to be made upon us, notwithstanding the measures still in progress to meet any deficiency, and ready to be matured as they are required. Even with their co-operation, difficulties may occur in remote positions, but such only as I trust will be susceptible of remedy; and I am confident that no misrepresentation can assail the undivided attention which has been given by the public authorities to these great interests.

The simple form of account now adopted in the Commissariat is in operation at all the out-stations, and these are collected into one monthly statement at Dublin, from whence they will be regularly forwarded for the examination of the Commissioners of Audit.

I trust that the anxiety experienced by the department in the preparations for this new service may be rewarded by a result satisfactory to their Lordships' expectations.

ENCLOSURE 1.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS in the several Depôts in Ireland on the Evening of Saturday the 18th April, 1846.

Depôts.	Bushels of Indian Corn, 56 lbs. each.	Pounds.		Remarks.
		Oatsmeal.	Indian Corn Meal.	
Cork*	120,806	2,416 bush.	3,612,834	42,600 bushels Indian Corn, and 14,500 barrels Meal, in course of discharging. 7,000 sacks Corn, with cast. millers.
Waterford	3,498	..	12,239	..
Clonmel . . . .	..	100 tons.	..	..
Limerick	10	464 casks	463,171	..
Galway . . . .	..	..	141,800	..
Westport . . . .	..	225 bush.	116,860	..
Sligo . . . .	..	..	185,608	..
Dublin . . . .	..	241,200 lbs.	686,252	On transit from Cork, 124,329 lbs.
Bangor . . . .	..	..	583,471	Do. Dublin, 276,080 lbs.
Londonderry . . . .	..	..	516,600	Do. Do., 266,569 lbs.
Dundalk in transit 3,800 barrels Indian Meal.	..	..	..	..
Clare Castle . . . .	..	..	19,600	..
	124,312		5,156,095	

* N. B. Cork.

U. S. Ship *Cornelia*, reported on 17th instant.

H. M. Ship *Stromboli*, at Westport.

.. *Pomarine*, to Limerick, with 214 barrels.

.. *Dea*, not returned from Galway.

.. *Alban* and *Myraidon*, expected daily.

Two schooners loading for Waterford and Dublin, with 400 sacks each.

H. M. Ship *Rhadamanthus*, left Depôt at 6 A.M. on 19th instant, for Dublin and Cork.

Water Witch (iron steamer), taken up from Cork and Dublin Company.

Dublin Castle, 20th April, 1846.

R. J. ROUSE, C. G.

R. J. ROUSE, C. G.

ENCLOSURE 2.

INSTRUCTIONS upon KILN-DRYING, and MANUFACTURING of INDIAN CORN into MEAL, to which the attention of the parties engaged in grinding for Her Majesty's Government is earnestly called.

The corn should remain eight hours on the kilns, and turned twice, in order to its being thoroughly dried without parching.

The corn should remain in cooling floors after kiln-drying, at least forty-eight hours to cool, before passing into the separators, observing a fan is indispensably necessary to the separators.

In grinding Indian corn, the stones should be kept wider apart than for wheat, and not driven too rapidly, as when the motion of the stones is too rapid, the meal becomes heated and injured, and the cause of the injury is its being thus ground too hot.

The meal should remain seventy-two hours to cool, after being ground, before it is dressed.

The wire of the dressing machine, to correspond with that in use in the *Lee Mills*, say Nos. 13 and 14.

The meal, after dressing, should remain in the cooling lofts, strewed at a moderate height, say not exceeding three feet, at least twenty-four hours, in order to its being thoroughly cooled for sacking.

Each sack to weigh twenty stone, or two hundred and eighty pounds net weight, to be firmly packed, and well sewn with twine of a fitting strength and texture, so as to secure its carriage throughout the country without loss.

Notice to be given, when practicable, one day previous to sending meal into the depot; similar notice, also, to be given of intention to take corn. All care to be provided with fit tarpaulins as security against the weather; any damage which may be occasioned by the want of such covering, will be charged to the contractor.

Each sack to have a label upon it, with the name of the mill in which its contents were manufactured.

The meal being intended as food for the people of Ireland generally, more especially in the remote and rural districts, too much care and attention cannot be given by the contracting parties to its proper manufacture; a want, on their part, of these necessary precautions to secure its keeping sweet and good, may be productive of the most serious and fatal consequences to the people, whose a sufficient stimulus to call for their most vigilant attention.

An inspector on the part of the government will occasionally visit the mills.

Commissariat,
Lee Mills Depot,
W. HEWATSON, C.G.

Cork, March, 1846.

(Signed)

ENCLOSURE 3.

INSTRUCTIONS to the CONSTABULARY in charge of Stores.

You are to enter on the left side of the book all the provisions received by you, and for which you are accountable.

If they are sent to you, they will be accompanied by a way bill which is the voucher.

The number and condition of the packages on their arrival must be compared with this document, and the deficiency (if any) noted on the book, which must be signed by the conductor.

In issuing food for labour, the authority for the distribution of that food will proceed, in the first instance, from the Commission in Dublin, on the approval of the application from the distressed locality; and the signatures of the chairman of the Local Committee, and of the Superintendent of Works, will be the direct authority for the issue.

The issues will be made daily, or weekly in arrears, and gangmen should be selected by the Superintendent of Works to receive those supplies, and issue them in detail.

The issues to the destitute who cannot work will be made one week in advance, under the signature of the chairman and one member of the Local Committee (the Government officer, if there should be any).

The ration for labour performed will be one pound and a half of Indian corn meal, and a half pound of oatmeal, or two pounds of Indian corn meal if there is no oatmeal.

The ration to the destitute, and to women and to children above ten years old, will be one pound of Indian corn meal, and to children at or below ten years old, the half of a pound of meal per diem.

When provisions are sent into any district for sale, the constable or other in charge will receive special instructions from the commissariat officer of the depot in regard to the price which is to be paid on delivery, and the price received is to be noted in the account.

In some instances the payment may be made by the Local Committee, in others by the parties to whom the meal is issued; but the issue should be made by the entire package, for which a given number of individuals might join. An addition to the price of the meal must be made to cover the cost of the package. The iron-bound oatmeal casks and the sacks should, if possible, be returned.

In some instances it will be proper to consult with the Local Committee, as in the persons who have a claim to purchase these supplies. The Commissariat officer of the depot will give general instructions on this point.

Whenever a local committee shall apply for a quantity of corn meal, to be paid for out of the subscriptions in their hands, it is to be forwarded at once to their order from the nearest depot, and to be distributed upon their responsibility, agreeably to the instructions.

Every entry must be numbered in regular order, commencing with No. 1 on either side of the book on the beginning of every month, and the voucher will have the same number as the entry.

At the end of every month each side of the book is to be closed; the remains to be shown by deducting the issues from the receipts, and these remains carried forward on the left side of the next month's entries.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICERS of the COAST GUARD, who may be engaged in the sale of Indian Corn Meal, on the Coast of Ireland.

These supplies, contained in original packages of sacks of 2500 lbs., or in barrels of 196 lbs. each, will be accompanied by a way-bill from a Commissariat depot, on verifying the accuracy of which, you will enter the quantity received on the left side of the book, and retain the way-bill as your voucher.

In the sale of these provisions, you will apply them to the demands of the distressed population, and be careful to make no sale to dealers or retailers, who are always ready to convert the intention of relief to their own private interest and advantage.

You will enter the issues severally, as they are made, on the right-hand side of the book, with the amount received.

The sale price is to be 11s. (eleven shillings) per hundred weight, or 1s. 4½d. (one shilling and four pence half-penny) per stone, up to the 15th May, and on the 16th the price will be reduced to 10s. (ten shillings) per cwt., or 1s. 3d. (one shilling and three pence) per stone of 14 lbs. No charge will be made for the barrels; but 1s. 6d. (one shilling and six pence) is to be charged for each sack, or the sack returned.

ACCOUNT of PROVISIONS served by _____

Gr.

[illegible]

ENCLOSURE 4.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMISSARIAT SUB-ACCOUNTANTS

Dublin Castle, 20th April, 1846.

In undertaking the charge at ———, I have the honour to acquaint you in the first instance, until your depot is more complete, and that you receive further instructions, it is desirable that you should refer all your applications for issues to the Relief Commission sitting in Dublin.

Except in urgent cases of distress, or to save the seed potato, it will be prudent to defer the distribution of our supplies until after the farm labour shall have closed, about the 15th to 20th May.

It is believed that the scarcity will be very much increased after that period, and that there will be no employment, except that on public works, disposable for the relief of the poor; and, under these circumstances, our intervention will become more valuable.

I enclose to you a few copies of the instructions of the Commission both for towns and rural districts, and you will perceive that it is not contemplated to make any gratuitous issues, except to the impotent destitute, and that every able-bodied man must give his day's labour for the food which he receives.

It will frequently occur that a demand will be made upon you from distressed localities at a distance from your post; and to enable you to act under such circumstances, you will require some engineer assistance to lay out a work upon which such men may be employed.

To obtain this co-operation, it will be necessary for you to apply to me for the assistance of the county surveyor, or one of his assistants; and immediately on receiving your letter, I shall apply to the Chairman of the Board of Works in Dublin, who will give the necessary orders to the county surveyor to this effect, and he will have a superintendent in charge of the work, who will confer with the ration returns.

In sending a supply of meal to a distant locality, you will apply to the county inspector for a constable, who will take charge of the same, receiving 2s. 6d. per diem whilst so employed. If proceeding by land, a constabulary escort, from post to post, should accompany the supply until it reaches its destination; if by water, this precaution will be unnecessary.

I send you 10 books of accounts for this service, with some ration returns, and each constable should be furnished with one when proceeding on such duties, and bring it back to you, with the vouchers, when the service terminates.

To this book are attached some printed instructions for the constabulary, and also for the coast guard; for the same form of account will be applicable to both, and, indeed, it will also be applicable to your own stores.

The interposition of the coast guard will be limited to sales, and you will give credit for the sums received from him for so many tons issued, taking care that they correspond, on the simple

certificate of the coast guard officer; but he will enter in the account-book, in a corresponding form, the sales effected by him, and return that book to the Commissariat at the close of the service. We, in the meanwhile, shall be satisfied with the receipt of so much money for so much issued.

I send you 12 copies of each of the Acts of Parliament passed in this session of the Legislature for the relief of the present distress, and a few forms of the memorial to be presented to the Lord Lieutenant.

The present price to be charged on the sale of meal is to be eleven shillings per cwt., or one shilling and four-pence half-penny per stone; but this price is to be reduced after the farm labour is over, towards the 15th or 20th May, to ten shillings per cwt., or one shilling and three-pence per stone, unless you should receive other instructions.

You will readily comprehend that it never was the intention of Government to undertake the task of feeding the whole population; we are here to act as auxiliaries to the landed proprietors, and the best assistance we can give is, so to husband and economize our resources, and to put them forth opportunely, so that we may succeed in pulling down the exorbitant demands of dealers, and restraining, within due limits, the market prices.

This object is not so difficult as it may appear; for though the potato crop has failed, there is generally no want of supplies, our appearance in the market will frequently be sufficient, and the sale of a few tons of meal will generally induce holders to be satisfied with a moderate profit.

Of course you will bear in mind, with reference to Article No. 5, of instructions to rural districts, that we are bound to supply with food, at the cost price established at your depot, the local committees who have raised subscriptions, but always in small quantities at a time; and, in this instance, explaining to the committee the object of our present reserve.

If any doubt should arise as to the construction to be put on these views, you will have the goodness to consult with me, and I shall not fail to answer you by return of post.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 21, 1846.

I HAVE just arranged with Messrs. Baring that a floating cargo of 600 quarters of Indian corn from Terceira, now in the river, is to be purchased and sent off to Ireland, and that orders are to be sent to their agent at Liverpool (which appears to be the best supplied market, and is the most convenient for Ireland,) to purchase and send off as much as he can buy within our limit without raising the price; the whole together, including the Terceira cargo, not to exceed 1,200 tons, and as there is only a small proportion of meal in the market, it is likely to be nearly all in grain.

Pray inform me by return of post whether you would wish the Terceira cargo to be sent to Dublin, Limerick, or Sligo, and, after that, in what order the cargoes are to be sent to those three places as they become available.

In order that the knowledge of these additional purchases may be kept a secret as long as possible, the Terceira vessel will be directed to "call for orders" at the port of her destination.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you copy of a letter from Commissary-General Coffin, No. 68, dated the 20th instant, in which he refers to me a question that I must submit to the consideration of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I request to be informed if it is their Lordships' pleasure that the quantities of Indian corn deposited in the public magazines by the Town Committees for the use of the rural districts, should be admitted free of expense of storage.

We have always the means of preventing any excess of demand for this indulgence, by declining it on the grounds of want of space.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Limerick, April 20, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 17th and 18th instant. I observe by the Treasury letter, of which a copy accompanies the former, that the storage of supplies obtained by private purchase for the relief of rural districts is approved, but I am

not yet informed whether or not the expense of this is to be in any way charged to the parties. Mr. Mossell has signified to me his intention of availing himself of this arrangement for the deposit of about 70 tons of meal, and from my communications with other parties I am led to believe that advantage will be taken of it to some extent, as soon as further importations afford the opportunity. There seems to be a growing disposition to encourage the use of Indian corn, in the hope that it may establish itself as a permanent substitute, in part, for potatoes.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 24, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that it is not their Lordships' intention that any change should be made for the storage of the Indian corn deposited in the public magazines at Limerick for the use of the rural districts, in accordance with the permission previously given to that effect.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 21, 1846,

Write to Sir R. Routh, that adverting to the numerous and pressing demands upon the establishment under his orders, their Lordships have selected Mr. Ernest Perceval, late a Captain in Her Majesty's 15th Hussars, to be employed upon the same footing and with the same rate of pay and allowances as Mr. Waller and Captain Pole, in assisting in the operations in progress for the relief of the people suffering from the scarcity in Ireland.

Add that Mr. Perceval has been instructed to proceed without delay to Dublin, to place himself under Sir R. Routh's orders.

Write to Mr. Perceval that their Lordships have been pleased to accept the offer he has made of his services, for the purpose of assisting in the operations in progress for the relief of the people suffering from the scarcity in Ireland; and they desire that he will proceed without delay to Dublin, and report himself to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, from whom he will receive instructions for his further guidance.

Add that he will receive one guinea per diem from the 18th instant, inclusively, so long as his assistance may be required, and a further allowance of lodging-money at such rate as will be hereafter fixed.

Their Lordships take this opportunity of placing on record that the business arising out of the relief of the necessitous poor in Ireland, in addition to the ordinary duties of the department, having been reported to them to be beyond the powers of the existing establishment of the Commissariat branch of their office, they directed Mr. L. A. Kelly to be attached to this department of their office during such time as his services might be required, commencing from the 31st ultimo, inclusively, for the purpose of assisting in the duties in question, and they desire that Mr. Kelly may be paid as a Commissariat Clerk from the above-mentioned date, and may be considered available for general service, when the pressure which led to his employment at the Treasury shall have ceased.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 22, 1846.

It is of course of great importance, as stated by Sir R. Peel in his last excellent speech on the Irish scarcity, that nobody but ourselves should know what stock of food we have provided.

Captain POLE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Baragher, April 22, 1846.

ONE fact comes forth in a strong light, from the midst of conflicting surmises, and it is that the import of food by Government has brought down the price of the people's food in the markets. The poor, ever keen in disco-

vering relieving causes, point unanimously to the Government stores as the destroyers of monopolizing speculation; the 11 tons of private meal at Clara, circulated by Mr. Robinson, and the two tons at Birr, by Lord Rosse, (menacing more) have spread confidence by similar effects. It is pleasant to be able to establish one single fact which mendacity cannot mutilate, and such is this. Whether the real presence of scarcity, or the rumour of its approach, (for on so delicate a point as the people's food, either promotes the dealer's views,) closed the barns, need not be considered; they were closing fast and they have been opened by the approach of the beautiful footsteps of plenty. When human evils are abated, few care to calculate to what extent the calamity might have been forced; the ravages of ocean are computed by the weeds which the highest wave has left upon the land, and the mind shrinks from contemplating the effects of the further progress of a calamity which a wise Providence has already turned aside. But to me it appears evident, that a further rise of the late prices of the people's food would have realized the miseries of famine, with the means of present plenty in the land.

Commissary-General COTTIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, April 23, 1846.

I HAVE no reason to believe that more want exists in Tipperary than in this county or Clare, where no outbreaks worth notice have yet occurred, but those capable of relieving the distress certainly seem to have been more tardy in their proceedings, at least at Clonmel.

I have had a great deal of talk and correspondence arising out of the applications from Committees for the immediate issue of our meal; but these are now becoming less numerous, and though in a few cases more urgent, I find that our motive for holding back begins to be appreciated, and is highly commended by all who look beyond the present moment. The meal selling on private account is in very considerable demand; and I was lately assured by one of the most respectable merchants here, who imported the cargo purchased by the Relief Committee of the place, that very large orders for cargoes of Indian corn have been sent to all parts of the world.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBBER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, April 24, 1846.

I HAVE been for the last 10 days so busily employed in establishing a dépôt at Clonmel, in purchasing oatmeal in that neighbourhood by order of the Central Commission, and in other duties in that disturbed district, that I have not been able to acknowledge your letters of the 7th and 8th instant, with their enclosures. I am happy to say that since the 18th perfect tranquillity has been restored around Clonmel, Carrick, Cahir, and the southern part of Tipperary, but during the few days the disturbance lasted, the populace showed great excitement and bad feeling, though they confined their outrages to the robbery of food, and dispersed immediately on the arrival of the military; the commanding officer of which declined complying with the magistrates' order to fire, as he felt he had force to quell the riot, and seize the ringleaders, without bloodshed. The transit of food, however, through the country is not attempted without a strong escort. These riots were got up entirely by a set of able-bodied vagrants from the interior of Tipperary and Kilkenny, who recruited their numbers amongst the idlers at Clonmel and Carrick; but the indigenous paupers had no hand in them *per se*, and such as did take a part were immediately quieted on the ringleaders being lodged in gaol. With a military force in *terrorem*, a vigilant surveillance by the magistrates, and a sound discretion on the part of the Relief Committees in selecting the persons to whom they give employment, I think such outbreaks as these will be generally prevented or easily suppressed; but great mischief may be done by giving employment indiscriminately to all who apply, instead of confining it as much as possible to

the *residents* of the immediate district; for the temptation of 1s. per day induces farmers' boys and others to leave their masters, with whom they have constant employ, and go in search of higher wages and lighter work. One would also wish to see the employment given to the destitute more judiciously selected, and more intimately connected with the improvement of the country, a desideratum not yet organized. The Relief Committees are in operation throughout the district, and the subscriptions in towns generally more liberal than those from opulent landlords in the rural districts.

The supply of potatoes in the markets around us continues much on a par with what it was two months ago, this place being well supplied from Wexford, though at a very high price. I am too happy to say that the farmers are, despite the unfavourable wet weather, busily employed in planting their crops, but it is calculated that not half the usual quantity will be grown this year by the cottier and con-acre tenant. I have taken great pains to ascertain in the neighbouring counties whether the crops planted in the early part of the season have rotted in the ground, as reported, or not, and the result of all my examinations and inquiries is, that although there are partial failures in many places, the seed-potato is still quite sound in the ground generally, though it has shown unusual sluggishness in germinating.

The importations of Indian corn continue, and the meal is in great demand from the interior, nor does the price rise; at Clonmel it is sold for 10s. 6d. per cwt., whereas they ask 11s. here. Oatmeal is at a very high price, from 17l. to 19l. per ton. I collected, with difficulty, by order of Sir R. J. Routh, during the week, 200 tons, at 17l. 10s. per ton, in the vicinity of Clonmel, but it is selling much dearer by retail; and to the poor labourers, &c., as high as 23s. *on time*, at three months after sale, on the security of the farmers. There are plenty of oats in that neighbourhood, but there is a difficulty in getting them ground from the risk "in transitu." The barges leave Clonmel once a-week for this place with the export supplies under convoy, which last Tuesday consisted of 2 guns, 50 cavalry, and 80 infantry, escorting them on the banks of the Suir as far as Carrick. The parties who plundered a drove of pigs a few days since from Fethard, sent a message, by one of the owners, to the mayor of Clonmel, to say, they would liberate the pigs if he would liberate the prisoners captured during the riots. There is great distress amongst the artisans, mechanics, and men of that class, in the towns, from the total stagnation of work and occupation in their crafts, and the Committees as yet have chalked out no employment for their relief.

If there were a doubt in any reflecting man's mind on the correctness of "Burke's Thoughts and Details on Scarcity," he need only come to Ireland to have it removed, and to be satisfied that the greatest evils may arise from Government being depended upon for the subsistence of the people, or meddling with it if it can be avoided; but since Government has, at this present juncture, initiated such interference to meet the impending distress throughout this country, I deemed that they might do much moral good by making occasionally a legitimate use of their "reserve" to keep down the prices of the markets, without at all interrupting the importations on *private* account, or allowing themselves to be brought into the field before the season of extreme distress for which their provision was made.

THEATRE MINUTE.

April 24, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and state that it is their Lordships' wish that the fresh supplies of biscuit should be sent from Cork to the points at which they are required, for the purpose of replacing the supplies now under the charge of the officers of the Ordnance, as opportunities may occur for employing the Government steamers in this service, without interfering with the more important object of conveying the Indian corn meal to the different depôts.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to Sir R. Routh for his information.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 27, 1846.

I PERCEIVE you intend to purchase 1200 tons of Indian corn, to be divided amongst Dublin, Sligo, and Limerick, which is all excellent. It will, I presume, arrive in bulk, and we must be prepared with sacks, say 3500 for each cargo of 400 tons. The "Rhadsamanthus" goes to Cork this evening, and, together with the screw steamer, will take 5000 sacks to Limerick, and two such voyages would make my mind easy about that depot. I have 2000 barrels in Galway. I have 4000 sacks at Banagher and 3000 at Longford, where Mr. Campbell says he cannot store more, but I shall send Mr. Lister there to examine into that point, for he must have 4000 there. Captain Perceval is still here, and will be here for some days yet, waiting events. I think some of the environs of Limerick or Kerry will bring him up. He is a very gentlemanly intelligent person, and I must acknowledge the justice you have done the service in the selection made.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 23, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the demand for the sale of Indian corn from the Government stores continues to increase beyond any anticipation I could have formed.

Fully convinced that the present pressure, though excessive, is much less severe than that which we have to apprehend after the farm labour shall have closed, towards the end of May, and from that date until the end of August, I regret the obligation of these premature issues, and I think it my duty to bring the subject before you, and to express my anxiety to learn the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and to what extent I may expect that these issues will be replaced.

I know all the necessity of economy, and shall not deviate from it; and I shall continue to impress upon the public that the Government is only acting as auxiliary to their own efforts in their own behalf; but there are cases when there is no possibility of remonstrance with distress.

The Commission are bringing again under the attention of the Commissioners of Public Works the most urgent localities, so that before the emergency arrives they may be examined, and public works marked out, and a remedy applicable at once to any immediate call.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 27, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships are strongly impressed with the public importance of the local committees and other parties who wish to procure food for the relief of the people in the present scarcity, being advised to make their purchases, in every practicable case, from the stores of food held in, or imported into, Ireland on private account; but when the price of provisions shall be rising, or shall have been unduly enhanced, he will exercise his own discretion as to selling, from time to time, such quantities of food from the Government stores as may effect a reduction of the price of provisions, giving in each case immediate notice to my Lords, in order that further supplies may be forwarded for replacing the quantities which may have been so disposed of.

Transmit a copy of this minute to the Lord Lieutenant for his information.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 29, 1846.

THE communication made to you by my official letter of this day's date is one of great importance.

Our measures should proceed with as little disturbance as possible of the

ordinary course of private trade, which must ever be the chief resource for the subsistence of the people; but, *coûte qu'il coûte*, the people must not, *under any circumstances*, be allowed to starve.

In order that we may be fully prepared to support you in acting upon these instructions, I have had another communication with Messrs. Baring, and have authorized them, by Mr. Goulburn's desire, to buy from the stock in bond at Liverpool to the extent of 1,200 tons of Indian corn and meal, taking care that the meal is kiln-dried and properly warranted; and, besides this, to purchase six whole cargoes, which I expect will be mostly in grain.

The ships containing these six cargoes will arrive from time to time in the course of the next fortnight or three weeks, and I shall be obliged to you to inform me in what order you wish them to be sent to the different ports of Ireland.

The following is a transcript of a memorandum which Messrs. Baring gave me this morning respecting three of these cargoes:—

"350 quarters from Terceira in the Channel on its way to London; yellow Indian corn.

"1200 quarters Neapolitan. Bill of lading received to-day; about 10 days. Stop at Cork or Falmouth at 34s.; yellow.

"1200 Trieste yellow; in about a fortnight."

Pray inform me where you wish the 1,200 tons from Liverpool to be sent. Messrs. Baring suggest that they may be sent in the packet steamer to Dublin, but it would be desirable to allow this portion of our stock to remain undisturbed at Liverpool for a few days, if it can be done with perfect safety, in order that we may have time to buy our cargoes, before it shall be known that the Government is again in the market.

For the same reason, and from the still stronger motive of not interrupting the course of private trade for the supply of food to the distressed districts, I must again direct your attention to the great importance of keeping our intentions on this subject *a strict secret*.

Mr. Goulburn desires that you will show this letter, and my official letter above adverted to, to the Lord Lieutenant, and that you will mention to his Excellency that, in order that a knowledge of our intentions may be confined to as few persons as possible, no communication on the subject will at present be made through the ordinary channel.

In determining to what places the additional stock of Indian corn is to be sent, you must carefully consider how far the means of grinding it are available to the Government, and to what extent and in what quarters it may become advisable to dispose of it unground.

I should wish Mr. Hewetson's establishment, and the private mills superintended by it, to be kept fully employed.

I have only to add, that it was considered more advisable to purchase Indian corn than oatmeal, because the latter being the habitual food of a large population in Great Britain as well as in Ireland, and being prepared only in quantities suited to their ordinary consumption, there would be more danger of the price of this article being raised by our purchases than in the case of Indian corn, which may, for the present, be considered as appropriated to the supply of the deficiency arising from the scarcity in Ireland, and may be purchased in whole cargoes as it arrives from abroad, without interfering with existing stocks.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, April 29, 1846.

EVERYTHING wears the aspect of quiet hereabouts; the weather is propitious for field-work, and the dépôt of provisions produces passively its intended effect, neither disheartening the dealer nor tempting the importunity of the poor.

There is a subtle plan of imposition, which it is both difficult to detect and cruel to expose when detected, and I believe it is becoming pretty general—I mean the substitution, at present, of habitual Irish distress, for distress the result of crop failure.

There is a tide of fixed distress in this country which never ebbs; a stranger cannot well discern its level, but an inhabitant understands every wrinkle on its surface. This mass of want will doubtless be aggravated by high prices; but still it is to be distinguished in calculating the truth of the sweeping representations made by local Committees, when such representations are made with the prospect of securing a cheaper and better food than the market ever yet supplied. Nor must it be forgotten that the old habitual mass of want still looks to be relieved from the same hands which draw these representations.

Of the effect of the Government preparations in reducing market prices, and compelling the production of food, the following local instance is interesting:—The company of the 75th here, in their last contract for potatoes, obtained them of superior quality and at a lower rate than usual; and the officer inquiring the cause, the dealer replied, "See all that Government meal, Sir, coming in," pointing to a cart load passing at the time. Again, a very intelligent gentleman said to me last market day, "There, Sir, all that is brought from behind " cupboards, and under bedsteads, and about chimney-corners, where it was concealed for scarcity prices, and would have still lain, but for the Government " meal," pointing to sacks of oatmeal and potatoes coming into market.

There can be no doubt, therefore, that the primary object—a just control over the markets, is accomplishing; and it is impossible to conceive any other plan for producing such an effect, so simple as the one which pressing unduly nowhere, brings existing supplies to light, and secures finally to the poor the means of subsistence, in case the resources of the land prove deficient. A few tons judiciously dispersed here and there, to localities placed almost beyond the reach of private aid, and the bearing upon the larger markets by a liberal temporary sale in populous towns; these are the methods leading to present success.

At the same moment the people themselves are roused into benevolent action—the better orders, I mean—even to jealousy of each other's exertions; local Committee is eyeing local Committee from afar, and as all these movements are based on cash subscriptions, the great purpose is obtained of placing the upper classes in that position with reference to the poor, which the third resolution of the printed Instructions to Committees explains so well, and enforces so discreetly.

With respect to future scarcity, the same doubts continue to be entertained; but the parties from whom I derive knowledge (not by following any, but comparing many), do not extend their line of vision beyond the narrow horizon of their own hopes and fears; they think that the three parishes around them may outlive a pressure; but they know not how to calculate, in a general opinion, the wilds of Galway, the barrenness of Clare, and the improvidence of Tipperary.

The following are a few remarks generally:—

Many of the Constabulary are found subscribing to Local Relief funds.

People come long distances to buy seed potatoes.

A greater current of emigration is in flow, which I think results from the somewhat prosperous separating themselves from the mass of poverty around them.

Applications from Local Relief Committees abound.

There is reason to apprehend that the late speculating mania in railroads will leave behind it results very injurious to the poor of this country. The small capitalist has damaged his funds materially by these schemes, and the amount generally available as wages for the labour of the poor will be much contracted.

Of my own personal knowledge I can affirm that the disease in the potatoes continues; that under such circumstances it is impossible to avoid sowing many unsound ones; and that therefore the disease will make its appearance most probably again in the autumn.

Banagher is admirably situated as a dépôt; the Shannon flowing through it brings six counties within its grasp, while its own comparative solitariness secures the stores from general observation.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, April 30, 1846.

MR. GOULBURN doubts whether the plan of offering bounties on the importation of seed-potatoes would lead to anything worth having, the quantity required for seed (a ton an acre, it is said,) being so great, and the cost of conveyance, owing to their bulk, being so heavy.

Mr. Goulburn also thinks that the question of Warranty might give rise to unpleasant disputes; and it occurs to me that it would be unpleasant still to render the Government liable in any case to the imputation of importing rotten potatoes for distribution.

Nevertheless, the suggestion appears to be deserving of deliberate consideration, and I shall be glad to hear what you think of it.

You will understand that the premiums alluded to by Lord Montagu were offered by the Thatched House Committee, which superintended the expenditure of the great private subscription raised in 1822, and you will probably find some account of them in the work I sent you describing the proceedings of that Committee.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 1, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, acknowledging the receipt of the following letters :—

No. 99, dated 7th April, enclosing copy of Report to the Lord Lieutenant accompanying the weekly return of supplies.

No. 101, 8th April, reporting quantities of oatmeal directed to be deposited for sale at various coast-guard stations on the western coast.

No. 105, 13th April, transmitting a copy of the instructions furnished to Assistant Commissary-General Wood for the formation of the dépôt at Galway.

No. 107, 13th April, with copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewatson, reporting the sale of damaged Indian corn and meal received from America.

No. 109, 13th April, with weekly return of the dépôts, and copy of letter to the Lord Lieutenant enclosing the same.

No. 124, 23rd April, enclosing copies of communications from Mr. Griffiths to the Earl of Lincoln.

Their Lordships entirely approve of Sir R. Routh's proceedings as reported in these letters, subject to the following remarks :—

In the instructions furnished by him to Assistant Commissary-General Wood, Sir R. Routh observes as follows :—

" If in the course of these sales the Government dépôt shall be exhausted, a given sum will have to be received in lieu, and be re-employed in the purchase of other supplies of the same or some other description, so that the issues may not be discontinued.

" Thus the same sum of money may be turned two or three times in the course of the season with advantage to the community, and not much loss to the public; for though Indian corn may not be in the market, there will be oatmeal or other supplies to be purchased for the occasion and resold at cost price."

Their Lordships think it right to guard against its being supposed that the mere fact of a sum of money having been realized by the sale of meal on account of Government will render it proper that purchases should be made for the purpose of replenishing the stock of food belonging to the Government at any particular place.

No steps whatever should be taken to replace the meal which has been sold, unless the circumstances and prospects of the district in regard to the supply of food for the subsistence of the people, should be such as to require a continuance of measures of precaution on the part of the Government.

And supposing the continuance of such measures to be necessary, the new supplies of food required to replenish the Government stores ought in every practicable case to be furnished from the stores of Indian corn sent to Ireland by this Board, and should not be purchased on the spot, except in the event of such a pressing emergency as would not admit of delay.

As their Lordships consider it to be of much importance that the accounts

of every description of income and expenditure connected with this service, including the whole of the receipts from the sale of the Indian corn at the different principal and branch depôts, should be rendered in a regular and satisfactory manner to the Commissioners of Audit, they desire to be informed whether the cash and store accounts have been rendered up to the present time at the expiration of each month, in accordance with their instructions, and whether every necessary arrangement has been made for so rendering them in future.

Transmit to the Commissioners of Audit for their information, the enclosure in Sir R. Routh's letter, dated 13th instant, being Commissary-General Hewatson's Report and account of the sale of damaged Indian corn and meal received from America.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, May 2, 1846.

I SEND a *confidential* letter, which I have received from Messrs. Baring, relating to the purchases last ordered.

You will see from it, that 515 quarters of Indian corn are at your disposal at Liverpool; and as we have now secured all that is immediately necessary, they can be sent, whenever you think proper, to any quarter where they may be required.

Further purchases are to be made at Liverpool, as already advised, amounting altogether to 1200 tons, including the quantity already purchased.

The Terceira cargo is daily expected at Cork, and will proceed at once to Limerick.

No orders will be given for purchasing the two cargoes and 900 quarters referred to in the concluding part of Messrs. Barings' letter, or any further quantities, until the exigency shall arise; and, meanwhile, the stock at our disposal in the home market is likely to be greatly increased by numerous arrivals expected from the United States and various parts of the world. Messrs. Baring inform me, that most of what has already arrived is old corn, and that when the produce of the last harvest begins to come in in quantity (as it certainly will under the attraction of present prices) prices must fall.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 2, 1846.

I AM afraid that the plan of bounties would not succeed. That it might do so partially is not improbable, but you could offer no assurance to a merchant that his cargo would sell. There is an apprehension amongst the farmers about planting potatoes; they decline underletting land for it, for fear of no produce, and no rent, and the cottiers fear the loss of their labour, and the same disappointment as last year. A cargo was imported into Sligo and nobody would buy. The same thing happened at Wexford, and Mr. Lister was speaking with a man who brought a cargo to Dublin and had great difficulty in disposing of it. I think at this late season of the year, and with the present temper of the people, it would be hazardous to have anything to do with it. I do not see my way clear.

You will observe the large amount of donations, but the subscriptions are also large. My expenditure consists chiefly of donations, except the oatmeal at Clonmel.

I think a cargo of Indian corn would arrive very opportunely now at Sligo; they are attempting to push up the markets, and our depôt there, from its distance, and the necessity of first filling Limerick, Galway, and Westport, is rather low. If you could, through Messrs. Baring, despatch a cargo there, I should be delighted to hear of its arrival, and think it would be of great advantage. I have filled Banagher and Longford, but the choice of a magazine at the former, from a false economy, was injudicious, not affording sufficient room or ventilation. I am, therefore, obliged to reduce the quantities

proposed for that station, and this may impose the necessity of employing some constables in charge on the line of the canals where distress may manifest itself. Mr. Lister will go up in a day or two to inspect Longford, as soon as we can spare him. I thank you much for Leonce's assistance, for we were all beginning to feel our over fatigue. As soon as the subscriptions and donations begin to subside, I shall try to let Mr. Coffin go down to some of the most important points of Kerry.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 4, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st May, notifying to me the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to sundry communications, and remarking on the terms of my letter of instructions to Assistant Commissary-General Wood, which I then perceived was open to misapprehension; but it does not order any new purchase or authorize any measure of replenishing the public stores, which are understood to be reserved for the pleasure of their Lordships' Board. It stated only that these sales were susceptible of such a course, if it should be desirable. Their Lordships will have observed that the passage was omitted in my subsequent letter of instruction.

With regard to the accounts, they are forwarded to the end of February, and in the course of this week those of March will follow, and hereafter as we have more assistance they will be more regular, but the press of correspondence has absorbed every other occupation.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 5, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, acknowledging the receipt of the following communications:—

20th April: submitting a general view of the measures which have been adopted, or are in course of preparation, to avert the effects of the impending scarcity in Ireland; with several enclosures.

27th April: transmitting the weekly return of the several depôts on the evening of the 25th April, and a statement of the amount of donations issued under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant in aid of the public subscriptions, up to the same date.

29th April: reporting additional coast-guard stations on the south-west coast, which had been supplied with Indian corn meal.

And state that their Lordships have perused with much satisfaction the comprehensive description of the measures in progress contained in his Report, dated 20th ultimo, and they desire that he will, at the termination of each monthly period from that date, furnish a general Report in continuation of the same, recapitulating all the steps which have been taken with a view to the relief of the distress since the date of the last Report.

It is also their Lordships' wish that the next general Report should contain an Abstract of the sums expended under each head for purposes connected with the relief, from the funds which have been placed at Sir R. Routh's disposal at the Bank of Ireland, and that each of the subsequent Reports should contain a statement in continuation of the same.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 6, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that Assistant Commissary-General Stevens reports to me, by this day's post, the purchase of

200 tons of oatmeal, at 15*l.* 5*s.* per ton; the prices previously ruling in that market having been 16*l.* per ton.

The particulars will be forwarded hereafter.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 6, 1846.

THE Barony of Coolavin, near Sligo, is in a very bad state, and also indications in other localities, and parts of Donegal which require attention and preparation; but the main object of sending the cargo to Sligo now, is to give time to grind it there, and to be ready in all June, and save our steamers the long voyage to that port, whilst Limerick, Galway, and Westport, require their assistance.

I shall probably lay in a supply at Templemore or Athy, on the Grand Canal, under the charge of a constable, if I can procure an able man.

You are aware that this is the period of farm labour, for planting, sowing, manuring, &c., and, therefore, for a fortnight or three weeks I shall consider it as a time for preparation, and exert as much activity as possible, to be prepared for the three summer months.

We are replenishing the Coast Guard Stations, and increasing them. The effect has been very successful.

MESSES. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

May 7, 1846.

THE extract which you give was intended to make you aware that in the purchase of the Mediterranean cargoes the buyers run the risk of heat or damage from the sea voyage, all insurances upon grain covering only the risks mentioned to you.

Any claims established and recognized by usage on the American underwriters will be recovered in due course, such as the loss of the "Arab," and we should think the portion of the cargo thrown overboard of the "Harriet Rockwell" (we believe), but no claim can be established against them for the portions of cargoes which were rejected as unsound by the examiners at Cork.

We have samples which are to guide us as to the quality of the cargoes from the Mediterranean.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 7, 1846

I HAVE NOT yet read Lord George Bentinck's speech, but I hear so constantly such contradictory statements, that are, in a certain degree, party opinions, or arise from the capricious character of the potato disease which seems to leave one spot untouched, whilst all around it is suffering, that I estimate those statements very differently from the opinion formed of them at a distance. With respect to Sligo, I shall send you an account of the barony of Coolavin close to Sligo, as a proof of the eccentric character of this disease.

I think it would be very desirable that you should send round to Limerick as well as Sligo a cargo of the Indian corn; we have admirable means of grinding it if necessary at Banagher at a very cheap rate, and its bare presence and report of its arrival at Limerick would bring down prices.

I do not think of sending any more grain to Cork. Mr. Hewetson calculates on finishing all his grinding by the first or second week in July, and occupied as he will be to that date, it is useless to increase his stock of unground grain.

The arrival elsewhere will be of great advantage in affecting the current prices.

Sir J. GRAHAM to the LORD LIEUTENANT of IRELAND.

Whitehall, May 7, 1846.

I THINK it right to put your Excellency in possession of the views which have influenced Her Majesty's Government with respect to the administration of relief in Ireland during the scarcity of food caused by the disease which has attacked the potato crop of the year 1845.

Her Majesty's Government, in October and November last, from the official and authentic information which they obtained, foresaw the probable destruction of the potatoes to a considerable extent, as well as the distress among the people which would be the necessary consequence of this diminution in the quantity of their principal means of subsistence.

The insufficiency of the ordinary means of relief for meeting the apprehended calamity, and the uncertainty of the time at which the effects of the approaching scarcity might manifest themselves, determined Her Majesty's Government in November to advise your Excellency to form a temporary commission for the purpose of taking the measures which the emergency should demand.

This commission was formed of the following members—viz., the Right Honourable Edward *Luss*, as Chairman (who has since retired); Sir Randolph Routh, Commissary-General; Colonel M'Gregor, the Head of the Constabulary; Colonel Jones, the Head of the Board of Works; Sir James Donbrain, Inspector of the Coast Guard; Sir Robert (then Professor) Kane; Mr. Twissleton, one of the Poor Law Commissioners; and Mr. Theobald M'Kenna, Assistant Under-Secretary.

This Commission was intended to assist the Government in obtaining information, as speedily and correctly as possible, with respect to the supply of food and the distress of the people in all parts of the country, and also in carrying into execution the measures necessary for affording relief at the public cost. With this view the heads of the various departments who were likely to furnish authentic information from independent local sources were constituted members of the Commission, and Her Majesty's Government have every reason to believe that the arrangements which they made have proved successful for the purposes contemplated by them.

Her Majesty's advisers were aware of the responsibility which they voluntarily assumed by the formation of this Commission, and of the disadvantages which were necessarily incidental to the course which they adopted.

In the first place, they could not but see that the administrative machinery through which they would have to act must, to a great extent, be created for the occasion, and that the temporary local authorities would be deficient in experience and habits of joint action. In the next place, in the absence of officers (such as the relieving officers in England) diffused at regular intervals over the country, and employed for the distribution of out-door relief, there was a danger that the grants of public money might in certain cases be postponed too long, and be too small in amount. On the other hand, the extraordinary nature of the grants, and the apparently unlimited fund from which they would be taken, might lead the people to raise their expectations to an unreasonable height; and therefore it would be incumbent on Her Majesty's Government not to commence the grants of public money at too early a period, or to give them too wide an extent. Moreover, a certain disturbance of the natural course of industry and commerce could not but be caused by such an interference of the Government, however prudent and cautiously exercised. Lastly, Her Majesty's Government did not conceal from themselves the probability that their interference, however sincere might be their intention of relieving the wants of the people, would create disappointment in Ireland, as not affording all the assistance which was expected; and that, after their best endeavours to reconcile humanity to the poor with their duty, as guardians of the public purse, there would be complaints of the insufficiency of the relief afforded at the cost of the Treasury.

Nevertheless, foreseeing the inconvenience to which this course was liable, they adopted it deliberately in preference to any attempt to meet the crisis by an extension of the Irish poor law.

The Irish Poor Relief Act was passed in 1838, after full deliberation in both Houses of Parliament; and, by general consent, the relief to be afforded under it was expressly restricted to the workhouse.

All plans of out-door relief for the Irish poor, not merely the unemployed able-

boiled, but even the aged, the sick, and the impotent, were, during the discussions of this measure, deliberately rejected by Parliament.

It was manifest that relief restricted to the workhouses could not be adequate to the distress arising from the late failure of the potatoes, which threatened, not as heretofore to affect only a few localities, but to include a large portion of Ireland. The present law could, therefore, only be rendered applicable to the emergency by introducing into it a new principle—*viz.*, that of out-door relief.

It was further necessary that this out-door-relief should not (as in the Poor-Law of Scotland) be limited to the aged and impotent, but should comprehend every class of the population.

Her Majesty's Government had therefore to consider what would be the probable consequences of introducing a change of this extent, as a remedy for the impending distress.

In the first place the Government could not fail to observe that although the measure would be introduced for a temporary purpose, there was great probability that it would become permanent.

Looking at the social condition of Ireland, to the large extent of the class who would become claimants for out-door-relief, as well as to other circumstances connected with the tenure of land, and of the relations of the wealthier and poorer classes, it could not be anticipated that Parliament (even if it were desirous) would be able to recede from a step of this sort which conferred on the people a general right to relief out of the property of the country. Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that if this extensive change was to be made it ought not to be made for a purpose professedly temporary, but probably permanent. They thought that if so important a principle was to be introduced, it ought to be introduced deliberately, and with reference, not to any extraordinary crisis but to the ordinary state of things.

But secondly—even if the Government had come to the conclusion that it was advisable to introduce this change into the Irish Poor-Law for the temporary purpose, it is far from certain that this temporary purpose would have been accomplished. The number of claimants would probably, under the pressure of the scarcity, be immense: the fund for their relief would be limited, and what was paid in rates would, to a great extent, be withdrawn from the voluntary employment of labour. The machinery of out-door-relief must have been created by the Boards of Guardians and set to work within a few weeks. The reluctance of the Boards of Guardians to co-operate in the prompt introduction of a measure deeply affecting the pecuniary interests of the ratepayers, must have been overcome. A large addition to the poor's rate must have been made, and the increased rate must have been collected without notice to the ratepayers. Even when there was a long previous notice, when preparation could be made by the ratepayers for a year or six months before the payment, and when the payment was small in comparison with the rate which would be required for the present purpose; there has been great difficulty in parts of Ireland as to the collection of the poor's rate. It has been necessary in many instances to call in the assistance of the police and even military. It could not therefore be expected that by a compulsory rate, on the basis of the poor rate introduced suddenly, any large fund could have been obtained for the relief of the poor in Ireland during the present scarcity.

If therefore Her Majesty's Government had submitted to Parliament early in this Session a Bill for the extension of the Irish Poor Law, for the temporary purpose in question, and if the measure had been agreed to without delay by Parliament the result would probably have been that it would not have accomplished the temporary object for which it was proposed, but that it would have led to the permanent establishment of the principle of out-door-relief in Ireland.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government, though fully conscious of the difficulties of the course which they have adopted, believe that on the whole it is best calculated to meet the present emergency, without introducing incidentally a principle of immense extent, and, to say the least, of uncertain expediency. By applying merely a temporary remedy to a temporary, though wide-spreading calamity—the Government have avoided the premature and hasty settlement of a most important question; and they have left the policy of an extension of the Irish Poor Law to be deliberately considered by Parliament at a time when its judgment will not be influenced by the contemplation of peculiar and unusual distress among the poorer classes of the country.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, May 10, 1846.

WE are still occupied in completing the depôts and in parrying the efforts made to induce us to open them before the time of pressure arrives; and although the applications become more numerous and pressing, I have hitherto avoided making any considerable issues, and in most cases have succeeded in convincing the applicants that it would be for their interest to seek supplies elsewhere, as long as they can be purchased at less than famine prices.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 10, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you a representation from Commissary-General Hewetson in behalf of Mr. Crawford Logan, contractor for labour and cartage in landing and stowing Indian corn in Cork, praying for a reconsideration of the terms of his engagement, and which I request you will bring under the notice of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I accompany this letter with copies of the tenders in farther explanation of this question.

It appears to me to be a hard case, and well deserving their Lordships' liberality.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. LOGAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Cork, April 23, 1846.

THE peculiar circumstances under which I am pleased render it imperative on me, however unpleasant the necessity, to solicit on the part of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury the indulgence of a reconsideration of the terms granted to me in accordance with my tenders of the 7th February last.

In estimating the cost of the undertaking I was too much influenced by the experience of the usages and regular position of the corn trade of Cork with which I was acquainted; I did not foresee, and consequently did not calculate on the workmen taking advantage of their present position to exact higher wages than those for which they had bound themselves by deed to work.

The limited number of labourers capable of executing the work of my contract (for none but the strongest men could endure the great labour), places me at the mercy of the men who have thus taken advantage of their position.

Nothing like the amount of labour, the speed and despatch requisite to meet the exigency of the services called for was ever known in Cork or could possibly have been anticipated by me in the calculation by which I arrived at the prices set forth in my tender of the 7th February last.

The merchants of Cork, for the ordinary work of discharging and lofting malt, the lightest of all grain, pay at the rate of 2½d. per quarter, whilst I have been compelled to pay 3d. per quarter, thus leaving me, with reference to my existing contract, barely one penny per quarter for the carriage, by which I sustain considerable loss, without taking into account large advances of money weekly, constant personal superintendence, and great responsibility.

Under these circumstances I respectfully submit for reconsideration the terms of my contract, and solicit that instead of 4½ per quarter for vessels discharging at Passage, and 4d. per quarter for vessels discharging at Cork, 5½d. be substituted for the former and 3d. for the latter which is, in fact, nothing more than the terms already allowed when the corn is discharged above the second story, but which I now seek to have extended to the whole work.

We certify that the terms stated above, viz. 2½d. per quarter, are those which we allow our gangs for discharging and lofting malt.

(Signed)

BRAMISH & CRAWFORD.
DAVID LOWE & SON.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 5, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh with reference to this letter, that as the landing and storing of Indian corn at Cork is a new and peculiar service, the details of which

may not have been sufficiently understood to enable the parties competing for its performance to take into consideration all the risks attending it, my Lords are of opinion that an exception may with propriety be made in this case to the contract regulations of the department; and that for the reasons stated by Commissary-General Hewetson, and on Sir R. Routh's recommendation, an advance of 1*d.* per quarter beyond his contract rates may be made to Mr. Crawford Logan in respect to the quantity of Indian corn landed and stored by him from the 1st April last.

Transmit copy of this letter, its enclosures and copy of the foregoing minute to the Commissioners of Audit for their information.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, May 11, 1846.

THERE is something, my dear Sir, peculiarly pleasing to my spirit, in thus endeavouring to associate the measures, in the agency of which I am a very humble instrument, with what is benevolent in effect, and great in morals.

The introduction of such large masses of State food, and that a new food, into this pauperized land, is a novelty in legislative resources; and the gathering of all the effects, small and great, of such an operation is calculated to be most interesting.

It seems to me, that should all this food be eventually cast into the ocean, still a great work is accomplished in Ireland by the State having established within the mind of the people that great and true maxim, which is so forcibly expressed in the little printed sheet of instructions, "that the owners of property and other rate-payers, are the parties both legally and morally responsible for affording due relief to the destitute poor."

And after branding these moral axioms on the wealthier classes, there can be no doubt that the distribution of this food, should even no famine arise, will still be a boon to the poor, such as no poor on the earth are more in need of.

A pennyworth of potatoes from a July market, is no match for a pound of Indian corn meal; the evaporation of the meal while digesting is all nourishment, of the potato it is watery and unassimilating. This even simple destination of our stores will work, I apprehend, a great change in the habits of the lower orders; the demand for such food will grow, and trade will reply to the call, taking the place of Government, as it is already doing in busy cities; and it is but fair to conclude that in proportion to the popularity of this new food, the potato will suffer in reputation, and the land be eventually used to raise what is more certain and nourishing as food, and more conducive to wealth as produce.

A great disparity of opinion prevails as to the result of planting unsound potatoes, which I know is being done, accidentally and from necessity. Many seem to suppose that a diseased potato will produce a sound crop. It is a very curious subject, and I have heard a great deal concerning it. It is a matter which October will solve, and the solution of which now would not stop the method of planting. I am of opinion that a diseased potato will produce some diseased, and some fit for immediate use; but when vitally diseased, it will produce an unsound crop.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 12, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh, that their Lordships have been pleased to make the following temporary appointments to supply the place of Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Midway and Commissariat Clerk Rolleston, who have been ordered on a particular service.

Major Simmonds, whose pay and allowances will be the same as those previously authorized for Captain Perceval, Captain Pole, and Mr. Waller.

Mr. George Dougan, who will receive 7*s.* 6*d.* a-day as a Temporary Clerk.

These gentlemen have been instructed to proceed without delay to Dublin, to

report themselves to Sir R. Routh, who will either employ them in the duties previously executed by Messrs. Mildmay and Rolleston or make such other arrangement as may appear to him to be most conducive to the public interests.

Write accordingly to Major Simmonds and Mr. Dougan.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, May 12, 1846.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you last, the counties in my district have, without exception, been tranquil, nor is there any apprehension entertained of any immediate disturbance. The planting of the farmer's potatoes, the sowing of oats, and other predial occupations of the season have given considerable employment to the agricultural labourers. The Relief Committees have created work of some kind, though not always very useful, for the vagrants; the disowned, the feeble, and aged, the helpless and sick are in the poor-houses, and the corporations have chalked out some kind of employment for the mechanics, who for a while were very much distressed. All these classes appear just now provided through these resources with the means of obtaining cheap food by aid of the large importations of Indian corn weekly made at this port, and thence circulated through the interior; and my impression is, that the present month in this district will pass off without any change in this improved state of things. The county of Wexford continues to supply this city with potatoes daily at the usual price of 5d., 6d., and 7d. per stone, according to quality.

I have just returned from Cloyne, where I have very satisfactorily completed forming a dépôt of oatmeal and Indian meal, so that in this district we are quite prepared for the demand on our supplies whenever they shall be required. The crisis may, however, not come so soon as was expected in this neighbourhood, for the crowd of idlers in search of work who choked our streets all March and part of April, have mostly disappeared, and so great is the movement on the quay, what with exports and imports, that the corn porters last week struck work for increased wages; they were receiving 2s. 8d. per day, with 4d. for whiskey, and they demanded 4s., refusing to work for less.

The farmer is generally planting potatoes where he can get seed, and it is calculated that he will put in two-thirds of his usual supply, whilst the cottier and con-acre tenant will scarcely crop any at all, and these will mostly be left without their usual family provision next year. The ground which this deficiency leaves disposable is being mostly sown with oats, which requiring no manure, this article is selling, or rather to be had, for one-third of its usual price. The wheat and grass-fields are looking well, and the potato-seed is promising fertility so far, nor does it seem to have rotted in the ground; but may there not be some apprehension of the failure declaring itself during the growth of the young tubers, where there has existed any inherent disease in the seed. I have often planted defective seeds of different kinds; for instance, the tamarind-seed which has been subjected to the action of fire; and the mustard-seed the pungency of which has been extracted by gastric juice, and I have found that not having lost their vitality, they would at first germinate freely, but invariably die away. May we expect any analogy between this result and that of the diseased potato-seed.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, May 14, 1846.

YOU will see from the accompanying copy of letters which I have exchanged with Messrs. Baring this morning, that the six cargoes of Indian corn purchased in this country will be ordered to the destinations pointed out in your letter to me of the 11th instant, that is—

Two to Limerick, including the one from Terceira.
Two to Cork.
One to Dublin, and
One to Galway.

You will also observe from Messrs. Barings' letter, that besides the 150 tons of Indian corn sent from Liverpool to Sligo, an equal quantity is waiting your disposal at Liverpool.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 14, 1846.

I HAVE received an account this morning of an unfortunate accident to the machinery of the "Waterwitch," which will prevent her continuing in our service, which is much to be regretted, as she was the most efficient of all our means of transport. The "Rhadamanthus" is still here taking in the depôt of the 41st regiment for Liverpool, from whence she is to take the 93rd depôt to Cork; she will hardly arrive at Cork before the 25th.

The "Stromboli" also is here on the requisition of Sir Edward Blakeney to remain here in case she should be required to transport troops.

Thus our three most efficient steamers are *hors de combat* for the present, and I have thought it proper to suspend for a short time the reduction of our prices, but I trust it will not at the furthest be delayed beyond the 1st of June. We shall watch the event.

Mr. TREVELYAN, to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, May 15, 1846.

WITH regard to the price at which our oatmeal is to be sold in the distressed localities, I continue to be of opinion that the price of our oatmeal ought to be regulated at each place solely with reference to the market price of oatmeal at the same place, and that the selling price of the Indian corn held by us should in like manner depend upon the selling price of Indian corn; or, in other words, that we should sell our article as much below the same article held on private account as may be warranted by circumstances, taking care never to go beyond the necessities of the case, all which will require a sound judgment and much delicate management."

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 16, 1846.

You will see our means of transport at Cork have been sadly crippled. The "Crocodile" has been ordered to Plymouth, and the "Porcupine" is taken for the admiral's flag; the "Rhadamanthus" is going to Liverpool, and the "Stromboli" is stationed at Dublin, for the transport of troops, in case it should be required; and to finish our disasters, the "Waterwitch" has broken down, and must go to England to repair her machinery.

The Dublin and Cork Steam Company have another steamer now under repair, and nearly finished, the "Jupiter," for which Mr. Hewetson is applying, and I expect an answer on Monday.

Mr. Dobbin, the purser, has been ordered away from Cork, which is also a loss.

I observe your order for the cargoes:—

Two to Limerick, including the one from Terceira.
Two to Cork.
One to Dublin.
One to Galway.

I think if you have occasion to write to Messrs. Baring again, I should prefer the cargo intended for Dublin to be added to those intended for Cork, say, three for Cork, and none for Dublin, as the regular weekly steamers from Cork will bring it up in meal from that port to Dublin.

I will consider of the 150 tons still at Liverpool, and advise you on Monday.

After some further communication with Mr. Coffin, explanatory of my reasons for reducing the price of our Indian corn meal, I am glad to say we all agree on the point, and I have finally decided on the morning of the 20th instant, for reducing our rate to 10*l*. per ton.

If you see no objection to my proposal with regard to the oatmeal, I am desirous of fixing the price at 15*l*. per ton.

Mr. Coffin having applied to me for my views of the system of distribution to the Relief Committees, so that we might act on one principle, I send you copy of my note to him, most of these Committees being anxious to throw themselves entirely on our depôts for periodical issues, without continuing any exertion on their own behalf.

We have now our coast guard tolerably well organized, with power to increase our stations; and I must now prepare to put forth our constabulary means, to send in certain directions small supplies for sale into the interior.

Of this I shall report progress hereafter, and I should wish to delay any new report to the Treasury until 1st June. I shall then see my way more clearly. There is a difficulty in choosing these stations, and to fix on the best and the safest spots, and those most requiring our aid. It requires consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir R. ROUTH to Commissary-General FINE COFFIN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 15, 1846.

I HAVE your note of the 14th, and I sit down quietly to write to you, which I have very rarely an opportunity of doing. I believe in about 10 days we shall have an immense demand upon us, but its real extent, and the localities from whence it will proceed, are now very uncertain.

As for a rule of distribution, it is difficult to suggest any. It is easier to say what ought not to be done than what ought to be done.

For instance, I would consent to no periodical supply, which would destroy our character as an auxiliary. Our object would be rather to watch the opportunity when prices are high and on the increase, and throw in an opportune supply that may affect those prices and reduce them to a fair and moderate standard. Our place, if we can maintain it, is to keep a supremacy over the markets and regulate the prices of the dealers, and yet to abstain from such violent interference as would injure the interests of the fair trader.

I never contemplated the ad libitum supply of the Committees. I presume it will be possible, in most instances, to make inquiry into the real state of a case, granting a provisional supply whilst that inquiry is in progress, distinguishing between the usual scarcity experienced at this season of the year and the extraordinary dearth felt at this period; and according to the result of those inquiries to be guided in your distribution, which should not be periodical, but granted to assist their own exertions in their own behalf, each issue being single in itself and dependent on the merits and truth of each separate representation.

Without this precaution we should have the whole country upon us, and we should alarm all private enterprise, and bring about the very effect we are anxious to prevent.

In following out this principle you may require to make a large issue in a single locality; but, if made with judgment, and still retaining the power to repeat it, the effect would restore the wholesome state of the markets with moderate prices and comparative abundance.

I should be glad to hear from you if you have anything to propose in our distributions to Committees. We are travelling a new road, and you may perceive something I have not observed; and I should feel really indebted to you for your suggestions, which you are so well able to afford, for it is a joint object with us all to obtain success by the best and shortest route.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a memorandum berewith of my current expenses in account with their Lordships up to the 18th instant, leaving a balance of 338*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*. to my credit, on which I have an outstanding demand of Assistant Commissary-General Stevens' Bill for 22*l*. 7*s*. 10*d*., accepted and due on the 25th instant, and also a sum of 251*l*. to the Commissioners of Public Works, undrawn.

I request their Lordships' attention to this statement of my account, and to my application for a further remittance.

I hope in the ensuing month to be able to apply the receipts for the sale of Indian corn meal to many of the payments I am required to make.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM of ACCOUNT CURRENT between the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, at DUBLIN, from the 2nd to the 18th May, 1846.

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
May 2 to 18.	Amount issued in Donations to Relief Committee . . .	9,325	0	0
	Imprest for service at Waterford . . .	50	0	0
	Travelling Expenses, <i>no per contract</i> . . .	60	4	11
	Pay issued to subordinate persons . . .	8	2	6
	Pay of Clerks, Relief Commission . . .	113	0	0
	Imprests on account of Travelling Expenses . . .	15	0	0
	Balance . . .	3,384	6	6
Total . . .		12,885	13	11
<i>Cr.</i>		<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
May 2.	Balance rendered in my Letter 135 . . .	2,825	9	0
	5. Paymaster-General for Travelling Expenses . . .	60	4	11
	6. Paymaster of Civil Services, Dublin . . .	10,000	0	0
Total . . .		12,885	13	11

In addition to the current expenses of the service, a bill has been accepted for 2287*l.* 10*s.*, in payment for 150 tons of oatmeal, costing due on the 28th instant; and the sum of 251*l.* 6*s.*, at the order of the Commissioners of Public Works, undrawn.

Dublin, 18th May, 1846.

R. J. ROUTH, Commissary-General.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 19, 1846.

Direct the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland to transfer a further sum of 5000*l.* from Civil Contingencies to the account of Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, at the Bank of Ireland, and state that a credit has been given to him to that amount.

Acquaint Sir R. Routh, and state that their Lordships have not directed a larger transfer to be made to his account, in the expectation that funds will shortly become available from the sales of Indian corn.

CAPTAIN POLE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, May 18, 1846.

The first feeling of the Banagher Committee, on obtaining freedom of action from Lord Rosse, was a sensibility of their own responsibility. In the suspected approach of urgent distress they are compelled, in their turn, to perceive the caution and the prudence which Government, in the first instance, knew was necessary in meddling with the people's subsistence. They, in fact, are intent on the obligation of making the people who require food auxiliary to their endeavour to give it to them, just as Government before had pointed out, that they, as the wealthier classes, were bound to come forward in purse and effort in aid of the State.

This is an admirable working of the Government system; a transfer of responsibility from the distant power to the practical, co-operating local influences most intimately interested and most beneficially concerned.

The Banagher Committee is already intent on hiding its power, and concealing its funds from the notice of the able-bodied poor, just as the State was at first careful not to attract general notice to the formation of its depôts. They are dealing at present only with their own funds, and they dread what Burke foresaw, the consequences of even the attempt to feed the poor. They have lately received one ton from me. As a beginning of their duties they issued one-half of it in relieving gratuitously certain cases of nearly total destitution; poor, in fact, who, if the workhouse in Birr were full, would come fairly under the fourth clause of the fourth paragraph of the printed instructions to Committees. Already they have found disappointment in their labours: they find they have been deceived. Though a ticket system was resorted to, they discover that their bounty has been bestowed upon a number of objects whose position or whose character render them improper objects for public support.

A new system is to be adopted, the working of which it will be my business to observe.

The accounts which I receive of the reception of the meal, hereabouts, as food, are very encouraging as to the future popularity of Indian corn. The account the poor give of it is, that, after a day's labour, they go to rest with more strength about them than they used under any other food; that it expands the stomach more permanently than potato diet, yet less oppressively; and that about the third day after its use, they discover, in increased energy, that they have been using a new article of nourishment.

The poorer sort, speaking of the poorest, know not how they will live until next crop. The always half destitute are already suffering much.

Field occupations engage the population, and will engage them until the first week in June. The weather, for a fortnight, has been very fine.

I received notice yesterday from Commissary-General Coffin, that the period for more liberal issues is now come to Committees regularly constituted and recognised.

The presence of the Government stores here, and the partial issues making, are still recognised by the poor as of great value to them in the market.

Yesterday I gave three tons to a clergyman in Tipperary, who represents the conduct of dealers in that county to be most detrimental to the poor.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 21, 1846.

We are issuing rather largely, and we shall have a severe pressure all June and the greater part of July, when it will slacken. The potatoes planted this year may, upon an average, be considered half a crop, though not universally so, being, in some localities, much less, barely a third.

Though a great immediate evil, the loss of the potato, as a national food, will be a greater ultimate good.

There is a great interest excited here about the fate of the Bill now with the House of Peers, as, if it should be lost, everything here will experience a fearful rise of price.

I add a copy of a note from the Const-Guard officer at Clifden, to give you some idea of the good that the Indian corn meal is doing in that neighbourhood, where there is no workhouse in the Union. I could send you many other letters in the same sense. Potatoes are selling on that coast at 19s. 4d. per peck of 32 stone, and very scarce. We continue to replenish all these Const-Guard stations as they require it.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HELPMAN to Sir JAMES DOMERAIN.

Clifden, May 19, 1846.

I see to inform you that I have just returned from Claggan, where the last supply of meal is expended, and where the scene and demand are most distressing. It was not the dearth of provision, but the total want. Each person brought their small sum; away from long distances; who, when the store was expended, were in tears for the want of food; which statement I beg to lay before you, not from report, but from my own observation. I cannot in too high terms speak of the officers and men under my command for the kind manner they have acted in this distressing time.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter which I have addressed to Colonel M'Gregor, the Inspector-General of the Constabulary, so as to establish the plan of co-operation which may become necessary on his part for the forwarding of supplies to the several distressed districts in the interior during the pressure of the summer months.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General Sir R. ROUTH to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL of the IRISH CONSTABULARY FORCE.

Dublin Castle, May 20, 1846.

THE moment is now arriving when it will become necessary to forward the Indian corn meal into the interior as a cheap food for the use of those localities where distress may be prevailing, or where the high price of provisions may place their purchase out of the reach of the poor; and I solicit your assistance to accomplish this object, when other arrangements fail, through the medium of the constabulary.

I believe I am right in understanding that the existing regulations prevent the detachment of the constabulary on any duty for more than five days from the county to which it belongs.

In most instances the Relief Committees will continue to send to the depôts their own means of conveyance, which is the course in which I intend to persevere; but, where this is not practicable, either from the position of the locality, the absence of a Relief Committee, or the danger to be apprehended in the conveyance of the supply, I am anxious to secure your co-operation, to be limited to the absolute necessity of each case.

In order to prepare for this emergency, I wish to obtain your authority to the county inspectors to appoint a constable to take charge of these supplies, with the usual order for the escort to the place of consignment, where one or both of these demands shall be indispensable.

In contemplating only the sale of the Indian corn meal, the custody and accountability will remain with the constabulary, who will retail it in small quantities at low prices; and if the constable in charge, as belonging to another station, must be relieved, I request your authority to the county inspector to appoint another to this duty, according to your regulations, who will be entitled to the daily pay of 2s. 6d. per diem.

A room might be selected in the immediate neighbourhood of the police, and under their surveillance, for the custody of the meal, for which a moderate rent could be paid.

A simple form of account, printed, with instructions, will be furnished to the constable, to enable him to account for the stores in his charge, and note down the proceeds of their sale.

I shall take care to send an officer from time to time to collect the sums, so as to relieve the constabulary as much as possible from this responsibility; but, as these visits can only be periodical, it may be desirable that the money should be lodged with the inspector, or sub-inspector, waiting the arrival of the officer to receive it.

If it should be necessary to distribute the meal as payment for labour, under the directions of a Relief Committee, in the sense of the 7th and 10th Rules of the Instructions to Rural Committees, the constable will still retain the custody and accountability, and enter the issues and receipts in the printed account, notwithstanding that the Relief Committee may be required to sanction the course of the proceedings.

I trust we shall be able to continue the issue of these provisions through the Relief Committees, without the necessity of resorting to these extraordinary measures; but I have thought it proper to submit them, in case the emergency should force them upon us, and that the service might not be unprovided.

It is probable that at Limerick, at Galway, and at Sligo, there may be some fresh arrival of supplies from sea; in which case a temporary increase to the establishment may be requisite. May I request of you to authorise the county inspector to attach this extra assistance temporarily to the Department, as long as it may be necessary, and which will not exceed an additional constable, with the usual allowance of 2s. 6d. per diem.

—
TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 22, 1846.

Write to Sir R. ROUTH, that their Lordships entirely approve of the communication which he has made to Lieutenant-Colonel M'Gregor on this subject.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the annexed copy of a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Stevens, at Sligo, signifying to me the demand made by the Collector of the Customs for the payment of duties on the cargo of Indian corn shipped on the "John and Henry," by Messrs. Baring Brothers, from Liverpool to that port, and I request you will do me the honour to move their Lordships' Board to cause the necessary instructions to be transmitted through the Commissioners of Customs, so as to relieve Mr. Stevens from this application.

I have written to Commissary-General Hewetson to direct 1000 sacks to be forwarded to Sligo.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 22, 1846.

The Assistant Secretary reports to the Board that he has made the necessary communication to the Chairman of the Board of Customs on the subject of the remission of the duty on the cargo of the "John and Henry."

Acquaint Sir R. Routh.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, May 22, 1846.

I HAVE NOW forty Relief Committees to correspond with, and attend to their wants, besides Coast-Guards, exclusive of the constant work of landing, shipping, and looking after my millers, upon which latter I am obliged to keep a stringent hand. I am rewarded for all my labour by finding everything going well; and people, as far as they can be in this country, satisfied with our efforts, which they now appreciate.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 22, 1846.

The Assistant Secretary lays before the Board five letters which he has received from Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., on the subject of the purchase in this country of six cargoes of Indian corn, besides a further quantity, amounting to 1200 tons, to be procured at Liverpool, according to arrangements made with Messrs. Baring, pursuant to their Lordships' directions, for the purpose of supporting the operations for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity in Ireland.

Transmit copy of this Minute and the Papers, and also Messrs. Baring's letters of the 16th and 20th March last, relative to the purchase of oatmeal at Liverpool, numbered 5465 and 5466, to the Commissioners of Audit, for their information in the examination of the Accounts, and desire that they will hereafter return the original documents to this Board when done with.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 23, 1846.

THE Treasury might as well have sent an imprest of 10,000*l.* You count too soon on the returns of money from the sales of meal. It is sold in much detail, and it takes time to bring the proceeds from the remote stations of the Coast Guard. Mr. Coffin's receipts to the 15th instant, amount to 750*l.*, of which only 100*l.* are from the Coast Guard, and our receipts are only beginning.

You will understand that all our depôts are open, except Westport and Sligo, which open on the 1st June, and at 10*l.* Indian corn meal, and 15*l.* oatmeal, but the people here cannot afford to pay the expensive package of the latter.

Mr. Lister goes to-morrow to Mullingar and Longford. I shall have to despatch a constable to sell on retail at Mohill immediately, and only wait Mr. Lister's return.

The barony of Corran and Coolavin, will next require our aid in county Sligo.

Lough Corrib and the barony of Kilmaine, county Mayo, are now being looked after, so that you see the three depôts of Westport, Sligo, and Longford, will become usefully employed. Sligo will be the depôt from whence Donegal must also be supplied.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, May 25, 1846.

LOCAL Committees are still forming, and applications for supplies coming from those in operation. Private individuals who have tenantry are requesting supplies, and that is a new feature in this service; they ground their applica-

tions upon their having taken their tenantry, independently of any Committee, under their own care, intending to bring them through the summer. I perceive, by the instructions, that such a system is recognized, which opens a wide portal. Indian meal at 10*l.* a-ton is a great attraction to the gentry, who frequently pay a portion of their tenants' wages in food.

The Bannagher Committee have gradually shrunk from their first loose principles of relief, and on the church gates yesterday their secretary affixed a notice that gratuitous giving forth of meal was at an end; that in future real objects of distress possessing tickets could purchase the meal on two days of the week in small quantities at the low rate of 1*s.* a-stone. The poor, who have been fed for ten days, confirming Burke's principles, are sulky at such an exercise of power!

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

May 25, 1846.

For the last week or ten days I have had such full employment in the office that I have not had much time either to think or write consecutively, and have also been much confined to the house. I often am not off till 6 or 7, commencing at 10, or even before, but this is owing to my having to think out all the details of the work, which, when once familiar, will be done unpremeditatedly, and will take up less time. The regular and precise mode of keeping the accounts of the department pleases my organ of order, but it requires practice to be quite *au-fait* at all the minutiae. I have a very zealous, respectable, and upright young man, as my clerk, who, however, not having been accustomed to this kind of work, is not much more acquainted with it than myself; but it will be a capital breaking in for him for any future charge analogous to the present.

The accounts of distress in the neighbouring districts begin to be more urgent. From Balinrobe I saw a letter to Mr. Hildebrand from the Chairman of the Relief Committee, describing the want of the people there as great. I had a pressing letter from the officer at Achill asking for additional supplies. Another to-day from Clifden, where meal has already been distributed. At Belmullet they are also about to receive more, and I have orders to ship for Kelleries, as soon as the revenue cutters return from their last trips. Hitherto, I have sent none by inland carriage anywhere; and, I much fear, from the very rickety state of the casks, that they will not bear the shaking, for only going down to the quay from the house I find many of the hoops burst, they are so dry and brittle, and have lost all hindring power. We have a cooper by the boat, who repairs any cask on the spot that has suffered, so that they are each delivered sound on board the "hooker" or lighter.

Before I was fully aware of the weak state of the barrels I shipped several sacks of meal, which I am sorry for now, as they would have borne the land carriage well, but I have resolved to reserve the remainder for this purpose, and if I find it necessary, shall shift the meal from the barrels into sacks.

Some of the sacks are not over well made; they burst at the seam; but what rough usage they may have met with on board ship, or rather in shipment and transhipment, I do not know.

In my walk this evening I was sorry to hear several complaints of the failure of the seed-potato in the ground. The poor fellows bear it very patiently; they seem to take it as a judgment from God for their sins. I had heard that the sabbath was not well observed, so I asked one if that was the case, when he said, "I don't say that, your honour, for we shouldn't work on Sunday for the fear of a man, let alone the fear of God; but if we don't work, we swear and blaspheme on the sabbath, and that's worse." Another said, "It's the wrath of God, Sir, for the sins of the people that's on the land." Another, "The curse of God is on the land, and no wonder." Another poor fellow said to me as I came home, "If the next crop fails us, it will be the end of the world with us."

I saw Mr. Gilden, at Newport, yesterday; he tells me the people there are delighted with the meal; they consider it the best they have ever tasted (they had some a few years ago), and they prefer it to oatmeal, finding it go further; he tells me they now no longer demand higher wages, as they say they can afford to live very well with their present pay through the cheapness of the meal.

It seems that a miller at that place speculated in the early part of the winter and bought 10 tons of it, unknown to anybody, which, since the Government issue there, it has come to light, and he is now selling it at the same price as ours.

The price of potatoes fell 1d. a stone in the market there yesterday, which Mr. G. attributed to the presence of "Peel's brimstone."

It is considered that in future much of it will be regularly imported, which the people will buy in exchange for their cats, &c., as they prefer it to them.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, May 26, 1846.

I HAVE the pleasure of sending you copy of a letter I have received this morning from Messrs. Baring, and of my reply.

As it appeared from a recent letter from Messrs. Baring, that of the six cargoes of Indian corn which have been ordered in addition to the 1200 tons at Liverpool, only five had been actually purchased, and as this cargo had actually arrived at Cork, I thought it better to purchase it; but it is not intended to make any further purchases unless circumstances should render it absolutely necessary.

I leave you to write to Mr. Coffin on the subject of this cargo.

MR. TREVELYAN to Captain PERCEVAL.

Treasury, May 26, 1846.

THE question of providing seed potatoes has been considered on several occasions since a scarcity was first apprehended, but the conclusion come to has always been, that the general interest would be best promoted by the Government not interfering in a direct manner with this branch of the subject.

The proportion of seed required (about a ton an acre) is so great, as to render it hopeless for the Government to do anything effectual towards providing for the wants of the country in this respect, while, besides the fearful responsibility of undertaking such a task, the general knowledge that the Government had undertaken it, would relax the efforts of the people (the only sure reliance in this case) to preserve or procure the necessary stock.

Indirectly the Government has assisted, I hope with good effect; for the same arrangements which place a supply of meal at the disposal of the people, enable them to preserve for seed, potatoes they might otherwise have to consume as food.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 28, 1846.

I BELIEVE in ordinary years, from that con-acre system, there is no such thing literally as wages; labour is an affair of barter which these people are obliged to give to the farmer as part payment of their holding, and when they have accomplished this, if the season is a good one, and they have plenty of potatoes, they do not care about labour at all, and often refuse employment if offered to them. This life of indolence is enough to demoralize any nation.

I am dispatching to-morrow my supplies to Tullamore to relieve a little the run on the Limerick dépôt. About 25 tons will go to-morrow, and we shall keep on the shipments. I must send a constable in charge, but if Major Wainwright were here, I should make it a more considerable dépôt.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 29, 1846.

My Lords have before them three letters, dated respectively April 21st, April 29th, and May 6th last, and extract of a fourth letter, without date, addressed to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., by their agent, Mr. T. W. Ward, of Boston, in the United States, containing explanations of himself and Messrs.

Grinnell, Minturn, and Co., on the points connected with the recent purchases of Indian corn and meal on account of the Government, on which explanations had been required; and a Book of Particulars on the same subject which has been furnished by Messrs. Baring.

Transmit the papers in question, with the book of particulars regarding the purchases therein adverted to, to the Commissioners of Audit, and desire that they will, after carefully considering them, report to this Board their opinion whether any further inquiries or explanations are necessary in the matters to which they relate.

State that my Lords deferred making separate communications to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., relative to the portions of the cargoes of the "Rainbow" and "Winnipiac," which had become damaged from heating, to which allusion is made in their (the Auditors') reports of the 23rd April and 1st May last, until the observations of the shippers regarding losses from a similar cause in the cargo of the "Atlas" had been received and considered.

For the Auditors' further information transmit to them copy of a minute of this Board of the 7th April last, founded on their report of the 1st of that month; and in the event of their being of opinion that the transactions, or any of them, connected with the supply and delivery of Indian corn and meal for the service in Ireland, for which payment has been made, from time to time, by their Lordships' directions, "on account," to enable Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. to meet drafts upon them, are not open to further question, their Lordships would wish to be informed thereof, in order that such payments may be deemed to be final, and that notifications to that effect may be made to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, May 29, 1846.

I have scarcely had a moment's respite from the eager demands for meal pouring in upon me from all quarters; the sudden reduction of price, accompanied by an intimation that the previous restriction on the extent of the issues was taken off, has brought this pressure upon us all at once; and it being, as you may suppose, attended by all sorts of irregularities and misconceptions on the part of the committees, whom it is very necessary to bring into some degree of order before the business proceed further, I have been incessantly occupied in talking or writing on this subject during the past week. It is a sort of era in our progress, which I want to make the subject of a separate letter to you, but I cannot sufficiently collect my thoughts for the purpose until this hurst of applications subsides a little; but in the meanwhile it will be satisfactory to you to know that our prospects are, on the whole, more cheering than they were last month. The early potato crops are promising; there is a good deal of employment; prices are falling; and the people of all classes seem to be satisfied with our arrangements in their behalf, and with the prospect of getting through this crisis. Some exceptions there are, of course, as to particular localities, but they are not numerous. We have, however, a long season before us, and must expect many difficulties yet to arise.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, May 30, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of my account current from the 1st to the 30th April ultimo, with the statement of balance; and to acquaint you that the accounts for this period have been this day forwarded to the Commissioners of Audit.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT of the Balance of Commissary-General Sir R. J. ROUTH, in Account Current with the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, from the 1st of April to the 30th April, 1846.

	Total Sterling.
£. s. d.	
Myself at Dublin	5,394 19 6
Commissary-General Hewison, Cork	3,680 19 5
Commissary-General Coffin, Limerick	3,650 9 1
Deputy Commissary-General Dolan, Waterford	4,757 7 11
Deputy Commissary-General Kearney, Westport	0 15 5
Assistant Commissary-General Stevens, Sligo	213 11 4
Assistant Commissary-General Wood, Galway	185 1 11
Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Campbell, Longford	124 2 9
Alfred Waller, Dundalk	39 1 2
In transit from Dublin to Cork, 29th April, to Commissary-General Hewison	120 0 0
	<hr/> £18,106 8 6

R. J. ROUTH,
Commissary-General.

Dublin, 30th April, 1846.

The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in Account with Commissary-General Sir R. J. ROUTH, for a Particular Service in Ireland, from the 1st to the 30th April, 1846.

Sums paid during the month by—	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Myself at Dublin	15,564 4 4	
C. G. Hewison, Cork	1,970 16 10	
C. G. Coffin, Limerick	1,577 14 3	
D. C. G. Dolan, Waterford	1,033 7 3	
D. C. G. Kearney, Westport	97 7 6	
A. C. G. Stevens, Sligo	55 10 2	
A. C. G. Wood, Galway	85 10 2	
D. A. C. G. Campbell, Longford	18 2 5	
Alfred Waller, Dundalk	252 7 6	
		21,535 0 5
To Balance carried to next account		18,106 8 6
		<hr/> £39,741 8 11

By Balance brought from last Account	3,344 1 7	
Deduct sum in transit from Dublin to Cork, 31st March	75 0 0	
		3,269 1 7

Sums received in the month by—	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Myself in Dublin	20,540 7 0	
C. G. Hewison, Cork	4,637 11 5	
In transit to Cork	120 0 0	
C. G. Coffin, Limerick	4,764 8 3	
D. C. G. Dolan, Waterford	5,710 12 3	
D. C. G. Kearney, Westport	48 17 9	
A. C. G. Stevens, Sligo	45 4 9	
A. C. G. Wood, Galway	200 12 1	
D. A. C. G. Campbell, Longford	142 5 2	
Alfred Waller, Dundalk	271 8 8	
		36,479 7 4
		<hr/> £39,741 8 11

Dublin, 30th April, 1846.

R. J. ROUTH, C. G.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, May 30, 1846.

I THINK it would be better to suspend the grinding of the oatmeal at Deptford. We are more likely to want Indian corn than oatmeal. The price is one-third less, and the Irish have discovered that they can work on the Indian corn better than on any other food.

There is a little uncertainty about the demand for supplies after a given period. There is a great run now on all the magazines, though less in comparison on Dublin than I expected, but this is increasing. It is better to have a little more than we may require than less. I think it will be prudent, therefore, to purchase the 1,500 tons originally proposed at Liverpool in addition to the cargoes advised, and to send these 1,500 tons to Cork.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 1, 1846.

As only about two and a half months' work now remains to be done, as the principal part of our operations is completed, I am unwilling to send more officers from this country, unless it should be really necessary to do so, and I shall therefore await the receipt of a further communication from you before anything is finally settled about Major Wainwright.

You will see by my official letter that directions have been given about the oatmeal at Deptford, as requested by you, and I have written to Mr. Meek to ask him for a statement of the cost, including grinding.

I will write to Messrs. Baring to-morrow to complete the 1,200 tons, and send the remainder of it to Cork.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the COMPTROLLER OF VICTUALLING.

Treasury, June 1, 1846

HAVING now received an answer to my letter to Sir R. Routh, I am able to say with confidence that the extra grinding of oatmeal at Deptford for the relief in Ireland, may be entirely suspended, and I think it most probable that it will not require to be renewed, as far as this object is concerned.

Captain POLK to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, June 1, 1846.

THE Banagher dépôt, so long in possession of a cultivated privacy, is now the object of marked attention in King's and Tipperary County. My May abstract of issues amounts to 54,880 lbs., consigned to local committees properly constituted and recognised, most of whom are using their own funds, unassisted at present by any grant from the Castle. The mode of issuing most generally pursued by committees is that of selling the meal a little below cost price to cases of destitution; tickets are given to the parties allowed to purchase, and gratuitous issue has generally ceased, except in some peculiar cases of fearful want and inability combined.

A few cases of small private issues to landlords who have taken on themselves the care of their own tenantry, unassisted by any local committee, have occurred. I am inclined to regard with apprehensive jealousy such cases, and invariably refer them for approval. A limited issue, however, in that spirit, will reach many cases of what may be called respectable distress—the most painful of all; yet the character and judgment of the applicant for such support are well to be weighed, and doubtless are well weighed before approval of their claims.

It has been my duty to listen to men of all descriptions upon the state of this country with reference to the subject of scarcity. More and more do my reflections on their statements convince me that the poor of this land would now be subject to the heaviest penalty of aggravated prices, had not the measures adopted by a humane mother-country forestalled forestallers, and shamed the wealthy to an active industry and interest for the wellbeing of the lowest orders of the population. Men of character have affirmed that there is not more present distress than there always is at this time of year (except perhaps in spots), but that it is brought more to view than ever it was;—but men of all dispositions agree that were it not for the depôts of Government food, advantage would have been taken of the apprehension of famine to fix upon the poor the costly effects of a real one.

Ordinary signs scarcely serve now for a judgment, for the markets are authoritatively subdued wherever the charity of the State has reached. But I find men of ease and consequence coming from long distances to organize their schemes of relief here—men who usually employ agents in those works which do not minister to their own pleasure in performance as well as in contemplation. I find clergymen, of all persuasions, urged together into the same field of exertion to procure food for their unhappy flocks. I find the poor passive, only because they have heard of a barrier against starvation in the provision of the State, and the wealthy not anxious, only because they are not openly assailed by the poor.

The popularity of Indian corn meal increases vastly; that which has been ground in Cork is preferred to that which is purchased in the general market.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 1, 1846.

OUR issues last week at Limerick were somewhat more than 250 tons, and Mr. Hewetson has nearly 60 relief committees upon him; the other depôts are getting into fire by degrees. You will see that we shall have an active business during the two next months, and I should say the worst part of it will be in three or four weeks, and after that I expect there will be a gradual improvement. This is, however, matter of opinion. Certainly, however, we must make active exertion to replenish our depôts with Indian corn meal. I refer to my hurried note of Saturday about the 1200 bushels for Cork. There should be no time lost, so as to allow us the means of grinding. The Coast-Guard issues are very large, and increasing upon us; but it is a gratification in the midst of this laborious duty, to mark the success that is accompanying our operations.

I requested that the oatmeal at Deptford might be sent to Waterford, but in looking over the returns this morning, I think it will be more desirable to consign it to Galway, for Waterford is so close to Cork that we can throw in a supply there at any time, and the demand is not so general or so urgent as at Galway. I hope this change will not be inconvenient to you. It is not that Waterford does not require a supply, but Galway wants it more.

I think there is a greater object to be gained in sending Indian corn meal than in sending oatmeal, and, as there is a choice, the cheaper article should have the preference. It is on these grounds that I ask for the former, and recommend the suspension of grinding the oatmeal at Deptford. Can you tell me the cost of the oatmeal from Deptford?

Mr. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. BARING.

Treasury, June 2, 1846.

I HAVE the pleasure of sending copies of some correspondence relating to the demurrage on the "Harriet Rockwell" in this private form for your information.

The Commissioners of Audit have been informed that it is not intended to raise any question as to the award which has been made by your House in the case.

They have also been desired to report which of the accounts may be considered as finally settled, in order that your House may be relieved from further responsibility as far as those accounts are concerned.

Mr. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. BARING.

Treasury, June 2, 1846.

I REG to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this day's date, acquainting me with your having purchased the cargo of the "Concord" at Falmouth, and sent it to Limerick in substitution for the Terceira cargo, which has turned out ill.

In taking this step, your Firm has acted quite in accordance with the intentions entertained here.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 2, 1846.

THE purchase of the 1,200 tons at Liverpool shall be completed as soon as possible, and the quantity purchased sent to Cork.

I have written to the Admiralty to request that the destination of the remaining quantity of the Deptford oatmeal may be changed from Waterford to Galway.

You mentioned in a recent letter that the demands upon the Dublin depôt are less than had been expected, and if there is a greater pressure upon some depôts than others, it is only what might have been anticipated.

Under these circumstances, would it not be advisable, as we approach the limit of our responsibility, to provide for the deficiencies in some quarters from

the superabundance in others, so that when the new harvest comes in, the quantity of meal undisposed of may be as small as possible?

Any quantity of meal which might be safely subtracted from any of the dépôts might, I should think, be sent with sufficient expedition by sea, or by means of the canals, to any quarter in which it is likely to be required.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 3, 1846.

Messrs. Baring will send me, in the course of the day, a summary of the transactions now in progress through their House, showing what ships have been ordered, to what ports, and what their cargoes are; and, although it appears from your note received this morning, that this information has, as I had supposed, been already furnished to you, it may be useful to have it before you again at one point of view.

Messrs. Baring inform me that the bills of lading have been already sent to the Commissariat officers at the ports to which the several cargoes have been ordered.

In my letter of yesterday, I alluded to the resource you might derive from the transfer of supplies from dépôts where they are less, to those where they are more required; but neither this expedient, nor any amount of new purchases which it would be in the power of the Government to make, would meet the demand upon our dépôts, if the main cause of that demand be what I suppose it to be.

If I am not mistaken, you have alluded in several of your letters to a pledge which had been given, that the Government meal should be sold from the 1st of June, at 10*l.* per ton, or about a penny a pound, and if this is below the market price of Indian meal, and if, as I believe, it offers still greater advantages as compared with the market price of oatmeal, this alone is sufficient to account for the great and pressing demand which has immediately followed the opening of our dépôts.

Our first idea was, that the *cost price* should be charged for our meal, but the experience we acquired in the progress of our operations led to a modification of this view, and for a long time past, whenever I have been asked for an opinion as to the price which should be fixed for the sale of our meal, I have replied that it ought to be regulated by the market price—that it should be fixed from time to time a little below the market price, and that it should never be raised, even on these terms, except in cases of proved distress, and in which supplies of food cannot be obtained at a reasonable price in the market.

If this view of the subject be, in the main, correct, the course to be steered to bring the vessel safely into port is sufficiently obvious. In those quarters in which distress is not of a pressing nature, we cannot too soon begin to raise our prices nearer to a level with the market price, and if that price be reasonable, quite to a level with it; and, speaking more generally, we should so shape our proceedings as to make our stock of food last during the remaining period of pressure, and as nearly as possible, and taking care to keep on the safe side, not more than last.

The great extent to which works have been undertaken on public and private account, including those set on by the Board of Works expressly with a view to relief, and the favourable prospects of the next harvest, induce me to hope that we shall be able to wind up this anomalous, but necessary undertaking with greater ease, and in a more satisfactory manner than could reasonably have been anticipated; and, I may add, from information which Messrs. Baring have furnished me, confirmed from other quarters, that such large quantities of Indian corn have been ordered from various parts of the world, that the merchants are beginning to be seriously alarmed; and when all these cargoes have arrived, in the course of this and the following month, the scarcity is likely to be turned into abundance.

I trust that every necessary precaution is taken to ensure prompt payment from the Relief Committees and other parties to whom issues of Indian corn are made, and that the instructions "that supplies of food should be furnished to

"Local Boards or Committees *only upon actual payment of the cost price in "ready money"* are acted upon in every possible case.

P.S. I send herewith Messrs. Baring's return of the present state of their arrangements in regard to the English purchases, which I have received since writing the above.

Besides the quantities mentioned in the return, reiterated instructions have been sent to Liverpool to purchase and send to Cork the remainder of the 1,200 tons, which remainder amounts to upwards of 900 tons.

You will not understand the observations in the preceding part of this letter, as intended to fetter your discretion in the adaptation of your measures, under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant, to what you know to be the actual circumstances of the case; and still less is it intended to imply that any part of your management has been defective. The prudence and ability with which you have acquitted yourself under the very difficult circumstances of your charge, are fully appreciated, and will, I have no doubt, be hereafter fully acknowledged. My sole object is to do as I have done throughout—to assist you to the best of my ability, with the result of my careful and anxious consideration of the subject, under the different aspects under which it from time to time presents itself, leaving you to give such weight to my suggestions as they may deserve.

The only point about which I think there can be no difference of opinion in the present state of the affair, is, that one fixed price for the Government meal cannot be equally applicable to the varying market prices in different parts of the country, and that the price of our meal should be regulated in each locality according to the market price in that locality.

MR. TREVELYAN to Mr. ———.

Treasury, June 3, 1846.

THE state of the case about the Irish scarcity is as follows:—

Apprehensions were, as you know, entertained, and on just grounds, of a scarcity extending all over Ireland.

In the north there is not now likely to be any serious scarcity as far as the markets are concerned, but, even there, there are districts in which the plots of potatoes, upon which the people depend for their subsistence, failed, and there would have been severe distress if the Government had not come forward; besides which, the interference of the Government was of great use in keeping down prices, which would otherwise have risen to an unnecessary height owing to the apprehensions of scarcity.

In the south, where the failure of the potato crop was greater and more general, there must have been appalling starvation but for the assistance afforded by the Government, either directly, or by means of money, meal, or employment; or indirectly, by the stimulus and organization which has been given to private effort.

One decisive proof of the reality of the crisis is the amount of the private contributions; but a large party in the country is interested in producing the impression of the scarcity being unreal, and the very success of our efforts in averting the consequences of the scarcity assists them in doing so.

If the Government machinery had never been set up, or were now to be withdrawn, the persons who hold this tone would be shocked at the result.

SIR R. ROUTE to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, June 3, 1846.

I WAS so unwell yesterday that I was fit for nothing; but I am better to-day, and I sit down to write to you. You will observe the run on the Limerick dépôt; and Mr. Coffin observes that if it were to continue, it would have been a question which of the two, whether they or the dépôt, would have been first exhausted. I expected a rush in the first instance; but hereafter it will be more regular and more manageable. Mr. Gelston has exerted himself in his branch in a way that would have done credit to a young and active man. I am glad to see our committee system, upon the whole, working satisfactorily; and I trust it will

continue so through the season. Major Simmonds is beginning to render useful assistance; but of course he requires a little time for initiation. Mr. Dougan is a good recruit, and quick, but new to the service. The constable is very useful. At Athy, when Mr. Parker opened his store, his issues continued from eight in the morning till eight at night. Mr. Campbell from Longford informs me that the poor people come 10 Irish miles from the country to get half a stone of the meal. I have not yet received Mr. Coffin's receipts for the last fortnight; it must be about 3000*l*. The sum at Cork is 1880*l*.; Galway, 216*l*.

I calculate that our issues will go on steadily, and without much decrease, until the end of July, when the harvest employment will begin, which will give wages, but still requiring food; and I do not think you can calculate on the new potatoes as food before the middle of September, that is, generally through the country. You must positively, then, estimate for three months from this date, and possibly three months and a-half. With regard to quantity, I have no correct data of calculation; but I may have on the 15th June, taking the current fortnight as the data. It is evident, however, that we require a more extensive purchase than that now provided for. We cannot send more to Cork than the quantity they could grind by the 15th to 20th July, or say the end of July, and on this point I shall consult Mr. Hewetson. But we have a good and, as far as I can judge, a solid tender, and very reasonable, at Sligo; and there are means of conveyance from thence to Westport to be hired. I am ascertaining the same question at Galway; but I know there are ample means within the city. This is a question connected with the distribution of farther supplies, grinding at other stations than Cork small quantities, so as to give more time for the shipments from Cork; but I conceive it would be advisable to direct a farther purchase of 1200 to 1600 tons of Indian corn; and I will, in the course of a week after consultation with the outposts, submit to you the distribution. The issues of the Coast Guard are much increasing; but being so detached, it takes more time to collect the receipts. When I speak of a farther purchase, I mean over and above the 1200 tons at Liverpool, alluded to in your last note on this subject.

I enclose to you a memorandum of Mr. Coffin's, founded on our instructions, which be published at Limerick, in order to establish regularity in his issues.

There does not appear to be so great a demand for oatmeal. The people say there is not the same sustenance in it; and this quality and its cheapness make the Indian meal more desirable as an issue.

At Tralee they attribute even greater virtues to it; they say that since its introduction they have had no fever in the district.

I enclose a few lines which have been received from Mr. Parker, in order to give you an idea of his zeal and assiduity.

ENCLOSURE 1.

SUPPLY OF MEAL from the Government Depôts.

The attention of Relief Committees to the following information and directions is earnestly requested, as well for their own convenience as for that of the service to which they relate:—

1. The public depôts are not to be looked to for the entire replacement of the deficiency of food, caused by the loss of potatoes. They are intended only to be in aid of other resources, and this aid is to be occasional, not periodical.

2. Applications for permission to purchase meal from the depôts must accordingly have reference to the exigency, in each case, for the time being, and must specify, as exactly as may be, both the nature of the exigency and the extent of the aid needed to meet it.

3. No applications can be attended to, except from committees or sub-committees regularly constituted, and acting in conformity with the Government regulations.

4. All applications must be made, in writing, by the chairman, secretary, or treasurer of each committee; and no delivery will be made upon any requisition until at least one day after it is received at the depôt, by post or otherwise. In order to prevent the risk of disappointment, it is therefore better that the meal should never be sent for without previous notice from the depôt that it can be issued.

5. Meal will be issued daily, Sundays excepted, but only between the hours of 10 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon.

6. Payment must be made for the meal, and for packages, if taken, at the time of receiving the order on the storekeeper—the prices now fixed being,

For oatmeal, 15*l*. per ton;

For Indian corn meal, 10*l*. per ton;

For sacks, 1*s*. 8*d*. each; and

For casks, according to size and quality, the small barrels excepted, for which no charge is made.

Limerick, 29th May, 1846.

ENCLOSURE 2.

Athy, Tuesday, 9 o'clock, p.m.

I can scarcely expect your excuse in troubling you to convey to Sir Randolph Rouch my hope and expectation that he will excuse the delay of my cash accounts. My issues daily increase; and this day I could not leave my magazine from six this morning until this hour, and I am so exhausted as to be almost unable to write these few lines. I have issued to-day, principally in stones and half-stones, nearly 50*l.* worth of meal,—a task almost beyond the reach of the strongest man. However, if Sir Randolph will kindly indulge me with a day or two, I will accomplish all, I hope to my own credit, and certainly the advantage of the public. I have made the benevolent intentions of the Government known through every town and village in the four counties, and the people seem fully sensible of the benefit, and speak in a tone of gratitude, which one has been unaccustomed to hear from Irish subjects. I am persuaded it is a measure which will work well for the people, and realize all the Government anticipate.

My store is rather crowded; but still if I get a little oatmeal, it would do much good. I do not imagine that my accounts will be very deficient in form of correctness; but as they are my first, I shall rely much on your forgiving kindness.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, June 3, 1846.

OUR labours, if possible, are more severe than ever. What the country would have done without our aid I know not, and this is acknowledged by all parties and all creeds; and it is highly gratifying to know that it is properly appreciated. June, July, and half of August we shall have little or no cessation in our work.

I send you one of my circulars to committees, and I find they are all desirous of aiding my views. There has been a great deal of good feeling displayed in the subscriptions raised in the several distressed districts, and I have already paid upwards of 4000*l.* in donations by the Government.

ENCLOSURE.

The Commissary General would earnestly impress on the attention of the Poor Relief Committee the necessity of a rigid economy in the distribution of the supplies of meal furnished from this dépôt, confining their issues exclusively to the labouring and destitute classes who have not the means of purchasing food elsewhere. The Committee will readily comprehend that it never was the intention of the Government to undertake the task of feeding the whole population from their dépôts, but to act as an auxiliary, and by throwing an opportune supply into the several localities, to restrain within due limits the market prices, but abstaining from such interference as would injure the fair trader. The Commissary General cannot venture to offer a fixed periodical supply from the dépôt; for the present cash issue must be separate in itself, and dependent on the necessity of each separate representation. Keeping these observations in view, and the Committee regulating their demands accordingly, he trusts he will at all times be enabled to meet them; an opposite course, by prematurely exhausting the Government resources, will only tend to defeat the important object for which they have been provided.

Commissariat, Lee Mills Dépôt,

Cork, May 27, 1846.

Messrs. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate-street, June 3, 1846.

WE sent you a note of the different destinations of the Indian corn. We have heard of nothing arrived at Cork or Falmouth as yet. The offer nearest to a positive arrival, is a cargo of about 600 quarters, at 3*l.* per quarter, shipped from Figueras about the 15th May direct to Cork, and which ought to be there any day. I write, consequently to Liverpool to complete the order for 1200 tons.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM of INDIAN CORN purchased.

1846	At	Ship.	From	Destination.	
May 16	Liverpool	John & Henry	Liverpool	Sligo	628 $\frac{1}{4}$ qrs., New Orleans. at 3 <i>l.</i> per qr.
" 22	"	Harmony	"	Cork	662 $\frac{1}{4}$ qrs.
April 22	London	Superior, or Sardinia	Torres, or St. Michael's	"	From 400 to 600 qrs., as may be, at 3 <i>l.</i> for yellow, and 3 <i>l.</i> for white. Our contract is for the first of these two vessels which may arrive.
" 28	"	Maria	Naples	"	1,339 $\frac{1}{4}$ quarters at 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
" 28	"	Parante	Tristate	"	1,242 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 3 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
" 29	"	Antigon	Gemon	Limerick	1,004 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
May 1	"	Battina	"	Cork	1,640 " 3 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
June 1	"	Concord	Vienna	Limerick	About 720 quarters at 3 <i>l.</i>

There remains about 90 tons at Liverpool now ordered to be shipped to Cork. In addition to all which, 940 tons of Indian corn have been ordered to be purchased at Liverpool and sent to Cork without delay, in completion of the 1200 tons originally settled to be purchased at that place.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 4, 1846.

You will, I think, agree with me that I am right in my view of the price on reading the enclosed; but there is an apropos in all things, and if I were to keep up my prices now, the dealers would sell, and I should find myself with a full magazine at a moment when there would be a very disadvantageous sale. The blacksmith who is close to the iron must strike while it is hot. My only doubt is that my price is too high still.

I do not see any cargo for Galway in Messrs. Baring's list, and there are five down for Cork, and two for Limerick. One of the cargoes should be sent to Galway, and one to Sligo, and only three to Cork; or let the 900 tons remaining to be purchased at Liverpool, be sent one-half to Galway, and one-half to Sligo, and let the Cork cargoes from sea stand as they are.

I think this last arrangement would be the most desirable, as it would not occasion any counter-order on the part of Messrs. Baring and Co.

I have arranged, both at Galway and Sligo, for the immediate grinding of these quantities. They are admirably situated for this duty.

I must instantly establish three constable-stations at Ballinrobe, at Castlerena or in that neighbourhood, and Carrick-on-Shannon.

I think we shall be obliged to pay the canal-boats the regular price on the Grand Canal and Royal Canal. The usual trade is beginning, and without it, unless the same price is paid by us as by others, we cannot expect the same facility.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. OWEN to Mr. STANLEY.

Woodlands, Gorey, June 4, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Relief Commissioners, that I have this day laid their letter relative to the transport of Indian meal to Courtown Harbour, through the hands of the Coast Guard, before a special meeting of the Gorey General Relief Committee.

I am to inform you that since I wrote to you, I (this morning) received a letter from Messrs. Devereux, merchants, of Wexford, stating that they will furnish us with sifted Indian meal for 9*l.* 16*s.*; and unsifted, for 9*l.* 12*s.* The former, he states, is approved for bread, and the latter for stirkout.

I trust the Relief Commissioners will excuse our submitting our opinion, that as the Indian meal has so come down in price, the Government meal ought to fall in with such reduction; and that the Gorey Relief Committee should have the meal at a lower rate, taking off what may be considered the merchant's profit from the above prices.

As our regular meeting will be held on Monday, I take the liberty of requesting, if possible, your answer, to lay before them on that day.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, June 4, 1846.

WE are now sufficiently far advanced in the measure of opening the depôts, and selling at the reduced price of 10*l.* per ton, to see somewhat of its effects. It has been a most laborious, and, what I regard more, an unsatisfactory task for me, because I could obtain no sort of rule or guide to direct me in the distribution, nor had any distinct intimation been made to the Committees of the main principle by which it was to be governed. The consequence was, that they almost universally expected that their demands were to be fully and periodically complied with; and, in a great number of cases, supposed that they had only to send a cart to the depôt with money in his hand, as they had been accustomed to do when buying from private dealers. To correct these misconceptions and irregularities, it was necessary for me to enter into lengthened explanations with the representatives of upwards of 50 different Committees; and it was not till after a week of most severe toil that I was able to ascertain the nature and extent of the more important deviations from order, requiring to be checked, and to prepare the enclosed memorandum for circulation. This is beginning to work its effect; but I am obliged to insist very strictly upon compliance with my rules, or they would soon be disregarded altogether. The unsatisfactory part of the business is, that, while I assert my discretionary power with regard to the apportionment of assistance from the depôts, I feel conscious of my own inability to exercise it on any

explicable grounds of justice or expediency. All that I can do in most cases is, to exact from the applicants a detailed statement of their own claims to attention; but whether their representations are true or false, their demands reasonable or excessive, it is seldom in my power to judge, and I can only hope that they give me credit for more knowledge than I possess. I may, perhaps, after a while, be able to devise some rough rule of comparison, such, for instance, as the population returns; but this requires more leisurely application than is possible in the midst of the present eager demand, and I fear that it must continue a blind affair to the last.

With all this, the Committee system is working far better than I could have anticipated; and I even entertain hopes, founded in some measure on the prevailing tone of approbation in which the Government arrangements are spoken of, that the system may continue to sustain its present energy. An additional ground for this hope is the motive of self-preservation among all those who have anything to lose by the effect of popular tumult; and the Committees are now generally involved in certain arrangements for the relief of the people about them, the abandonment of which would render them the first objects of vengeance and plunder, so that, in most cases, I believe they dare not stop short, however unwillingly they may proceed. In the great majority of instances, therefore, I hope that it will be only necessary to continue to give due assistance and encouragement to the Committees, with the extension of a little extraordinary aid when their funds begin to fail. Cases of exception, of course, there will be, some of them perhaps difficult enough to deal with; but none has yet presented itself in this district requiring more than a partial deviation from the general principle of acting through Committees, and I confess that I have a great dread of adopting any other. Where the Coast Guard officers can bring their zeal, authority, and local knowledge to bear, Committees may advantageously be dispensed with, though even they cannot guard against some abuse and imposition, but with facilities short of those which they possess, I fear that the abuse must at least equal the benefit, and I shall therefore do my utmost to avoid having recourse to other machinery than that already in action.

The important benefit arising from the introduction of the Indian corn on the present occasion is acknowledged by all, no doubt being entertained that, but for this, famine prices must have prevailed. Although the duration of the potatoes has much surpassed any calculation, large quantities still remaining in some localities, and a certain portion in a great many, large districts are, and have been for weeks past, wholly destitute of them, and in these, Indian meal has become the chief, in some the sole, substitute for the sustenance of the poorer class. Even with this competition, oatmeal maintained for some time a price 20 to 25 per cent. above the usual rate; and I have repeatedly been told that, in the absence of the Indian corn, it must have risen, as on former occasions of the same kind, to double the ordinary price. The common sequel to this remark is, "and we should have had the people in insurrection." On the other hand, the evil inseparable from the intervention of the Government also begins to manifest itself. The dealers say that, since our large issues began, their trade is at an end, and complain that the stocks laid in by them for the supply of the country will become, by our competition, a dead weight on their hands. The great miller and corn-dealer of the place, the greatest in Ireland by his own account, is, I believe, about to make a serious remonstrance on the subject, and all are evidently in consternation at the largeness of our distribution. If their state of inactivity were to last long, I should infer from it an enormous abuse of the public sale of meal; for, if it were limited to the proper objects of public assistance, it could not deprive the dealer of his ordinary and legitimate customers. I, however, do not expect the continuance of this desertion of the ordinary market, for unless there is a combined system of exaggeration on the part of the Committees to an immense amount, our depôts must fall very far short of supplying their wants, exclusive of the demand of those capable of providing for themselves. I accordingly think, and tell the merchants, that they are crying out before they are hurt, and that, although the Committees naturally abstain from buying of them as long as they hope to obtain from us all they need, they must go back to them when they find that this hope will not be fulfilled; and, as for their proper customers, I can easily conceive that, abovespart, they are at present withheld from purchasing by the expectation that prices must fall: nevertheless, it cannot be denied that a competitor in the market, selling without profit, and to an extent which defies his calculation, must be a formidable object of dislike to the trader, rendering it difficult for him to carry on

his operations with confidence, even though there should be no disposition to impede them.

I think that this is as much as, without entering into minute details, I can at present tell you of our progress; and as it is with difficulty that I have found time to say as much, my day of business being now never ended till I sleep, I will only add that I am very truly yours.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 4, 1846.

I SEND you a report of the Ballina Union, which is important as touching on the question of the period to which our relief duties are to extend.

On this point I must ask the decision of the Government. We have two months now without work, and without cheap food. In August the harvest will begin, and there will be employment gradually increasing through that month, but the potato will not be available to the people before the middle of September. The description of potato which they use, is called the horse potato, or lumpers and this is a late potato. The decision I ask of the Government, is to learn the period up to which it is proposed to continue our relief. I think it is desirable to fix that period. If there should be any supply on hand after its termination, the sales might be continued until it was exhausted, and this would be conceded as an indulgence. Without knowing the views of the Government on this question, I cannot reasonably draw up an estimate, always perhaps uncertain from the nature of the service, but altogether so until these premises are determined. If the Government adopt the 1st of September as the date, which I am inclined to recommend, considering that a surplus will in all probability remain in the depôts for later issues, we shall be able, upon this decision, to come nearer to the truth in our computations; and the first use I should make of it would be to request you to order a further cargo of 400 tons to Sligo, where the means of grinding are so abundant and so superior. I annex a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Stevens on this point for your information. Though late in the field, Mr. Stevens will be busily employed shortly in the supply at Donegal, Roscommon, of the Coast Guard stations of Ballina, and even the depôt at Westport.

All this should go to you officially and will do so, as soon as we have settled the question, and in the mean while everybody is so employed, that it could not go in any other shape to day.

The subscriptions are increasing fast, and with them the donations, which are paid chiefly out of the sales of the meal.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT referred to in Poor Law Commissioner's Letter of 3rd June, 1846.

THE Guardians of the Poor for the Ballina Union this day assembled in the Board-room, having made particular inquiry into the state and quantity of the potatoes, on which the numerous poor in this extensive Union look entirely to their subsistence for three months more, we regret exceedingly that all accounts agree in declaring the potatoes to be in a more rapid state of decomposition, than ever they were, caused principally by the intense heat for ten days back; so much so, that we are unanimously of opinion, that they will be totally lost before the end of this month. Now we, the Guardians of the Poor in this extensive Union, and their natural protectors, do in this trying emergency, earnestly call upon the Government through our Chairman, to adopt immediate means, by the introduction of provisions and the carrying on of public works in this Union, to avert the awful calamity which is now impending.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 5, 1846.

WITH reference to your letter received yesterday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me to state that it is his wish, that if it should be necessary to make further purchases, they should be made in this country, and not in Ireland, with the exception, of course, of particular local cases of extraordinary emergency (if any such should occur) which would not admit of their being brought under the general rule.

If we were to make our purchases in Ireland, we should defeat our own object, by raising prices, to meet which other purchases must be made, and we should thus enter a vicious circle, our escape from which would be rendered more difficult by the interested representations of corn-holders and mill-owners.

The stores of grain which you say are held on private account at Sligo and elsewhere, must, without our interference, soon come into the market, and, considering the importations expected, and the prospects of the next harvest, it may be hoped, with every advantage to the consumer.

I entered at some length on what appears to me to be the true explanation of our present position in my letter to you dated 3rd instant, and I confidently expect that you will accomplish the most delicate and difficult part of your task, the bringing it to a close, with the same ability and success which have marked all your previous efforts.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, June 5, 1846.

OUR dépôts at this place and Clonmel for the five surrounding counties were opened on the 1st instant, and many of the Relief Committees have supplied themselves promptly with Indian meal from our reserves. The late fall in the price of this article, as you will see by the annexed statement, has enabled some of the Committees to supply themselves at a cheaper rate in their respective markets than they could have done from our store, where a heavy expense for transport was to be incurred; but should we have a dry season, and the water-mills become inoperative, the price is expected to rise again. The importations on private account have always continued to a large extent. The demand on us is chiefly for Indian meal, which is only two-thirds the price of oatmeal, and preference is given by the consumer to *yellow*, although the white is dearer in the dealer's stores.

The blessing of this cheap food will be most mercifully and effectually felt during the next ten weeks, when even the farmer's provision in ordinary years is often exhausted, and when now, instead of being able to supply the labourer, he comparatively has nothing for his own family, a period when there is little agricultural labour (for the hay is saved by the hands on the respective farms), and until the expiration of which the new potato crop is not available for the lower classes of the community. The provision made to meet this crisis is gratefully acknowledged in all quarters as one which has saved the country from desolation.

The supply of potatoes in the markets around us continues much the same as I found it three months since, both as to quantity, quality, and price. Our quays are well supplied from the county of Wexford at from 5d. to 7d. per stone.

The Relief Committees are doing their duty, and in the rural districts chiefly the parish priests have shown great zeal and activity in carrying out this work of charity; in many parts of their neighbouring counties there are numberless families who are totally without food and unable to obtain employment through ordinary sources.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT of the prices of Indian Meal at Waterford and other towns in the neighbouring counties, May 31, 1846, as reported by the respective Relief Committees.

City of Waterford,	from £10 to £10 10s. per ton.
" New Ross "	£10 to £10 10s. "
Town of Wexford "	£10 retail, 1s. 3d. per stone.
" Greig "	£10 to £10 10s.
" Dungarvon "	£10 2s.
" Gaura "	£10 to £10 10s.
" Freshford "	£10 15s. to £11.
" Clonmel "	£10 to £10 10s.
Ditto Oatmeal "	£18.
Kilkenny "	£10 5s. to £10 6s. 8d.

(Signed) J. S. DOBREE,
Deputy-Commissary-General.

Waterford, June 3, 1846.

STATEMENT of the PRICES of INDIAN MEAL at WATERFORD and other Towns in the neighbouring Counties, 31st May, 1846, as reported by the respective Relief Committees.

City of Waterford from 10 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per ton.
New Ross from 10 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per ton.
Town of Wexford from 10 <i>l</i> ., retail 1 <i>s</i> . 3 <i>d</i> . per stone.
Graig from 10 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per ton.
Dungarvan from 10 <i>l</i> . 2 <i>s</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . per ton.
Gowran from 10 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per ton.
Freshford from 10 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . to 11 <i>l</i> . per ton.
Chasmeel 10 <i>l</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per ton.
Ditra, oatmeal 18 <i>l</i> . per ton.
Kilkenny from 10 <i>l</i> . 5 <i>s</i> . to 10 <i>l</i> . 6 <i>s</i> . 8 <i>d</i> . per ton.
Gorey from 11 <i>l</i> . 4 <i>s</i> . to 11 <i>l</i> . 6 <i>s</i> . per ton.

Waterford, June 3, 1846.

THE COMPTROLLER of VIRTUALING to MR. TREVELYAN.

Somerset House, June 5, 1846.

THE remainder of the oatmeal prepared at Deptford for service in Ireland, consisting of 53 tons in 350 barrels, has been ordered to be shipped in the "Blenheim" transport for Haulbowline, and Rear Admiral Sir Hugh Pigot has been requested on its arrival at Cork, to forward it as soon as possible consigned to Assistant Commissary-General Wood, at Galway, as requested in your letter of the 2nd instant.

The cost of this oatmeal will be about 18*l*. per ton, the barrels 6*s*. 7*d*. each.

The "Blenheim" will sail to-morrow.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTE.

Treasury, June 6, 1846.

I HAVE submitted your letter, dated 4th instant, with the accompanying Report from the Ballina Union, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he desires me to say, that it may be convenient to decide in our own minds that no issues of meal should, if possible, be made after any particular date; but he conceives that many and serious objections exist to announcing, at present, any date as that on which our supplies of meal will cease.

You will, no doubt, be able to bring your operations to a close sooner at some places than at others; and if there is any place where, owing to the state and prospects of the market, and of the employment of the people, our meal is not likely to be required, you can transfer the remaining stock in dépôt to other quarters where it is more wanted.

Messrs. Baring to MR. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate-street, June 6, 1846.

SINCE I saw you we have heard of the arrival of the "Superior," ordered to Limerick with about 600 quarters, at Cork (one of the early purchases), and we have sent the bill of lading to Mr. Coffin at Limerick. The smaller vessel, the "Sorcerer" (which you may recollect was one of the two of which we had the option when the owner refused to sell both), is also arrived at Cork, with about 400 quarters, which would probably now be sold on the same terms, say 36*s*. for yellow, and 38*s*. for white, deliverable at Cork, or perhaps cheaper.

To complete the 1200 tons at Liverpool, a little more than 4000 quarters would be required, of which we have bought of parties here—

650 quarters (about) fine Azores India corn, now lying at Liverpool,
to be delivered at Cork, at 36*s*.; and our friends in Liverpool
have further bought—

170 quarters American yellow corn at 34*s*. free on board, and
200 " Galatz " " 33*s*. "

1020 quarters together.

To the price of the latter purchases must be added the cost of insurance and freight to Cork.

We have written to our Liverpool friends to prefer purchases of Azores, Portuguese, Mediterranean, or Galatz corn, when sound and good, to American corn, at a difference of 2s. per quarter less for the former.

They write to us that there is not much corn of good sound quality for sale at Liverpool, as the easterly winds have checked arrivals, and parties owing corn are more disposed to send it to Ireland for sale. We think, however, that that state of things cannot last, and that the account of a fall in the prices of all grain, including Indian corn at Marseilles, and through the Mediterranean, with arrivals at hand, will make sellers more eager, and that the quantity you want will be picked up easily, either here or at Liverpool. I should be rather disposed to buy floating cargoes; for instance, besides the "Sorcière," which is mentioned above, parties offer here to sell about 600 quarters Portuguese yellow corn of good quality, at 86s. at Cork, guaranteed to arrive there by the 30th instant, by the ship "Lady Audley," which may be there any day, and about 2000 quarters are daily expected at Cork or Falmouth.

If you wish us to buy any cargoes, either arrived or shortly to arrive, will you be kind enough to send us word early on Monday? If I do not hear from you I shall conclude you wish to rely entirely on Liverpool as the quantity may be gradually picked up.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 6, 1846.

I HAVE very little to say to-day, except to confirm my letter of yesterday, to accept all Messrs. Baring's arrangements with respect to the cargoes, but to divide the 900 tons remaining to complete at Liverpool, between the ports of Galway and Sligo, and to beg they may be forwarded with all possible activity, so as to commence the grinding without delay.

Mr. Hewetson will have quite occupation enough with the cargoes already assigned to Cork, and he cannot take any present addition. Therefore if this arrangement is carried out at once, after purchasing the 900 tons to complete at Liverpool for Galway and Sligo, and considering the cargoes disposed of as advised in your letter, I think we had better pause and wait events before any further step is taken, and watch the market.

I hope you will send us a further remittance, as I have 2,600*l.* donations on Cork this morning.

We are greatly increasing our constabulary depôts, but I will forward a list early next week. I am in the midst of the work now.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Mountjoy Square, Dublin, June 7, 1846.

I RECEIVE your letter just before I go to church, and write two lines to say I must have explained my views very obscurely if it has led you to understand that I wished to purchase in Ireland; nothing is further from my ideas, and I cannot remember how I could have expressed myself to convey such a proposition.

I am not aware that I spoke of any stores of grain at Sligo or elsewhere. I think I merely wrote in defence of my opinion of the prices of 10*l.* and 15*l.* for Indian meal and oatmeal, by quoting the prices on the east coast of Ireland for the first article, and the west coast for the last.

I know that I have great complaints of distress in Donegal, and some parts of Fermanagh, and Coolavin Barony, which must be met from Sligo, as well as Ballina, down to Swinford, &c.; and that the difficulty I have of getting stores round from Cork to Sligo makes it very desirable that we should import the grain at once into Sligo, and grind it there, where there is so much valuable mill power, so as to avoid the second shipment from Cork, and nearly the same reasoning applies to Galway; and the private steam companies will not now allow any of their steamers to go west from Cork, the damage and loss they have sustained on the "Waterwitch" having completely stopped any arrangement of that kind.

There have been no private importations of Indian corn west of Limerick, neither at Galway, nor at any other part of the coast to the westward.

The price of oatmeal bears a high quotation at Clonmel and in county Tipperary, but there is no sale at those rates.

Your cost price for the Deptford oatmeal, though comparatively better than the oatmeal here, is much too high for this market. The manufacture must be expensive.

I am going to church, and the post closes before the service, which induces me to write these hasty lines.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, June 7, 1846.

THE "Almada," the last of the American ships, you will find by the survey, has been discharged; and, upon the whole, looking to the inclement season the greater number of the vessels made their passages in, the service has been well performed. With the exception of the heated corn in the "Atlas," and the fragile nature of the meal-barrels, I have no fault to find. Had not Messrs. Grinnell taken out the 4000 bushels of new corn their broker had put into the heart of the "Harriet Rockwell's" cargo, it would have turned out like the "Atlas." The brokers, if not closely watched, cannot be relied on. As to the barrels, they were altogether unfit for the voyage, especially in ships of burden, the lower tiers not being equal to bear the upper, and there was consequently extensive loss by breakage. They have been a constant and fruitful source of vexation and annoyance to me. All we could do, the men-of-war's-men and Irish labourers employed in discharging the vessels could not be brought to handle them with the great care and lightness such eggshell packages required. It now only remains to sack as fast as we can. Nearly 40,000 barrels have been landed at Haulbowline, 25,000 of which have been sent coast-wards; also the same number of sacks of meal (20 stone each), Cork manufacture, and more is shipping daily; you will therefore perceive we are not idle.

My Poor Relief Committees, 55 in number, are working well. I have had some trouble in getting them into business-like order. The amount of donations I have paid is, to the present, 5000*l.*; my issues of meal last week, 1750 sacks, or 220 tons, 750 sacks more than the preceding. The people everywhere have eagerly taken to its use, but they all want *ours*, with the Queen's mark, it being so very superior to that imported and manufactured by the trade. We certainly bestow great pains, and it is a first-rate article, but to keep it so needs unremitting and watchful attention.

The additional cargoes, six in number, Sir Randolph and Messrs. Baring have advised, I am prepared for; but I do not think it prudent to grind up too fast, for if all should not be wanted, it will, at the close, sell off better in grain than in meal. I am glad to find, by my last Dublin letters, I may be as liberal with my meal as the Committees can desire. Oatmeal is in not in request when Indian meal can be had. This is, of course, in some degree occasioned by the difference in price. I am assured, from the best authority, that in all the localities where our meal is in use, the general health of the people has wonderfully improved, and that where, at this season, gastric complaints were numerous, there are scarcely any; such is the wholesome and nutritious quality of the meal, so superior in every point of view to the potato. The mass of the peasantry are really grateful to the Government for their timely interposition. I know not what horrors and misery would have ensued had not these precautionary measures been taken when they were; and I often think of the vile abuse heaped upon the Ministers at the very time they were deeply considering all these arrangements, for their callous neglect, as they were pleased to call it.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Messrs. BARING.

Treasury, June 8, 1846.

SINCE I received your letter of Saturday, I have had two notes from Sir R. Routh, in which he requests that the portion remaining to be completed of the Liverpool order of 1300 tons, may be divided between the ports of Galway

and Sligo, and that it may be forwarded with all possible activity, so as to commence the grinding without delay.

Leaving, therefore, the cargoes from sea, to stand as they are, pray give directions for all the Indian corn belonging to the Liverpool order, which has been purchased but has not yet been shipped, or has yet to be purchased, to be sent, with as little delay as possible, in proportions as nearly equal as can be done without inconvenience, to Galway and Sligo, consigned, at the former place, to Assistant Commissary-General Wood, and at the latter, to Assistant Commissary-General Stevens.

I leave it entirely to your judgment as to whether the remaining quantity of Indian corn, belonging to what we call "the Liverpool order," shall be purchased entirely at Liverpool, or partly there and partly elsewhere from floating cargoes or otherwise; and all I have to request is, that it may be purchased as soon and as cheap as possible, and that, when purchased, it may be sent to Galway and Sligo with as little delay as possible.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, June 8, 1846.

THE relief which has been conferred upon vast numbers of the poor during the week just closed, by the issue of Indian meal from this depot, especially to the upper portion of the county of Tipperary, 35 tons having penetrated the wretched fastnesses of that county, rests no longer on the hopeful presumption of my own surmises, but is confirmed by the written testimony of intelligent men, who, corresponding with me from the localities thus happily supported, describe it as cheering to their own consciences, providential as respects the poor, and honourable to the care and kind foresight of Government. I may sum up the sentiments expressed by many, in the observations of two clergymen, one from Tipperary and one from the County Clare; one states, "We know not what we could do for the poor if these supplies were not in existence, for other food is out of their reach from the high prices." Another says, "Were it not that the Government took the wise step of introducing the Indian meal into our country, the state of it would at this moment be very bad." And another clergyman, writing from Borrisokane, says, "Four carts were hailed with delight by multitudes of poor folk. We have made sale of all our former supply; it was exceedingly well liked by the poor, in many cases preferred to oatmeal."

Such is the evidence that I have to offer of the great good conferred at a distance, while at the same time the orders of my department have been enforced in providing against this food being consigned to irresponsible bodies, as well as in warning those duly constituted against an unwise distribution of it. The meal is usually sold by Committees at or under cost price, and gratuitous issues are rarely adopted except to wretchedness which baffles all regulation.

In my own vicinity I see a sad specimen of what I read of afar off. There is great distress, and a great demand for cheap food. The common food of the country is kept back, or produced at an exorbitant rate. From 5d. to 6d. per stone is asked for potatoes, while a stone of Indian meal sold to a ticket-holding poor man carries him seven times nearer to the new crop for only double the cost. A pretty instance was afforded to me lately of the practical difficulty experienced by the poor as to food. A society of ladies here applied to me through their secretary for half a ton of Indian meal, which they wished to issue to those poor folk, to whom annually until now they have distributed with interest the pence lodged in their keeping. I forwarded the application, and hope to supply them.

I think the poor derive the most substantial aid from the *little local committee*; the district ones appear to me to encumber themselves with ceremony and state, though they are most useful in preparing the way for public works on which to employ the poor. But the little local committee, with a priest as its secretary, and a clergyman its treasurer, with its two or three tons of meal, pours around its sphere of action a stream of plenty, gladdening the hearts of hundreds. I have a marked illustration of this by comparing the doings of the little Banagher Committee and the efforts of the inhabitants of Parsonstown, the residence of Lord Rosse.

Banagher quickly got into the field, raised subscriptions, communicated with the Castle, was recognized, received a donation from the Indian fund of 100*l.*, drew meal, sold to the poor, and controlled the market!

But it was only yesterday that I received the first official inquiry after food from Parsonstown! Lord Rosse procured a small supply, but his Lordship employs a vast number of people.

The class of distress at which I glanced in my last, respectable distress, has increased here; small farmers, naturally too proud to seek the meal where it is publicly disposed of, have their scruples respected and their wants supplied, by the Committee having devoted a portion of their store to them only, lodging it in a popular gentleman's house near at hand, where the poor proprietor calls, and is satisfied.

To an ordinary apprehension there are doubtless proofs already of painful scarcity of such food as the poor look to; the Irish resident says, "It is always so at this time of year;" but this philosopher, beyond the reach of want himself, is unable to estimate the wide ruin which the loss of a portion of a sole maintaining crop inflicts upon a people who have no variety of crop, and no re-enforcement of supply.

MR. TREVELYAN to MR. SCOTT RUSSELL.

Treasury, June 10, 1846.

THE public service which has been performed by Mr. O'Brien is, that from an early period of our operations for the purpose of alleviating the expected scarcity arising from the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, he actively and effectually co-operated, by the manufacture of a palatable, nutritious, and wholesome food, to introduce the use of Indian corn in Ireland as a substitute for potatoes, and an antidote to the apprehended scarcity.

I enclose a few extracts, the first which came to hand, from Commissary General Sir R. Routh's letters, relating to Mr. O'Brien's exertions; and it will add to their effect when I mention, that the fact of the prize having been offered by the Society of Arts was first mentioned by me to Sir R. Routh, in a letter dated 20th March last, and was by him communicated to Mr. O'Brien long after he began to exert himself to introduce the use of Indian corn.

I might multiply passages from various correspondents in Ireland showing that Indian corn answers to the description of food for which the Society have offered the prize; but I cannot resist the temptation of giving the following, from a letter received this morning from Commissary-General Hewetson, dated Cork, 7th instant:—

"I am assured from the best authority that, in all the localities where our meal is in use, the general health of the people has wonderfully improved; and that where, at this season, gastric complaints were numerous, there are scarcely any, such is the wholesome and nutritious quality of the meal, so superior in every point of view to the potato; and the mass of the peasantry are really grateful to the Government for their timely interposition."

MR. TREVELYAN to COMMISSARY-GENERAL HEWETSON.

Treasury, June 10, 1846.

THE officers and others belonging to the Commissariat establishment in Ireland have acquitted themselves in this emergency in a manner which reflects great credit on themselves and on the department; and we have the additional satisfaction of knowing that the efforts which have been made, have had the successful result of relieving the distress of the people, and I hope also of convincing them that an anxious attention is paid to their welfare.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 10, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 8th June. I shall be glad to learn, at your early convenience, the quantities actually sent to Galway and Sligo, as I am obliged to form so many small depôts in the interior, Ballinrobe, Castlerough, Roscommon, Carrick-on-Shannon, and others. From Sligo I must do something for Swineford, Ballina, and Coolavin.

I have been obliged to reduce the rate of oatmeal at Sligo to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; and I shall be obliged to reduce the Indian corn meal at Waterford to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s; and at no great distance I must reduce it at Dublin, some time next week.

I am keeping up all the coast-guard stations. As soon as I receive a report of their arrangements from the outposts, and finish a little more my constabulary depôts, I shall report to you, officially, in a few days.

We shall have very heavy accounts for May, June, and July; and I think we shall require some more temporary assistance for their compilation and examination.

Do not forget to let me know the exact quantities I may expect at Sligo and Galway.

I am laid up with the influenza, and might be sick if I had time.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 12, 1846.

I SEND herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Baring, which will give you the information you require about the quantities of Indian corn sent to Galway and Sligo.

Pray advise the officers at those places of what they are to expect.

The 5,140 quarters referred to in Messrs. Barings' letter complete what has been called in the correspondence "the Liverpool Order," but which I latterly authorized Messrs. Baring to execute wherever the corn was to be had cheapest.

If the Government does not again appear in the market as a purchaser, which I hope it will not, prices must fall still lower, which will be a great help to us in withdrawing from our relief operations.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 13, 1846.

THE numerous tenders of Indian corn which I have received and rejected, confirm Messrs. Barings' statement of the expected abundant supply of that article, which, combined with an early and plentiful harvest, will, I hope, land us safe early in the autumn, and enable us to break up our establishments as we dispose of the meal at the different depôts, and settle the accounts.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 13, 1846.

I send you a report of an Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner, Mr. Bell, who has been visiting the relief committees. Not knowing him personally, I can only judge of the value of his observations from their perusal. I think there was an increase of issue from our depôts when they first opened for general distribution, but that might not affect his opinion in regard to consumption.

ENCLOSURE.

Pallas Keary, Limerick, June 10, 1846.

IN my letter of yesterday evening I did not state to you the result of my inquiries as to the recent fall in the price of potatoes in Ennis and in other places. I shall state the facts, such as I was able to ascertain them as to Ennis, and may remark that, with the exception of local circumstances, the same account may be given of most of the towns in this part of Ireland. In ordinary years, the town of Ennis derives its supply of potatoes from the surrounding districts, but especially from the northern part of the county of Clare (baronies of Burren, Inchiquin, and Upper Burren). In two of the three baronies referred to, *Inchiquin* and *Upper Burren*, the failure of the potato crop was very extensive, whilst *Burren* and part of *Clare* have escaped with far less loss. In part of the county of Galway, bordering on Clare, there appears to be a considerable supply which has continued quite unaffected by the disease. In consequence of the almost universal failure of the crop in the immediate neighbourhood of Ennis it was easy for the holders of potatoes to obtain a considerable advance in price at an early period in the season. At the time when this price would have been still further

advanced, owing to the diminution in the supply, the introduction of Indian corn began to act as a check upon the markets, and after one or two weeks the poorer class having become completely reconciled to the new food, the price of potatoes would probably have at once been reduced, if it were not that, though less required for consumption as food, a large supply was still required for seed, which, in some districts, was purchased by the farmers for themselves, and in others a large part of the needful supply was purchased by the Relief Committee, to be resold at a reduced rate to the poorest families.

The demand for seed potatoes having ceased, and the consumption being now limited to the inhabitants of towns who can afford to pay an advanced price, and it being perfectly clear that the mass of the population have laid aside the potato diet for the present season, it might be expected that a diminution in its price would be the result. Some persons are disposed to connect this diminution with the recent reduction in the price of Indian corn meal issued from the Government stores. I am of opinion that the cause which I have assigned, viz., the termination of the season for sowing potatoes, affords, in most cases, the truer explanation, as I do not find that any great or general increase in the consumption of Indian corn meal has followed the reduction referred to, and it is to be hoped that no such increase will take place. The weekly consumption of Indian corn meal in the county of Clare now exceeds 100 tons, which, at the lowest calculation, is equivalent to 500 tons of potatoes; and I think there can be no doubt that, even if it had been possible to share equally the entire supply of potatoes in the county throughout the entire population, it would have proved insufficient for their support beyond the commencement of the present month; the reason for which I should expect a fall in the price of potatoes in all the town markets at the present time is, that no town being very remote from some district in which there still exists a supply of potatoes, and this supply no longer saleable in the country, the same causes which have produced the reduction at Ennis are likely to act in other places. The actual amount of the reduction at Ennis is about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per stone of 14 lbs., the average price of sound potatoes having fallen from 6d. to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; sales effected below this rate have usually been of partially unsound potatoes.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 18, 1846.

ADVERTISING to my letter No. 162, of the 21st May, in which I had the honour to lay before you, for the consideration of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, my letter to the Inspector-General of the constabulary for the purpose of establishing the arrangements necessary to provide for the supply of the interior, and of which I received their Lordships' approval signified to me in your letter No. 146 of the 23rd ultimo, I have now to state to you the progress I am making in these proceedings, and the gratification I experience in the zeal and activity of the department which their Lordships have placed under my orders.

It is also satisfactory to recognise, in the foresight of Her Majesty's Government, the real cause which has averted a great calamity from this country in the introduction of the Indian corn meal, which has become so popular, that even the potatoes have been sold to procure the means of purchasing it, and it has found its way into the remotest corners and with the happiest effects. It has put a stop to the usurious practices of the corn dealers; it has kept down the price of all articles of food; and it has considerably diminished the attachment of the people to the potato. I have received the most gratifying reports from Colonel McGregor, who has been absent on a tour of inspection through seventeen counties, and he informs me that the grateful feeling of the peasantry is everywhere conspicuous; that the provision of this cheap food within the reach of all, and the example set to private speculators to engage in the same commerce, has evidently been the means of diminishing crime, and that all classes of people are full of its commendation.

I state to you these facts, because they cannot be otherwise than satisfactory to my Lords; but we must not forget that we have still two months of difficulty to encounter; yet I trust, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the demand, that the same success will continue to accompany our exertions.

The following are the constabulary depôts either established or in the course of being so since my last communication, though it will be found expedient to add many localities to this list:—

Ballymote, county Sligo,	..	supplied from Sligo.
Ballinrobe, county Mayo,	..	" Westport.
Castlereagh, county Roscommon		
Roscommon, ditto		" Longford.
Carrick-on-Shannon, county Leitrim		

Athy, Queen's county ..	}	supplied from Dublin.
Mount Millick, Queen's county ..		
Castle Dermot, Kildare ..	}	" Dublin.
Tullamore, King's county ..		
Clare Castle	}	" Limerick.
Port Dunaha		
Killiard		
Couryclare		
Armagh, county Armagh ..	}	" Dundalk.
Monaghan, county Monaghan ..		

Though this is only a commencement, my Lords will not fail to observe that these arrangements establish a machinery for this service susceptible of any further extension it may require, and a plan is laid down which is applicable to any future emergency.

I submit to you a statement of my arrangements with the coast guard, and a list of the stations round the coast which are constantly full, and are replenished as the occasion requires.

I think it is a consideration worthy of notice in this important service, that it has been carried on at so small a cost, weighing the effects which it is producing, the great number of persons necessarily employed, and its ramifications through such an extent of country, and embracing nearly the whole coast.

The effect of these small depôts in the interior and upon the coast extends much beyond their own immediate precincts, and the facility of carrying out the same system to any distance is a terror to all excessive demand, thus acting by its influence as well as by its direct operation.

I find that seven cargoes of Indian corn have arrived to order at Cork from the Mediterranean, and thirteen more are expected. Amongst the former is the *Battina*, which Commissary-General Hewetson is unloading. The "*Concord*" has arrived at Limerick, and is also by this time discharged.

The reports of the coming crop are conflicting, though I think for the moment the good predominate. I do not think there is any sure reliance to be placed on such opinions, which are clearly premature; but it is a source of great satisfaction that the Indian corn meal has been a successful experiment, and that we have now always a substitute at hand, and that its importation through the usual channels of trade may be looked upon as secured.

ENCLOSURE.

LIST OF COAST GUARD STATIONS IN IRELAND that have been supplied with INDIAN CORN MEAL for sale to the distressed Population.

Bonnaston .. .	Waterford district	Kells .. .	Knightstown district
Islands of Kane ..	ditto	West Cove .. .	West Cove district
Dunmore, East ..	ditto	Waterville .. .	ditto
Arthurstown .. .	ditto	Dingle .. .	Dingle district
Fethard .. .	ditto	Beale and Ballybunnin	Beale district
East Ferry .. .	Cove district	Ballynaghavan ..	Galway district
Ballymoreen .. .	ditto	Arran Islands ..	ditto
Poor Head .. .	ditto	Lettermore .. .	ditto
Light House .. .	ditto	Roundstone .. .	Clifden district
Crosshaven .. .	ditto	Ballinskil .. .	ditto
Robert's Cove ..	ditto	Claggan .. .	ditto
Ringshells .. .	ditto	Kilbarney .. .	ditto
Court Masaherry ..	Kinsale district	Clifden .. .	ditto
Upper Cove .. .	ditto	Keele (Achill Island)	Keele district
Old Head .. .	ditto	Newport Mayo ..	Newport district
Oyster Haven .. .	ditto	Innisturk Island ..	ditto
Denny Cove .. .	ditto	Biffin .. .	ditto
Castletownsend ..	Skibbereen district	Belmullet .. .	Belmullet district
Milk Cove .. .	ditto	Killibegs .. .	Port Rushine district
Glandore (Union Hall)	ditto	Lochru .. .	Lochru district
Baltimore .. .	ditto	Rutland .. .	Rutland district
Cockhaven .. .	ditto	Kilteorgan .. .	Galway district
Valentia (supplying Port Magee).	Knightstown district	Kilrush and sundry dependences.	Mouth of Shannon
Ballinskelligs ..	ditto		

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, June 15, 1846.

THE present communication will convey to you a practical change in the business of my depôt, interesting and advantageous to the general intention of this department. Sir R. Routh wrote to me lately in such fullness of terms relative to a wise distribution of the Indian meal, both as regarded relief and the popularity of the food, that I forthwith proceeded, after hearing from my immediate commanding officer, Commissary-General Coffin, to give full effect to his wishes. I accordingly opened my depôt for retail sale on Friday last, announcing the day previous, in the terms herewith forwarded, my intention.

I previously consulted with the most intelligent members of the Local Committee of Banagher, and found that by such a plan I was still co-operating with their measures. This Committee has confined itself to a sale, under cost price, to certain parties with large young families who had scarce any mode of existence, and to whom the market price of provisions was intolerable. My sale is open to all, and has no charitable essence in it, except such as the poor deservy in such a provision by Government for their wants.

I have only two days' experience of the working of this system; but I am gratified by the result. On the first day was sold an amount of 700 lbs., on the second 600; in small quantities, from one stone to three. The parties purchasing were such, that I have at present no fear that I am selling to any but those who intend to consume the meal in their own homes. Without any increase of my department I am able to accomplish this, my clerk and constable being sufficient to conduct it under my inspection, while the requisitions of Committees are attended to by myself.

The calls from Committees are always for tons

This mode of issue is highly advantageous to the people. Sir R. Routh was anxious for it; Commissary-General Coffin agreed; it was left to my discretion, and its institution has satisfied me that it is judicious. Apparently, without obligation, the public have access to this noble food, and they will soon relish that which they seem to exchange for their cash. As to security against the meal being resold, I possess it in the truth that the poor will not pay dearer for it elsewhere when they can purchase it from me. The immediate effect of this sale was to lower the Banagher market more decidedly than has yet been accomplished by the contracted sale of the depôt of the Banagher Committee; and the inferior kinds of meal sold by dealers to the poor (barley and bean), fell considerably, and so they should, for they are a vastly inferior article to the Indian meal. The general popularity of the meal is daily increasing; not a carman who comes in for committee tons but purchases a stone or two for his own use, and takes it home with him; and the two labourers employed about my store frequently lay out their shilling wages in the purchase of it.

The requisitions from Committees this past week have been much increased. From Monday to Saturday 124,000 lbs. of meal have been sent forth through the counties King and Tipperary. From the latter, and the edge of Clare and Galway, I receive accounts of painful destitution, arising either from an absolute deficiency of food, or the exorbitant rate demanded by the dealers. The correspondents on behalf of Committees are usually intelligent men, and though I have met with some peculiarities, our communications flow without the slightest discord. They are usually clergymen, priest or Protestant, and they one and all represent freely, if not gracefully, the actual state of the poor in their localities. In some parts of Tipperary it is stated there are no potatoes at any price left.

I cannot too often affirm that, with respect to this portion of Ireland, but for the introduction of these supplies the poor man would now be starving, or providing himself by a violation of law, and the class above "Poor" would be purchasing from a scanty market, at a ruinous sacrifice of their present and perhaps their future means.

The interest I feel in my duties increases with their importance; and in 19 years' military service I never enjoyed what I now experience, an active duty, with the happy effects of my exertions constantly presenting themselves around me.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROOTH.

Treasury, June 22, 1846.

It occurs to me, that the best way of giving effect to Lord Lincoln's and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's wishes, as expressed in the accompanying notes, will be, to send you those notes, and the letter from Captain Pole to which they relate.

If, as would appear from your letter received to-day, there is a pressure upon your depôts in other quarters, it would be advisable to confine your issues at Bannagher and elsewhere, to what is absolutely necessary, and to send the surplus stock to the points at which it is most urgently required, as you are already doing in regard to the Dublin depôt.

ENCLOSURE.

I AM a little alarmed at this letter from Captain Pole. He says his sale is "open to all, and there is no charitable essence in it;" and the whole tenor of the letter indicates that he has opened a general shop, from which all, rich and poor, may supply themselves. He speaks of the carmen all taking home with them a stone or two.

If this indiscriminate sale extends to the other depôts, we shall have load, and I fear just, complaints from the regular vendor.

Moreover, can the depôts stand such a rapid drain upon their stores?

19th June, 1846.

LINCOLN.

MR. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate Street, June 16, 1846.

I THINK it right to keep you informed of what occurs in bargains and arrivals of Indian corn.

Yesterday about 2,000 quarters from the Azores and Portugal were sold at 34s. 6d. and 35s.; and to-day a cargo of 750 quarters of Tuscan Indian corn from Leghorn and Falmouth, is offered at 33s. 6d., and could probably be had at 33s. or 32s. 6d., freight and insurance to any port in the United Kingdom, included.

We had bought, and subsequently rejected the cargo of the "Société," from St. Michael's of about 450 quarters, as being heated, but the owners had ordered her, before waiting for an examination, from Cork to Sligo, for which port she has sailed. Neither you nor we are under any engagement, but the owners have requested us, as they have no connections or interest in Sligo, to buy the cargo, if we can find employment for it; and if you are in want at that place, it would be a kindness to mention the circumstance to your Commissary General, that he might purchase it at a reasonable rate.

Major SIMMONDS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, June 16, 1846.

THIS depôt is working well under the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Coffin, and the great zeal of the storekeeper; in short, we have no idlers; the anxious wishes of all in the good cause commands attendance at all hours. Some difficulty is, however, experienced for want of a sufficient check over the claims of the Local Committees for Indian corn meal; the error as regards the relief of the poor is, however, on the right side, in the matter of an occasional over issue of Indian corn meal; and they are, as far as expressions may be received, most thankful to the Government for the relief so opportunely offered, under judicious restrictions and management, which has saved thousands from starvation, and kept the ill-disposed in check.

Low wages, and a want of sufficient employment, had placed the necessities of life beyond the means of the poorest classes, and it would make your heart glad to hear the honest expressions of praise for the considerate and humane acts of the Government, in preserving the poorest of the poor from famine. Some few of the corn merchants in this city are discontented at the aid afforded by Government, which alone has saved Ireland from the greatest misery.

Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co. to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate Within, June 17, 1846.

WE have the honour to inform you that our Agent, Mr. Ward, at Boston, U. S. A., has collected from the underwriters the amount of the total loss of the cargo of Indian corn by the barque "Arab", and we beg to wait upon you with the enclosed statement of the recovery and net avails, amounting to dollars 22,668, which he has invested and remitted to us in three bills, at 60 days' sight, at the exchange of 108½ per cent together 4684l. 11s., which fall due on 17th August next, and we hold that sum at your disposal on that day, subject to encashment.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 19, 1846.

Write to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. with reference to this letter and request that they will pay to the account of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General at the Bank of England, on the 17th August next, the sum of 4684l. 11s., being the amount of bills remitted to them from the United States, and falling due on that day, as the net avails recovered from the underwriters at Boston of the cargo of Indian corn and meal which was totally lost in the barque "Arab."

Acquaint the Paymaster-General with the above direction, and desire him to carry the amount, when received, to the credit of the Commissariat Chest Account in his books.

Acquaint also the Commissioners of Audit with the direction given, and transmit to them the enclosure to this letter.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 17, 1846.

I HAVE just been informed that the Society of Arts considered that they could not give O'Brien the 100l. prize, because the bread sent by him was not, strictly speaking, an invention; but they have awarded to him their first gold medal for the useful and public spirited assistance he has given, in introducing a cheap, nutritious, and durable food to the notice of his countrymen.

You will see, from the accompanying copy of a letter from Messrs. Baring, the downward progress of the price of Indian corn, which will become much lower if we leave it to take its course.

You will see what Messrs. Baring say about the "Sorcière." We are not bound by any good faith or good understanding, to take her cargo, and all it would be right to do on the subject is, that in case it should be necessary, on other grounds, to make a further purchase, and this cargo should turn out to be sound and good, we might, in that case, give it a preference; but what I should wish is, that it should be sold to private parties without our interference.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 17, 1846.

I SEE in the "*Saunders' Newspaper*" that a large gold medal has been voted by the Society of Arts to Mr. O'Brien, the baker at Dublin, for the successful manufacture of Indian corn bread, and I shall be happy to hear of its confirmation.

I perceive that the refusal to eat Indian corn meal in the gaol at Limerick has been brought forward, but you will perceive that it was a compulsory order, which the inmates of the gaol resisted because it was compulsory, and construed into an act of unjustifiable oppression, and has nothing to do with the voluntary preference now given universally to this food. The Irish prefer it as more nutritious and more agreeable to the taste when they become used to it than oatmeal, as a good working food, and not accompanied by heart-burn, which they attribute to oatmeal. They also think it prevents fever, chiefly I imagine, because fever disappeared shortly after it came into use in county Kerry.

We are very much occupied at present in the constabulary arrangements in the interior, and the correspondence is particularly heavy.

If ever such a service should present itself again, the machinery now adopted and defined will very much facilitate its operation.

I cannot give any opinion to be relied upon, in regard to the sufficiency of our present supplies, which must be determined as we advance.

I met Mr. Lucas the other day, and he said, "I am bound in honour to acknowledge to you, that I am become a convert to your system and to the introduction of the Indian corn meal. I was averse to both, and it is but fair and just to you to state that my opinions have undergone a change, and that I observe with pleasure the success of both." This is satisfactory, and even the radical papers have ceased to speak of us in any other way than praise.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 17, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that in consequence of the decreasing prices on the east coast of Ireland in the articles of oatmeal and Indian corn meal, I have found it necessary to avail myself of the authority conveyed to me in your letter No. 180, dated 27th April last, and to reduce the prices of Indian corn meal at the depôts of Dundalk, Dublin, and Waterford, and at the coast-guard station of Tramore, to nine pounds six shillings and eightpence per ton, or one penny per pound; and I have also been compelled to reduce the price of oatmeal to fourteen pounds per ton at Dublin, and to extend the same reduction (of oatmeal only) to Limerick, where the Indian corn meal has become so popular that there is scarcely any sale for oatmeal, and a cargo shipped to that port from county Mayo was unable to find a market even at fourteen pounds.

The fall of price in the same article at Sligo, retailing at 14s. to 14s. 6d. per cwt., has obliged me to adopt the same reduction in that county.

My Lords are aware that Sligo is a great shipping port for oats and oatmeal.

These reductions do not apply to any but the depôts herein named.

The Rev. THEOBALD MATHEW to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, June 18, 1846.

It will gratify you to be assured that the wise and generous measure adopted by Government has been attended with complete success. A frightful famine has been warded off, and the inhuman speculations of corn, flour, potato, &c., dealers have been confounded. Our people are becoming fond of maize flour, and I am confident that it will ever continue to be used in Ireland as a necessary of life. The mode of preparation best suited to the condition of our people, and what is generally adopted, is what is called in Italy *polenta*. A quantity sufficient for three or four days' consumption is well boiled like oatmeal, hasty-pudding, or stirabout. When cooked, it is poured out into a large open vessel, and, as required, it is cut in slices, and either warmed in milk or fried in a pan or baked. It is excellent, substantial, and nutritious food. The rich would find it a delicious addition to the morning or evening tea table.

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Westport, June 19, 1846.

ON Monday I went to Balinrobe, where a supply of meal was sent last Friday, to see how the constable in charge was getting on; and I took Cong in my way, where there is also a depôt of meal under the distribution of the Relief Committee, at the head of which is Mr. Moore, the *Protestant* clergyman, and Mr. Waldron, the Roman Catholic priest. I saw each of them, and they appear to pull together very well for the general good.

Mr. Moore informed me that the people, though extremely destitute, so much so that he had then several men at work on the road in course of construction, who are so enfeebled by long want of sufficient food that the clerk of the works remarked that, as to the labour they were able to perform, it was next to nothing, though a few weeks ago he knew them to be strong and able-bodied men; never-

theless they have in that locality a prejudice against the Indian meal, so that in 10 days not more than 10 cwt. had been distributed. Mr. Walsron, the P. P., told me that he had much incurred the displeasure of his people in having been the active means of introducing the supply into the neighbourhood, which they attributed to selfish purposes, in order to shelve them off with as cheap a diet and with as little expense to himself as he could; and he further said, that he believed there were some self-interested parties who were endeavouring to keep up and encourage this reluctance to use the meal. This was also confirmed by the police, who told me that there are some large mills belonging to a Mr. McDonnell which are full of vast quantities of meal, which they have stored with a view of obtaining large profits when the pinch came; and the people prefer buying the coarse flour, obtained there at 14s. per cwt., and the oatmeal, to purchasing the Indian meal. The same objections are felt to it at Balinrobe; and one ground of their dislike to it is, the very bad quality of that which, on a former occasion, was distributed in 1881. I believe I have already told you that the millers who ground the Indian corn used to damp it to increase its weight, and this caused it soon to become rancid and sour. It is a most susceptible article of harm from slight causes; and, on the last shipment by the "Elizabeth Anne," some sacks became wet, and on opening their contents, the meal was as hot as lime, and it then speedily cements together in lumps and becomes quite unfit for human food.

I heard at Balinrobe that there was a strong inclination, on the part of the majority of the Relief Committee, to purchase some of the meal at the store and distribute it gratuitously. This I explained to one of the members was quite opposed to the intentions of Government, who required that the Union houses should be full before any gratuitous relief was administered; but then, he said, what use are our subscriptions if we are not to give anything away. I told him that they were raised in order to provide food as wages for labour, or as direct wages to enable the employed to purchase food; and endeavoured to impress on his mind the necessity of the greatest caution in this matter. I consider myself that the plan of Government as regards this point is a wise one; but as much of this distress, or indeed all, arises from a momentary calamity of accidental and fortuitous occurrence, I am strongly of opinion that the usual conditions for admission into the houses should not be enforced: for at present, as you are aware, the rules are, that no person is admitted into the Union without first parting with his house and land, which I submit ought not to be enforced on the present occasion; if it is, I am convinced that numbers will sooner starve than go in.

Sir James Dombrain was here on Monday and Tuesday, and I met him at dinner: he had lately been at Belmullet, and there the eagerness of the people to purchase the meal was as striking as their reluctance at Balinrobe. He describes that district as being in great want, and calculates on drawing very largely on my depot: 20 tons were sent there on Monday, and the supplies to the Coast-guard generally are daily becoming more frequent. Sir R. Routh tells me that he has accordingly ordered fresh supplies for this depot from Cork.

At Chidren the distress continues, or, indeed, increases: the officer there writes most pressing for additional supplies, and says that, but for this measure of the Government, it would be fearful to contemplate the starvation that must have ensued.

I am glad to hear from Sir James Dombrain that he purposes sending a small steamer, the "Vulcan," for the service here, which is much wanted; as, though every expedition is used in both departments, the frequent calms delay the transmission of the supplies to the different stations. I am at present supplying 15 different points: and the inland districts will now begin to apply, so that we shall be kept moving.

All persons interested and disinterested applaud the scheme which has been adopted. I met a large dealer in meal a day or two ago, who could have wished that the Government had bought in the country, but candidly admitted the wisdom of the measures.

I was much annoyed the other day to find that Mr. ———, who has undertaken on Lord ———'s account to supersede a Relief Committee in this town, was selling the meal at 8d. a cwt. above the fixed price, in order to cover the loss arising from the weighing out in small quantities, which he considered his master ought not to bear for those who were not Lord ———'s tenantry; but I put a stop to it immediately, and pointed out that, as he stood in the place of the Committee, he must be subject to the same rules, and as they bore the loss on the distribution in small

quantities, so must he, and that nobody was allowed to raise the price to the poor. I am not afraid of its occurring again.

I have had an application from a gentleman near Balinrobe for leave to purchase five tons of meal from the dépôt at Balinrobe, as his people are horrowing meal at an immense price—23s. per cwt.; but I cannot let him have more than a ton, as I scarcely yet know what calls may come upon that store; and it is very necessary to know something about the applicants, their station, and number of tenantry, which I make a preliminary condition to granting a supply; and in this case I wait for this information, and have written to Sir R. Routh to let him know what I have said in reply.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, June 20, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 17th instant, and I shall communicate to Mr. O'Brien his honours. I observe the downward inclination of prices; but we are in the midst of so many demands, that I think we must increase our supply of grain at Cork. I am in correspondence with Mr. Hewetson on this subject, chiefly in regard to his grinding, and the period to which he will occupy his mills with his present quantity of grain, including the cargoes from Messrs. Baring. The pressure is very heavy. The subscriptions are failing, and the public works are not forthcoming on many distressed points. All Donegal and county Mayo are crying out, and the issues through the Coast Guard are very large. Limerick must be kept up, and the demands are immense. Westport has been almost exhausted, and Sligo too, so I think the "Société," if the cargo is sound, will arrive opportunely. I have desired Mr. Hewetson to forward a large supply to Westport, and if I can meet with a schooner here that I can charter to take 1000 or 1500 sacks to Westport, I shall engage one or two for that purpose. Time is the great object. All this swells our correspondence beyond measure, for none of the authorities in counties Mayo and Donegal have consented to stir until their difficulties have burst upon them, and they are indisposed to make any sacrifice or effort in their own behalf.

We have deputations from Clare and Kilkenny to-day, who are in great alarm for the effect of the next six to eight weeks. The potatoes, such as they are, are all disappearing.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Castle, Dublin, June 22, 1846.

THE issues from Limerick are very large this week, but I have not the details of the issue. They amount to 400 tons, but nearly 100 are for other dépôts. Mr. Hewetson has blended the two together, and I cannot tell the amount of his issues to the country as distinct from those two dépôts. But he informs me that he has only 8000 bushels in grain, and 30,000 with his millers, which will be delivered this month. We shall therefore evidently require a farther supply at Cork, so as to keep the mills at work all July, and I think that we shall require at Cork an additional quantity equal to 1000 tons. I have not yet made out what ships are wanting of those advised to Mr. Hewetson, but I hope to be able to give you a more accurate detail in the morning, when I can have time to check them. The great demand at present is county Mayo, where they have made no exertion in their own behalf, nor any subscription, and throw themselves and their poor wholly on the mercy of the Government. The whole district of Connemara is crying out, and it is a source of great regret to me, that I have no one to send there to keep things in order, and the Coast Guard, with all their zeal and activity, are too lavish, and do not exercise a sufficient check. Could you put your hand on Major Wainwright, of whom you wrote, to go over at once to Clifden, and take charge, and in the meanwhile I will look out for an intelligent constable to act with him. He would have about two months' work, but some supervision is in every way demanded there, and the object is to have that supervision there at once.

I propose to ship about 200 tons of meal in the early part of this week from

Dublin to Limerick, probably double that quantity if I can find conveyance. I am looking about for means.

We must wind up our proceedings satisfactorily. It would not do to be wanting at the last moment.

Pray lose no time in communicating with Messrs. Baring. I shall enter more into the detail officially to-morrow.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, June 22, 1846.

I CONTINUE to receive from the wide circuit over which, during the last week, I again dispersed near 100,000 lbs. of Indian corn meal, the amplest assurances from the well-informed residing among the recipients of this food, that were it not for the introduction of this State provision, the poor would certainly be driven to a violation of the laws to provide against starvation. Local Committees are now, in fact, pressing for a regular constant supply, which, though not given to them by me as part of a promised continuous supply, yet partakes of that character, as no requisition has yet been sent to me a non-compliance with which would have been consistent with my duty.

Within the last week, several new Local Committees have sprung up in King's and Tipperary County, and have been recognized by the Castle authorities. These were localities where they waited for a pressure from the poor, without anticipating it; that pressure arose, and to withstand it, the upper classes found no resource but to avail themselves of the provision of the State by a conformity with the preliminary directions of the Relief Commission. And it is a striking testimony of the reality of unusual distress, that the influential gentry of some localities should, from a feeling of mistaken pride, hesitate for a long time to appeal to the public granary, or submit to the humility of a confession of distress, until the signs of impatience on the part of a population who had no such scruples, called them to their duties and compelled them to convey the benevolence of the State to the poor for whom it was provided.

In this class of Committees, I rank Parsonstown, whose requisitions now reach me as regularly as those of any other Committee.

The county of Tipperary is evidently labouring under considerable privation, partly from the scarcity of the indigenous food of the country, partly from the great severity of prices. By a reference to the map, I find the Local Committees of that county touching each other's line of relief closely; and that the whole county south to Nenagh draws its supply from Banagher.

I have this week reported the vacant spaces in my stores, with a view to a farther supply.

The public works, which are commencing in several localities, will provide occupation for many; the hay harvest will soon engage many; and there are few Local Committees not awake to the political truth that a gratuitous supply of food is death to industrious habits; all have prepared some work in the vicinity of their head quarters, which will at once improve a locality and maintain habits of industry among the people.

Had this State relief been all State relief; had it not been mingled with and dependent upon the co-operating exertions of the inhabitants, the same apathy which is engendered in the poor by gratuitous support, would also have characterized the proceedings of Committees, and those bodies would, without consideration for the moral character of the poor, or their own ultimate safety from the cravings of the poor, have dealt out heedlessly, and without laborious precautions, those supplies to which they themselves had contributed nothing, and which coming gratuitously, they too would have supposed were exhaustless. The system, therefore, of urging the richer classes to the initiative in monetary subscriptions was founded in wisdom; it was applying an argument to them, which they in their turn are now applying to the objects of relief; it was, in fact, saying to the rich, "You shall have no cheap food, or help in money, unless you yourselves subscribe;" consenting to which terms, the richer classes turn to the poor, and say, "You, too, shall have no food unless you labour for it." I bring forward these matters, not because they can, by any possibility, be new to you, but as proofs that I see practically around me the

excellence of the rules which were laid down for the conduct of this remarkable system of operations.

The retail sale department which I lately organised, continues its daily labour with good effect. About 1,000 lbs. is daily sold in small quantities to poor people, who come from 12 miles around to procure it; and it embraces many whose destitution is out of the reach of any organized body of relief.

The popularity of Indian meal increases daily. The month of July, which bears the name of "the meal month," will be a trying one to the poor.

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Wexford, June 22, 1846.

OUR issues are now very rapid, especially to the coast guard stations; and I am sorry to say, that the suffering and starvation is very urgent in some of the localities on the coast. I had received instructions from Sir R. Routh not to send any more supplies to Clifden in Connemara, as he feared my dépôt would be exhausted, and not able to meet the demands from the Relief Committees in the inland districts; but on Saturday, I received an express from Sir James Dumbraun, dated Clifden, imploring the speedy issue of the food he had previously required of me. So I felt that I ought to act on his appeal, and would have sent the meal that day, but there was no vessel ready to take it. However, I ordered everything to be in readiness this morning at two o'clock, when we shipped 20 tons on board the "Vulcan" steamer; she sailed at four; and this afternoon I forward 10 tons to Belmullet, 10 to Achil Bay, 10 to Dugort (in Achil), and 5 to a station called Bull's Mouth; making 55 tons in one day.

Mr. Cusaden, the commander of the "Eliza," revenue cutter, has just been calling, and he tells me that on his last trip to the Killeries, he saw a boat, which pulled alongside, and the men entreated for some food for one of their comrades, who was stretched out half dead, and was unable to eat the bread which he gave him; he gave me to understand that this was a case of starvation, and described the emaciated countenance and prominent eye-balls of the other men who were in the boat. This is very sad to hear. He tells me also that Sir James had ordered some of the meal to be distributed gratis, from what he saw of the destitution on the spot.

I am expecting large additional supplies from Cork to enable me to meet the increasing demands. Sir R. Routh tells me to expect upwards of 3,000 sacks, nearly 400 tons; so we shall have plenty on our hands presently.

The "Vulcan" will be of great service in the transport of these supplies, as her trips will be rapid and certain.

Tuesday.—The commander of the "Dee" has just called. We shall discharge to-day 860 sacks.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 23, 1846.

I SHALL consider to-morrow, in concert with Messrs. Baring, the measures proper to be taken in case it should be necessary to make further purchases; but I earnestly request you to meet the demands upon you to the utmost possible extent, by transferring the meal from those dépôts where it is not required, and by checking the issue from these last-mentioned depôts, by raising your prices, if you do not altogether stop the issue from them.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 23, 1846.

I THINK it desirable that I should lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of the letter which I have this morning addressed to Commissary-General Hewetson, as it will give you, in connection with the return forwarded yesterday, a clearer view of my arrangements, and the urgent pressure upon me.

I beg to impress upon you my anxiety that no time should be lost in communicating with Messrs. Baring Brothers for an additional supply of 1000 tons of Indian corn to be consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson at Cork.

I am also of opinion that the closing measures of our present service would partake of more activity and despatch if I were in direct communication with Messrs. Baring's house at Liverpool. In a few hours I could communicate from hence with that firm, and make known to them the exact nature and extent of our wants; and knowing the exact space of time in which this correspondence could be carried on and an answer received, I should be able to delay my application until the necessity for the demand became clearly indispensable, and thus avoid all purchases until this fact was established.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir R. ROUTH to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Dublin Castle, June 23, 1846.

I HAVE your note of the 21st, which, by whatever conveyance it was sent, did not reach me until last night after the departure of the post.

I beg to acquaint you that I have applied to the Treasury for a further delivery of 1000 tons of Indian corn at Cork, but observing by your note that there are two cargoes arrived to order at Cork, I think it would be desirable for you to purchase them so as to keep your mills at work.

I think you had better arrange this purchase through Messrs. Baring's agents, so that the whole of the duty may go through the same channel by which the Treasury have conducted it, and which appears to be satisfactory to their Lordships.

It is evident that your mills must be kept in full employment the whole of this next month, and perhaps the first week in August.

I perceive that your issues amount to 3000 sacks weekly, of 20 stone each, and the issues of Commissary-General Coffin at Limerick do not fall short of 3000 sacks. We must be in a state to meet the supply for the next six weeks.

I should think the Galway depot would do for the present, and Westport also with what you have sent, and with a schooner that I am loading here for that destination.

I have directed Assistant-Commissary-General Lister to send 400 tons from this port by the canal to Limerick; the company promise all despatch and accommodation, but they move slowly.

The quantities forwarded from hence, and from Cork to Westport, will somewhat exceed 300 tons which will give you time to turn your present consideration to Limerick.

Assistant-Commissary-General Stevens, from Sligo, reports the arrival of the "*Lady Rowley*" with about 700 quarters of Indian corn; he can grind about 150 tons in a week; therefore I consider his depot, with what you have sent him, and the cargoes now on their way to him as provided for the moment. All which I mention that you may turn your principal attention to Limerick, so that Commissary-General Coffin's issues may not be suspended.

I see that Sir J. Donohoe has very inconveniently interfered at Galway, and by his representations induced Assistant-Commissary-General Wood to prevail on the captain of the "*Rhadamanthus*" to proceed with 100 tons of Indian meal to Glifden to be landed at the Coast Guard station, where I have no knowledge of any sufficient store or other preparatory arrangements for its receipt and custody. I endeavour to avoid sending a larger quantity than 10 or 20 tons at any coast guard station, as taxing their accountability beyond its proper sphere.

P.S. The last quotation from Messrs. Baring Brothers on the cargo of the "*Providenza*," at Falmouth, including freight and insurance to Galway, was 33s. per quarter less discount, or 5s. per cent. per annum for the unexpired term of three months from date of bill of lading, which I mention for your government.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 23, 1846.

I WROTE you this morning, and I have since written a few lines to Messrs. Barings' house at Liverpool that they may be prepared. I now enclose to you a note from Mr. Coffin, which will give you a better idea of our wants. As I said, these are things that burst upon us, and we can take no steps until they do, and this is the reason why I wish to be in communication with Barings' house at Liverpool in case of these sudden demands, and that having a short and easy communication, I may only ask for what I absolutely require.

We must not on any account suspend or diminish our issues at Limerick or Cork, and we must go on with the demands of county Mayo and Roscommon

which will probably get worse. We have the satisfaction of seeing that our wants will not now go far into August, but it will be very severe until the harvest begins. I cannot count on less than 250 to 300 tons weekly issue at Cork, or 400 tons for Limerick and dependencies. In all this week I shall be able to compute the quantity I shall require, at least I think so.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, June 22, 1846.

I HAVE this morning received a note from Mr. Hewetson, the tenor of which somewhat alarms me for the maintenance of our issues at the present rate. He tells me that he has only 16,000 sacks of meal remaining, that his own issues amount to 2000 sacks a-week, and that he is now called upon for increased consignments to Westport and Sligo. Our issues here, at Clare and at Kilrush, during the past week have been not less than 3500 sacks, and although there was some accumulation of demand at Kilrush, in consequence of the depot having run out before the outstanding orders were fulfilled, I do not think that we can estimate the weekly demand upon these three depôts under 400 tons, or upwards of 3000 sacks, or anticipate a reduction of that demand for a month or five weeks to come. Our actual remains and expectations, exclusive of Hewetson's 16,000 sacks, I cannot estimate at more than about 5000 to 6000 sacks, scarcely a fortnight's supply at the present rate of issue; and it becomes a question for serious consideration, whether it is possible to maintain the present almost unrestricted distribution as long as the demand is likely to last, and if not, whether it is better to put a gradual or a sudden restraint upon it. Assuming restraint to be really necessary, I should give a decided preference to the former, because I believe that the latter would cause great alarm and distress; but if we could be sure of such a fall in the market as might render restraint needless, we might go on slowly with our issues as long as the demand continues. All that I wish is to keep your attention awake to the alternative, and particularly to the fact that a fall in the price of Indian corn may fail to retrieve immediately the pressure on the depôts of this district, in consequence of the present difficulty in converting it into available food. Hewetson tells me that his means of grinding also depend now chiefly upon steam power, and are accordingly much curtailed.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 24, 1846.

I WILL write to you to-morrow on the subject of further supplies, which you may depend upon being sent with the utmost expedition. There can be no objection to your communicating direct with Messrs. Baring's agent at Liverpool, respecting that portion of the additional supply which it may be determined to buy at Liverpool; but you must depend upon our apportioning the purchases in such manner that they may reach their destinations as quickly as possible. On the last occasion we found it better to buy whole cargoes at Falmouth, or wherever else they were to be had afloat, instead of buying in bond at Liverpool.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 24, 1846.

I DO myself the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the result of my consideration on the subject of the purchase of the Indian corn still required to complete the service on which I am now engaged.

You will have seen that the issues at Limerick, which comprise a large part of Tipperary and county Kerry, all Limerick, and county Clare, and the mouth of the river Shannon, and the Coast Guard stations dependent thereon, amount to about 400 tons per week, and I have no reason to think that this demand will diminish. There are no potatoes in any quantity at this season of the year, and the people rely wholly on the purchase of Indian corn meal for their food, which, in those localities where it has been introduced, is preferred to the oatmeal, and even to the potato.

You will have observed that the weekly issues at Cork amount to 2,000 sacks or 250 tons, and Mr. Hewetson reports that he had only 5000 bushels of unground corn in his stores.

We may thus certainly calculate on 650 tons weekly through the month of July, independently of the demands on the coast of Connemara and Mayo, and the interior of that county; but I have made arrangements to throw 300 tons into the

Westport dépôt, and I shall be prepared to increase that quantity, and the cargoes are beginning to arrive at Sligo, so that I can defer this last consideration until I can judge of it with more certainty.

I return, therefore, to the most important demand, that of Limerick and Cork, which will require a supply of 650 tons per week, and I submit to you my requisition for 3000 tons of Indian corn, deliverable at Cork.

I compute that this quantity will meet all our wants to the beginning of August or thereabout, and I trust that the harvest and its employment, and the incoming crop, will enable us after that date to leave the country to its own resources.

But it is most essential that this purchase should be made at the earliest possible moment, it being of the first importance to supply the mills at Cork with grain, so that they may be ready to continue to administer to the supply without interruption.

I have the most perfect conviction that all the issues now in progress, which are made exclusively to the Relief Committees, are the result of the extensive destitution which is prevalent throughout that part of the country; and that the crisis now immediately preceding the harvest has only been averted by these precautions of the Government.

It was to meet this crisis, and while the provisions of the country were at prices within the reach of the Committees, that we abstained from opening the public depôts, reserved for the moment of the greater pressure.

This period duly foreseen and announced by the Government has arrived, and with it, as I imagine, a responsibility on our part to provide for it.

It is under these circumstances that I now respectfully submit to you my requisition for a further purchase of 3000 tons of Indian corn to be consigned to Commissary General Hewesom at Cork, of which a proportion should be sent immediately, and the remainder with as little delay as the circumstances will admit.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

June 26, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that Messrs. Baring have been instructed to send a further supply of seven hundred tons of Indian corn in grain, and three hundred tons in meal, at the earliest possible period to Cork, consigned to C. G. Hewesom.

But before coming to a decision upon the increased estimate, amounting to three thousand tons, submitted in Sir R. Routh's letter, dated 23rd instant, their Lordships' desire that he will seriously consider whether the existing pressure, which threatens prematurely to exhaust the depôts, is not in a great degree owing to the price fixed for the Government meal being too low, with reference to the market prices in each locality; and, if such should be the case, that he will modify the prices for the sale of the Government meal to suit the circumstances of each district.

Their Lordships also desire that he will furnish a comparative statement of the Government price and of the prevailing market price at each of the places at which the principal depôts are established.

It appears from the instructions for the guidance of the constabulary engaged in the sale of the Government meal, a copy of which has been furnished with Sir R. Routh's letter, dated 24th instant, that one uniform price of 10*l*. per ton for Indian corn meal, and 15*l*. per ton for oatmeal, has been fixed for the stations at which the Government meal is sold through the agency of the constabulary; but as one fixed price for the Government meal cannot be equally applicable to the varying market prices in different parts of the country, an early revision of the prices at which the Government meal is sold is indispensably necessary.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, June 24, 1846.

THE prejudice of the people against the use of Indian corn, never in my mind very formidable, may now be said to have passed away altogether in this part of the country. They do not eat it merely as the alternative of starvation, but I am assured that they generally prefer it to any other substitute for their accustomed food, inasmuch that few of the Committees now attempt to offer them

anything else, and their sales of this meal are, with the exception of a few favoured districts, the sole resource of the poorer population throughout this south-western part of Ireland. To cut off this resource would have such consequences that, I believe, no Committee would attempt it, were the Government aid wholly withdrawn, for it is acknowledged on all hands that the country, at present in a state of the most perfect quietness, has been saved from one of turbulence and plunder only by the system of measures adopted, and principally by the introduction of this new species of food.

To one who has had my opportunity of observing the gradual progress of opinions and feeling respecting these measures, it has been both interesting and gratifying to watch the transition from indifference, mistrust, and hostility, to the unanimous and spontaneous expression of confidence and satisfaction; but although I have never held out the prospect of a continuance of our present liberal rate of supply, and could with perfect consistency check it immediately, I will not answer for the effect of such a change. The higher prices which the Committees would have to pay for other supplies would bear hard upon their funds already diminishing, and oblige them, either to make farther pecuniary exertions in order to maintain them, or to raise their selling prices; the former a difficult, the latter a very hazardous experiment, for the people have heard of the remonstrances of the dealers against our interference with their trade, and would at once connect with the supposed influence of such representations any curtailment of the relief they are now deriving from the depôts.

A feeling of this kind might change the present peaceful condition of the country to one of lawless violence, for the people know and loudly acknowledge the benefit they are receiving from the interposition of the Government, and their anger at an interruption of it would be great in proportion to their disappointment. Almost any sacrifice therefore would be preferable to the risk of such a reaction, and although I am not inclined to turn aside in search of political motives with which I have no concern, I hear so much on the subject, and from so great a variety of sources, that I cannot help expressing my belief that the cost of this service, whatever it may be, will be amply compensated by the improved tone which it will have imparted to the relations between the people and their rulers, and also between the higher and lower classes. They have seen, and are not slow in declaring, that in a great emergency they are not neglected, but have been rescued from a state of frightful misery, or, to use their own strong but common expression, that "Only for the Government meal, thousands would have been now 'dying by the road side.'" A little further perseverance must serve to complete this impression, and although I am aware that little dependence is to be placed on the gratitude of a multitude, facts live long in their minds, and though the feeling which arises out of them may for a time yield to newer impressions, a solid ground of confidence can never be wholly effaced from recollection. I know it to be an opinion among reflecting Irishmen that more will have been done in these few months to counteract the efforts of agitation, than years could have accomplished under ordinary circumstances.

This is the favourable side of the picture; but, at the same time, one cannot be blind to the actual and possible evils of the interposition between the people and want. Dealers complain, not altogether without reason, though somewhat unreasonably, and to an extent not warranted by the circumstances, of our interference with their natural traffic, and many persons express to me their apprehension of the future inconvenience of the precedent now established, the people being now really better off in many respects than in seasons of ordinary abundance. These are points which must be left to settle themselves hereafter, and in the mean time we may be thankful for the prospect of passing easily through a crisis which threatened so much more awful consequences.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 24, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of the instructions circulated by Colonel McGregor, Inspector-General of Constabulary, for the guidance of constables having charge of sub-depôts, in pursuance of the arrangement suggested in my letter to that officer of the 20th May last, a copy of which was transmitted to their Lordships in my letter No. 162.

ENCLOSURE.

(Circular.)

Constabulary-Office, Dublin Castle,
May 27, 1846.

INSTRUCTIONS for the guidance of the CONSTABULARY having the charge of, or engaged in the sale or distribution of OATEN and INDIAN CORN MEAL, issued by authority of His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant.

1. In cases where the Commissary-General requires the assistance of the Constabulary in the conveyance of supplies for Relief Committees, or to depôts, county inspectors will appoint a constable to take charge of such supplies, with the usual escort to the place of consignment.

2. In places where there are no Relief Committees, the custody of, and accountability for the stores (which will be confined to Oaten and Indian Corn Meal), will remain with the constabulary. The county inspector is therefore authorized to appoint a constable for this duty, who will retail the meal in small quantities, and at low prices, viz:—

Oatmeal	£15 per ton.
Indian Corn Meal	10 "

The constable so employed will be entitled to 2s. 6d. per diem, from the Commissariat Department, in addition to his constabulary pay.

3. If absolutely necessary, a room may be selected in the immediate neighbourhood of the barrack for the custody of the meal, for which a moderate rent will be allowed by the Commissariat Department.

4. No sale is on any account to be made to dealers or retailers.

5. A form of account with printed instructions will be furnished to the constable, to enable him to account for the stores in his charge, and to note down the proceeds of the sale.

6. Commissariat officers will be sent from time to time, to collect the sums last referred to; but as their visits can only be periodical, the money should be lodged, at least once a week, with the sub-inspector of the district.

7. If it should be necessary to distribute the meal in payment for labour under the directions of a Relief Committee, the constable will still retain the custody and accountability, and enter the issues and receipts in the printed account.

D. M'GREGOR, Inspector-General.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 24, 1846.

CAPTAIN POLE has done what many persons in first learning their business are apt to do, merely out of their anxiety to do well. At first he referred everything to me before he acted, and these frequent references delayed the service unnecessarily. He was then told to act on the principle, and in the spirit of our instructions, and his zeal carries him to the other extreme. The *aurea mediocritas*, the discretion that steers between either excess, is not acquired immediately; but good sense and earnest zeal like his, will not fail in discovering the right path. His letter is dated on the second day that he had begun to act, and it was natural enough that he should go a little beyond the spirit of our principle as regards his labourers and the carmen; but the depôt itself could not be dispensed with. It supplies King's County and North-west Tipperary, and the interior of Galway. There are only 200 tons in his depôt. It will be time enough in August to send his remaining balances to Limerick. You will also recollect that the dealers had been hoarding up their supplies for this very period, and that if there had been no Government supply, the prices would have been most exorbitant; and you will also admit that to make the Indian meal popular, it must become known, and its use circulated throughout the country; and that this popular taste once established, it opens a course for private speculation in future years, on an article already appreciated and sought after by the people. The dealers have certainly been disappointed, and the enormous usury at which they sold their oatmeal, at 25l. per ton, payable at three and six months, has, in most instances, been put a stop to. There was one class of persons, the small farmers, with their 5, 10, or 15 acres, who were in a truly pitiable state, above the class which were applying to the Relief Committees, to whose fund they had subscribed their 5s. or 10s., and having no other alternative than these usurious imposts from the dealers. To this class whose potatoes were exhausted, I have authorised issues from half a cwt. to 2 cwt. of meal, according to their families, to help out their subsistence, on a certificate from a clergyman or magistrate vouching for the parties seeking this relief. I shall put Captain Pole in the right way.

P.S.—The only difficulty I have with the coast-guard people is this over-

zeal, but it requires management to repress, or rather to conduct it, for I must not show want of confidence, and I have rather to praise and to commend. I find the constabulary quite what I wish, but through so many ramifications, with committees of all descriptions, we must expect some imperfections, some occasional deviations from our general principles.

MR. TREVELYAN to MESSRS. BARING.

Treasury, June 25, 1846.

I DEPEND upon your giving me the earliest intelligence in your power of your proceedings under the order of last night.

I shall be obliged to you to consider that order as extended to 1,000 tons of Indian corn, if that quantity can be procured cheap and of good quality and ready for transmission to Ireland.

Also, that not less than 300 tons of meal should be purchased at once, in part of the above order, at Liverpool or elsewhere, accordingly as it may be sent at the earliest period to Cork; the whole to be consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson.

Sir R. Routh informs me that he has written to your agent at Liverpool "to prepare him."

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 25, 1846.

I REQUESTED Messrs. Baring yesterday evening to purchase 700 tons more of Indian corn in such manner that it might be sent to Cork at the earliest possible period.

And this morning, in consequence of the receipt of your further letters, I have requested them to purchase, besides the above 700 tons, 300 tons more of meal, and to send it to Cork without delay.

All this is in addition to the cargo which you have directed Mr. Hewetson to purchase at Cork, and to the balance of the cargoes previously ordered.

Messrs. Baring will give me the earliest advice of their proceedings under these orders, and I shall send copies of these advices to you as I receive them.

It now becomes my duty to recal your serious attention to the letters which I wrote to you by desire of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 3rd and 5th instant: the first pointing out the necessity of regulating our prices in each locality with reference to the market prices, and the second stating the Chancellor's desire that no purchases might be made in Ireland except in cases of extreme necessity.

Since then many indications have appeared that, without denying the existence of real and extensive distress, and the necessity of relieving it, the great pressure upon our depôts is mainly owing to the sales from them being made too indiscriminately, and, above all, *at too low a price*.

I have already informed you that the attention of Lord Lincoln and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was forcibly drawn to the fact of the Banagher depôt having been opened for the general sale of meal to all comers; and the following extracts from the letters from Messrs. Hewetson and Coffin, which I have received from you this morning, are deserving of the most serious consideration.

"Mr. Hewetson, June 20, 1846.—I do not despair but I shall meet all demands, that is, if all the corn advised arrives; but do not lower your price below 10*l*. You will alarm the importers; they are indeed already alarmed, and two of the leading merchants came to me on Thursday to ask what the intentions of Government were, as they heard we intended reducing our price, and to issue without limit, thus in a measure breaking faith with the trade. I would rather, when the relief funds are exhausted, give it gratuitously, than lower the price and prevent the trade from acting in concert with us; but I do not in this country look to the funds being prematurely exhausted."

"Mr. Coffin, June 22, 1846.—It becomes a question for serious consideration

"whether it is possible to maintain the present almost unrestricted distribution "as long as the demand is likely to last, and if not, whether it is better to put "a gradual or sudden restraint upon it. Assuming restraint to be really "necessary, I should give a decided preference to the former, because I believe "that the latter would cause great alarm and distress; but if we could be sure "of such a fall in the market as might render restraint needless, we might go "on boldly with our issues as long as the demand continues. All that I wish "is to keep your attention awake to the alternative, and particularly to the "fact that a fall in the price of Indian corn may fall to relieve immediately "the pressure on the depôts of this district, in consequence of the present "difficulty in converting it into available food."

It is a most important point to be borne in mind, that our plan is, not to *give* the meal away, but to *sell* it, the funds for its purchase being provided by a separate machinery of private subscriptions, Government donations, and public and private works, which machinery may be considered as forming the basis of our operations.

To fix a fair price for the sale of our meal, therefore, according to the state of the market, so far from implying a withholding of relief, can only have the effect of preventing abuse, of making our resources last as long as they will be required, and, as Mr. Hewetson expresses it, enabling the trade to act in concert with us; while the opposite course, of fixing an unduly low price, must paralyse the private trade, instead of controlling it, and prematurely exhaust our depôts by bringing the whole country upon them. *No addition we can make to our stock could stand a demand arising from such a cause.*

For these reasons, it appears to me to be indispensably necessary that you should revise the prices fixed for the different depôts, in order to put a gradual restraint upon the issues, and to re-establish the connection between the local committees and other parties in want of meal, and the private traders.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 25, 1846.

I HAVE your note this morning of the 23rd. I have no meal that I can transfer from other depôts, excepting Dublin, and here we are doing it. I get the first boat to day; each boat takes 50 tons. You have no time to lose. I have an offer this morning of a cargo, the "John and Richard," Clarke, master, from Genoa, which a Mr. Wilson offers to me at 35s. per quarter. I write to Mr. Hewetson on the subject, as the vessel is at Cork, and authorise him to make a bargain, hoping he will obtain it at 33s., as the offer at 36s. includes freight and insurance to any port in the United Kingdom. He says it weighs 64 lbs. per bushel; this would bring it to about 8s. per ton. I dare say the master will let it go at 34s.

There is also another offer, through Messrs. Baring and Co.'s agents, of a Tuscan cargo, deliverable in three weeks, in meal, from the firm of Messrs. D. Lane and Son, and (as I understand the letter) to be ground by that firm at Cork; but this, I think, is objectionable. The price is 10s. per ton, and Messrs. Lane and Son are corn-dealers, I therefore refuse it.

You speak of raising the prices at the depôts from whence we are now transferring meal, but our price is only the market price, and the issues we do make from them are most important, and could not be refused. The fact is, it is the season in which the wants of the country are everywhere most urgent, and we have nowhere too much, and I wish we had everywhere twice what we have.

You will recollect we are not giving away the corn, but selling it, and therefore there is no cause for hesitation, and I trust you will give Messrs. Baring at once the order for the whole quantity. My only fear is they cannot supply it; and it is for this reason amongst others, that I wish to be in communication with their Liverpool house, to know immediately the result.

I fear I must write to Mr. Coffin, to give only a proportion of the demands upon him; but I shall try and wait your reply, for such an order would have a most inconvenient effect at the present distressed moment.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 26, 1846.

I HAVE yours of the 24th instant. I send you a private note this morning of Mr. Coffin; but I must remark upon one point, where he speaks of the prices of the dealers in contrast with ours. Take the price of 36s. or 37s. per quarter, which averages about 8l. per ton, and if you add to that the cost of grinding 30s. to 28s., our price at 10l. per ton cannot be said to be too low. It speaks for itself, and we could not conscientiously ask a higher rate. The offer of Messrs. Lane and Son, at Cork, including all their expenses and profit, was 10l. per ton. There could not be a more convincing proof that our price is quite as high as it ought to be. I send you also a letter from Mr. Hewitson, who states that his mills now grinding for him produce 2000 sacks per week; but he must do more than this, and I write to this effect. I send you a memorandum of the mill power at Sligo, and we must rather send in that direction one or two cargoes more to supply its own wants and that of Westport, and leave to Cork the care of Limerick; but Cork must get three or four cargoes before any are sent to Sligo.

We have six weeks of very active service before us, and I shall not be sorry to see that period accomplished, for I am occupied from 10 in the morning till 10 at night; and though I have given up all society whatsoever, I feel the effects of it. The only thing that keeps me in health is early hours, night and morning.

I shall be ready to receive ——— as soon as he arrives. His destination is a beautifully romantic country, with a peasantry as wild as its roughest scenes.

His chief object will be to give more order to the Coast Guard issues, and to keep us advised of the real state of the wants, and superintend their discreet administration.

The Lord Lieutenant expressed to me in very strong terms his unqualified approval of all our arrangements.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COCHRAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, June 25, 1846.

Yours letters of yesterday and to-day have set me tolerably at ease again about our prospects, but I had begun seriously to fear that we must again curtail our issues; and although I was quite prepared to do this, having constantly warned committees against relying too much upon the continuance of our present liberal aid, it would have been both a difficult and an irksome task, and I would not answer for the consequences, at least while the difference between our price and that of the market continues as great as at present. The actual tone of satisfaction and contentment among all classes can hardly be exceeded, but a renewed limitation of our issues would press hard upon the remaining funds of most of the committees, and their periodical sales are for the most part, in this south-western section of the country, the sole resource for the subsistence of the poorer part of the population. In fact, I do not believe that any Committee could venture to stop these sales, even though we should desert them altogether, for I have repeatedly been told, not by Priests but by country gentlemen, that the attempt would be followed by immediate outbreak and plunder. It would be almost equally difficult to raise their selling price in proportion to that at which they would be obliged to purchase, and as the remonstrances of the dealers have already got wind, and are exciting some indignation among the people, any change of this kind would be ascribed to their influence, so that the inability to maintain our actual rate of supply until the market shall fall nearly to our level, would almost reverse the good that has been done, and substitute disappointment and ill-will for the present feeling of grateful confidence.

I sincerely hope, with you, that August will see us out of our troubles; for although we have proceeded thus far more successfully than I had promised myself, it is the most anxious and unsatisfactory task that I ever undertook, working in the dark, with no assurance at any moment that the next step will be in the right direction. Your labour must have been far more severe than mine, yet I have often felt as if it would be impossible for me to go on any longer, and nothing but the urgency of the case would have induced me to persevere. It is, however, some consolation to know that we have not laboured in vain, and I can answer for all here, that they have merited any approbation that may be bestowed upon the exertions of the department.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 27, 1846.

I SEND herewith a copy of a letter I have received to-day from Messrs. Baring, which will put you in possession of their proceedings in the execution of our order, as far as they have been completed.

You will observe that the purchases have been made at very favourable rates.

I have communicated with you so fully in my recent public and private letters that it would be superfluous for me to make any further remarks until I receive your answer.

I take this opportunity of sending you a copy of a letter to the Board of Works, and of a more recent one to Mr. Pennefather, having an important bearing on other portions of the operations for the relief of the people.

See Board of
Works series,
pages 292 and 293.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, June 27, 1846.

IN consequence of the order I have received from Sir Randolph Routh to purchase two or more cargoes of Indian corn in this port, and for sacking the meal now manufacturing from the recent consignment to me from Messrs. Baring Brothers, I have the honour to request an additional number, to the extent of 10,000 sacks, may be sent here by the earliest possible conveyance. This supply is so urgently required, it will be necessary they should, as well as the 5,000 already demanded, be shipped without fail in the Thursday's steamer from London; and if sacks of the usual texture and price are not to be immediately had, others to meet this emergency should be provided, so that no possible delay should take place in their arrival here, or very serious inconvenience would be the consequence.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 30, 1846.

Write to the Secretary of the Ordnance that an urgent demand for a further supply of 10,000 sacks for the service in Ireland having been received at this Board, my Lords request that the Master-General and Board will give directions that this demand may be immediately complied with.

It is considered to be of much importance, that the whole or the greater part of these sacks should be consigned to Commissary-General Hewetson at Cork by the steamer which leaves London on Thursday next; and if sacks of the quality most approved, viz., those at 1s. 7½d. each, cannot be provided by that day, it is desirable that others, similar in quality to any previously supplied, should be purchased to meet this pressing demand.

Acquaint Commissary-General Hewetson with the above direction.

Also Sir R. Routh.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Castle, Dublin, June 27, 1846.

WHEN I forwarded to you Messrs. Hewetson's and Coffin's notes, I had no time to accompany them by any remarks. Mr. Hewetson had no reason to suppose that I had any intention of reducing our price, and he was one of the first who repeatedly and urgently recommended the present rate. The whole country is swarming with dealers, who have been hoarding corn to exact upon it an usurious price, and it is not fair to call those exactions the market price for an article introduced expressly for its cheapness, and recommended under that advantage to the use of the poor.

While the price is 36s. per quarter, and it is much under that, it can be sold at a profit at 10½ per ton. In the early stage I laid before you a statement that showed that the price of a penny per pound left a profit, making the calculation on the whole importation from America.

We announced in March our intention on the 15th May to reduce our price from 11*l*. to 10*l*., and we were urged on every side to do so at an earlier period; but all the best authorities coincided that the most severe pressure would commence after the farm labour in May until the commencement of the harvest. I thought our small depôt, I say small with reference to the population, would be sufficient for that period, and indeed I did not actually begin our issues until quite the end of May. The charge of indiscriminate issues is unfounded, for, with some few exceptions, the issues have been limited to Relief Committees. Those exceptions have been the small constabulary depôts, consisting of 10 or 15 tons, and some of the minor depôts where this relief was given to the neighbouring poor at the same price, and to the small farmers who had holdings of 5 and 10 acres of land. The miller and corn dealer whose complaint was the loudest was a Mr. —, a person to whom great encouragement had been given, and he was made aware of our intention to fix the price at 10*l*. in lieu of 11*l*., and he said "I shall sell then at 11*l*," his previous price having been 12*l*. But the meal which he sold was greatly inferior in fineness and in quality, and the Committees preferred ours. Under no circumstances could we have continued our price at 11*l*. with the sole effect of enhancing the profits of private dealers; and more than once we were reproached by persons of high standing, of making at this price of 11*l*. an undue profit for the Government out of the distresses of the people.

I am therefore quite certain that I have not erred in fixing this price, and I am persuaded that it could not be raised now without some strong expression of feeling in the country.

The run on our depôts arises from many causes, from the strict limits put on our previous issues, from the more severe pressure of the summer months, and the increasing popularity of the food, and the superior quality of that provided by the Government.

If we have made a mistake in opening our depôts with too small a supply, it must be remembered that we have had no data of calculation, that we could not anticipate the extent of the demand, that if we provided too much we incurred the reproach of an ill-judged expenditure, and thus in adopting the safer alternative of leaving something to provide, we are exposed to the charge of having under-rated the distress of the country.

To turn now to another part of the subject which is connected with the preceding remark, I have been very anxious to obtain from Mr. Hewetson an estimate of the mill power available in Cork, and his reply this morning informs me that he cannot grind beyond 350 tons per week, and he accompanies this statement by a proposition to apply to Government for an issue of biscuit to be dispatched from England. I lay before you a copy of my answer to him this morning. We cannot now change our plan, nor are the Irish a nation with whom such changes are possible. To say nothing of the expense of such a plan, of such doubtful result, we have not time for it, and we should be paralyzing the effect we hope to establish by the introduction of Indian corn.

I hope still that Mr. Hewetson may be able to extend his mill power, but if not, we must diminish the purchase of whole grain deliverable at Cork, say from 9000 to 8000 tons, including in that quantity another cargo to Sligo, where it may be ground for Westport and Connemara, so as to limit the supply at Cork to the two depôts of Cork and Limerick.

Mr. Hewetson gives me no detail of the mill power at Cork, only the result.

Until I receive from you some further instruction as to the course the Treasury wish me to pursue, I shall go on without ostensibly contracting our issues, but exercising a quiet reserve so as to meet the present circumstances, being convinced that I could not openly restrict those issues, or reduce our price, without much excitement and some danger.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir R. ROUSE to Mr. HEWETSON.

Castle, Dublin, June 27, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 26th instant, and with it the first information of the quantity

you can grind at Cork, but which I confess is much below my computation. Do you not think that by employing more mills you could grind a larger quantity than 350 tons per week?

I am aware that we have not pressed the thing hitherto, and, if I recollect right, our usual average of grinding was 2000 sacks or 250 tons; but the case would be widely altered, I hope, if we employed all the disposable mill power.

I do not propose that you should continue your grinding beyond the month of July, but what you can grind up to the end of that month will be available, for you will grind almost exclusively for the two depôts of Cork and Limerick.

I will write to-day to the Treasury to diminish the quantity one-third, and I regret very much that until now I was not aware of the fact you now announce, that you cannot grind more than 350 tons weekly; indeed so much was I disposed to think it might be extended that I cannot help entreating you to reconsider even now the possibility of increasing that quantity.

I propose to send a proportion of the quantity now applied for to Sligo, where they may grind for that depôt and Westport and Coneyman, so as to limit your exertions to the Cork and Limerick depôts.

As for changing this food to any other, I cannot concur in your opinion, and I have no reason to believe that it would be successful. It would be also a most expensive proposition.

Let me implore of you to favour me with your exertions until the end of next month, a short period, and I am sure, with our united efforts in one direction, we shall be much more successful than by submitting different propositions at this last moment, when our labours should be undivided.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, June 27, 1846, 8 A.M.

THE very heavy demand upon our depôts has awfully diminished our supplies of Indian meal; you will have had full reports thereon from Sir R. Routh; he tells me he has strongly urged further consignments to me here, to the extent of 3000 tons of Indian corn; but this will not be available to meet the July and early part of August pressure. It cannot be landed and manufactured, packed, and re-shipped coastwards in anything like sufficient time. If you look to my instructions to millers, you will see that 10 days must elapse between the receipt of the grain and its delivery in meal, that period being required for its manufacture. Much time, also, must unavoidably be consumed in discharging the vessels; and again, after the meal is packed, shipping it to its destination. My advice is, and I have stated it to Sir R. Routh, that immediate steps should be taken to feed the people with *blé*, that article being available for immediate use; shipments of it to be accordingly made from our victualling stores in handy vessels direct to each depôt. The people would, no doubt, prefer the Indian meal, but it cannot be got ready in time in sufficient quantity to meet their demand, and what can be more wholesome than soaked *sea-biscuit*, when there is real destitution. What has made the demand upon us so heavy is the cheapness of the meal, and the readiness with which it is obtained from the Committees. The people will never be tired of feeding upon us on such terms.

I address this communication to you in a most hurried manner, to save post. It accompanies my demands for sacks, which is most pressing. I have purchased to the extent of about 2500 sacks, or 312 tons Indian corn, to be manufactured within three weeks by the parties, at 10*l.* per ton the meal. To-day I purchase a cargo of corn; at least, I am in treaty for it. The "*Patience*," a Trieste vessel, the last of the three Mediterranean consignments to me by Messrs. Baring, commences discharging to-morrow; but the mill power I command will not at this dry season turn out more than 400 tons per week.

MESSRS. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate-street, June 27, 1846.

IN compliance with your wishes, we wrote to Liverpool on the 25th instant, to buy 300 tons of Indian corn meal and ship them to Cork, and we have no doubt that, by this time, purchases have been made. We desired our friends to communicate what they did to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh.

Here we have bought about—

- 500 quarters, Indian corn, per "Jack O'Lantern," from St. Michael's; arrived at Cork, at 32s. per quarter.
 500 or 600 quarters, per "Jane," from St. Michael's, now at Falmouth, at 31s. per quarter, deliverable at Cork.
 360 quarters about, per "Vencidor," now at Falmouth, at 30s. per quarter, deliverable at Cork.

1360 quarters about.

The Bill of Lading of the first purchase, now at Cork, has been already forwarded to Commissary-General Hewetson, and orders have been sent to Falmouth for the other vessels to proceed on their destination.

I have no doubt that the remainder of your order will be executed on equally favourable terms.

You will receive regular official advice of these purchases.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Mountjoy Square, June 28, 1846.

I WRITE a few lines to say that I have a letter from Mr. Hewetson this morning, stating that he has been able to make arrangements to grind 500 tons per week, which I well anticipated, and I do not doubt, if the occasion requires, that he may even greatly exceed that quantity. However, this I dare to say will meet the contingency, and I hope you will not hesitate in ordering the second 1000 tons of Messrs. Baring, leaving, if you insist upon it, the last thousand to be governed by circumstances. I hope my letter of yesterday will convince you of the propriety of the price of 10*l.* per ton, and the danger of raising it, for the Committee can hardly pay that, and are constantly soliciting some diminution, as they have, in addition to the price, the cost of the transport to their several districts.

The article cannot by any possible means bear a higher price.

I see by Mr. Hewetson's letter, that his inducement to accept Messrs. Lane's offer made to him through Baring's agents, was the use of the fine steam mills belonging to that firm, which is a great acquisition.

If you assist us, I have no fear of the result, but there must be no change of price.

I cannot write more, as I am an invalid to-day, and intend to remain quiet to recruit.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, June 29, 1846.

You are to have the second thousand tons, and the third thousand is to be governed by circumstances, as proposed by you; but I sincerely hope that you will be able to do without it.

Messrs. Baring inform me that they have completed the purchase of the first thousand tons within 300 quarters.

And I have arranged with them that they are to buy 500 tons *at once*, in part of the second thousand, entirely in grain, and to send one large cargo of it to Sligo, and to wait till I hear from you how much of the other 500 tons you wish to be in meal, and to what places you wish to have it sent. It appears that meal is to be had in considerable quantities at Liverpool, whence it may be shipped at once to any quarters where it may be required.

I quite agree with you that it would not be advisable to commence issuing biscuit, as proposed by Mr. Hewetson, except so far as you may find it expedient to have recourse to the army supplies already at your disposal.

I am desired to state that the fixed prices at which the Government meal is sold, are, on no account, to be again lowered without the previous sanction of the Treasury.

Also that no more purchases are to be made in Ireland, such as Mr. Hewetson has lately made at Cork by your directions, without such previous sanction—this being a bidding against ourselves, and tending to confuse all our arrangements.

Messrs. Baring inform me that a whole fleet of ships laden with India corn has arrived with this westerly wind, and he thinks that the price, even on the western coast of Ireland, will soon fall below 10*l.* a-ton, which would relieve us from all our difficulties.

I hope to hear to-morrow that you have got rid of your indisposition—we have not time to be ill now-a-days.

Pray what was the date of your last General Report of your proceedings? Another such General Report, bringing the history of your operations up to the present time, would now be very acceptable.

THE SECRETARY TO ORDNANCE TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, June 29, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Board of Ordnance having, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of this date, given directions for the immediate supply of 10,000 sacks demanded for the service in Ireland, Messrs. Henry, the contractors, have stated that they will use every exertion for the early delivery of the same at the Tower, and state that they will be delivered by Wednesday morning next, if possible:—viz., 5000 sacks at 1*s.* 7½*d.* each, 5000 sacks at 1*s.* 5½*d.* each. And I am to add, that directions have been given for forwarding these sacks to Commissary-General Hewetson at Cork, as requested in your letter.

Captain POLE TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, June 29, 1846.

DURING the past week the issues from my *dépôt* have been 110,000 lbs., circulated over the counties King's and Tipperary, and some new Committees of Relief have also sprung into existence. The language of these bodies is now of a more importunate kind, testifying to increased distress, and no doubt can remain that were it not for these supplies, coupled with employment of the poor on public works, the privations of the population in the three counties for which I am concerned, King's, Galway, and Tipperary, would be dreadful—such, in fact, as would have rendered all property in the shape of food a common prey, or a guarded object of jealousy.

The language of the Relief Committee of Nenagh will best exemplify the state of the poor in Tipperary. This Committee was procuring a continuous supply from my *dépôt*, and I requested them to specify again, for my information, the causes which compelled them to apply so frequently to Her Majesty's stores. They stated through their secretary:—

"1*st.* That farm labour had been almost completed by the setting of oats, potatoes, and turnips, and that therefore the number of labouring poor for whom they had to provide employment has more than doubled. We have 350 labourers having families, averaging 5 each family, at present employed, and now pay them half hire in money, and half in Indian meal, at the reduced price of 1*s.* per pound.

"2*nd.* That the supply of potatoes to the Nenagh market has been reduced to two sacks on the average per day, and this miserable supply of an esculent of a bad quality, in a town with a population of 10,000, one-third of whom are in extreme want, necessarily makes the supply of meal not only desirable but absolutely necessary to alleviate actual famine."

It is difficult to procure from Committees generally so ample an account of the causes of application as the above; but they all correspond in one sentiment, viz., that distress is urgent, unusual, and increasing.

The little Committee of Banagher, with its comparatively rural population, is very active; bodies of able-bodied poor appealed to it for work or food, and they have supplied them with both.

I have now a fortnight's experience of the daily retail sale instituted at this *dépôt*, and I have every reason to be highly satisfied with the result. I have no fear of too great an openness in this system; none of the principles of the department are lost sight of. The Committee of Banagher is selling twice a week their wonted limited supply to their own selected objects at 3*d.* a stone

cheaper; my sale only lasts four hours in the day; parties purchasing must give their names and residence, which is registered in a book before them; an application for more than two stones leads to farther inquiries, and for three to a reference to myself; but the practical results are the best proof of the useful and frugal character of this sale. The quantities sold range from half a stone to two and a half, the far greater quantities being under two stones. The daily average sale reaches 500 lbs., and I can safely say, as an eye-witness, that the poor people who are purchasers leave Her Majesty's store with grateful hearts that such a cheap and excellent food has been placed within their reach.

P. S.—A rumour that 800 men were coming in from the county Tipperary has, since I wrote the above, compelled me to apply for the first time for military assistance. There is now a guard of soldiers at Her Majesty's store. It is also reported that a priest met the people, and upon his addressing them, they dispersed.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 29, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson, advising the steps which he had taken upon the authority of my communication No. 151, which was transmitted to you in my letter No. 214, and dated 23rd inst.

In reference to the question which you address to me on the subject of the price adopted in the Commissariat sales, I beg to point out this transaction as offering a reply and fair criterion of the correctness of this decision, inasmuch as Messrs. Lane and Son, who are dealers in corn, can afford to sell the article (of course with a profit) at the same price.

I beg to recommend the arrangements advised by Commissary-General Hewetson for their Lordships' approval.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 30, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that as arrangements have been made under their Lordships' superintendence for sending without delay to Ireland such farther supplies of Indian corn as are required, and great objections exist, as stated in former communications from this Board, to purchases being made on account of Government in the local markets, their Lordships desire that no further purchases may be authorized of the description of those reported in these letters.

Also state that their Lordships do not consider the remark contained in the last paragraph but one of Sir R. Routh's letter, dated 29th June, on the subject of the price fixed for the sale of the Government meal, to be a sufficient answer to the letter from this Board, dated 26th June; for the price at which a wholesale dealer can afford to sell an entire cargo at the place at which it is imported is no criterion of the price at which smaller dealers can sell by retail in distant parts of the country; and it is the retail price in each locality, as compared with the price at which the Government meal is sold, which determines the extent to which recourse will be had to the Government stores.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 30, 1846.

My letter must be short this morning, as I have a very heavy correspondence at the Commission.

Mr. Pennefather showed me a letter from Lord Lincoln dated the 27th (a day after the date of the Treasury official letter, of the 26th), in which he stated that he had seen Mr. Goulburn, and explained the nature of our demands, so as to ensure a compliance with them. He knows the localities; and also that I could not quote to you any market price of Indian corn (except in a few instances), as there was not usually more than one holder of the article, and not

often that. The market prices, in the real signification of the term, apply to potatoes, oats, and oatmeal, and the presence of a cheaper article influenced those prices; but Indian corn meal rarely competed with Indian corn meal.

Mr. Russell is at Limerick collecting a dépôt, in case ours is exhausted; but we shall be disposed to allow him room to act whilst his prices are moderate. He has the advantage of the best steam mill, and the only permanent water mill at Limerick; and could afford to sell, at a very reasonable price.

I have a letter from Messrs. Baring's house at Liverpool, stating that they were shipping a cargo of 300 tons of Indian corn meal to Cork; now it is very desirable to ship the corn to Cork, but the corn meal should go to Limerick, to save a double shipment; and if you could order one or two more cargoes of meal to Limerick, you would render us a most essential service. The issue at Limerick this week is not quite so large. I am pressed for time, and must conclude.

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Castle, June 30, 1846.

ONE word more to say, that I have ordered five sacks of the old military biscuit at Limerick and Cork to be delivered over to Mr. Coffin and Mr. Hewetson, to see if their rural Committees will take it, and if they will, I shall make an arrangement for continuing the issue. Five sacks go to each. I think it may also be tried at Connemara from Galway.

TREASURY MINUTE.

June 30, 1846.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer states to the Board that when it became necessary, in the latter part of last year, to take precautionary measures in anticipation of the expected failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and it was determined to procure a large supply of Indian corn from the United States of America, the house of Messrs. Baring Brothers, and Co. was selected as the one best able to render Her Majesty's Government the assistance required; and on the heads of that house being applied to, they at once expressed their willingness to place at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government all the facilities which their established connections afforded for the successful conduct of such transactions, and subsequently stated that the correspondence would be conducted by a member of their firm who was not in Parliament, and that no member of their house would participate in any commission or other benefit to arise from the operations in respect to which they might be the medium of transmitting the instructions of the Government.

The trust so reposed in Messrs. Baring's house has been with eminent ability fulfilled; and in all the transactions which have taken place up to the present date, including large purchases of Indian corn and oatmeal in this country, in addition to those made in America, the proceedings of the firm and of their agents have been distinguished by an anxious desire to execute the business on the most favourable terms for the Government, and by an attention and exactness highly creditable to all concerned.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer considers it due to the members of Messrs. Baring's house that the honourable and distinguished manner in which they have thus given their assistance in an emergency caused by a deficiency of the means of subsistence of a large portion of the population of Ireland, should be properly placed on record, and he suggests that a copy of this Minute should be sent to the members of the firm, in acknowledgment of the public service which they have performed.

My Lords approve, and desire that a copy of the Minute be sent accordingly,

SIR R. ROUTH TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 1, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of 29th June: I am better, but I feel that ten hours a day of desk work is enough to overwork a strong constitution, and cannot long be continued with impunity.

Our wants will depend much on the intensity of the demand, and which I repeat to you, has no connexion with the price. Our rural Committees are many of them getting tired of their responsibility, and would readily avail themselves of the withdrawal of the Government assistance to throw up the burden they have undertaken. They require, therefore, to be encouraged. The great demand is Limerick, and if you can send a few cargoes of meal in that direction, they would be most serviceable.

You tell me not to lower the present prices without previous sanction. I am not aware that I have done so, for you may remember I had your authority at a very early part of the service to fix it at a penny per lb., and I have never reduced it to that price, except on the east side, where the vicinity to Liverpool enables the trader to retail it at that rate.

I have so much to do with the outposts, and the applications without number, that I must delay the report you speak of, but it will come better a little time hence, when we can foresee the event with some more certainty.

I enclose to you the price current of provisions from Sligo, that is the town prices, where they are better off than in the environs. There is no sale of Indian meal on the west coast, except Limerick, and at the moment not even there.

Mr. Coffin writes me, that he had commenced his experiments yesterday on the apparently damaged corn, which promise to succeed. The white corn handed from the "Concord," which looks and smells quite mouldy, comes off the kiln bright and clean, without any bad smell or taste. The Genoa cargo was unexceptionable. The steam mill had come down to 4s. 6d., and he will be able to grind 50 tons per week, or something more, and about half that quantity at Banagher. The demand on this last dépôt averages about 50 tons per week. The issue at Galway last week was 120 tons, nearly two-thirds to the Coast Guard stations. Clifden is in a sad state of famine, and I propose to send all the old biscuit belonging to the military dépôt at Galway for that post, and probably load a vessel from hence with a portion of it. In their extreme want, and being chiefly fishermen, it will be well received. I shall limit all my biscuit operations to the old biscuit in store, waiting to be exchanged, and to no other. The quantity at Galway is about 4,500 lbs., but the highest price we can ask for it, is 8s. per cwt., and in some cases not that, where the mice and vermin have attacked it, or where there is a great deal of dust or powder. I write to Messrs. Coffin, Hewetson, and Doherty, to make the experiment with a few sacks.

The dépôt at Clonmel, notwithstanding that the local traders and the Committee are selling at the same price, is also much in demand.

It is curious to observe the difference of taste. In this last-mentioned district they almost reject the white corn, and prefer the yellow; and in other parts, particularly county Mayo, they will not purchase the yellow, and the women have an idea that it affects the complexion of their children.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN of PROVISIONS in the MARKET at SLIGO for the Week ending on Saturday, 27th June, 1846.

Date on which the Market was held.	Potatoes.				Oatmeal.				Oats.			
	Tons.	Price per Cwt.		Tons.	Price per Cwt.		Tons.	Sacks, 24 lbs. each.	Price per Sack, 24 lbs. each.		Tons.	Price per Sack, 24 lbs. each.
		From	To		From	To			From	To		
27th June, Saturday . . .	107	s. d. 2 4	s. d. 3 0	3	s. d. 11 6	s. d. 12 6	760	18 0	19 0			
In Merchants' and Mill-owners' Stores . . .	..	..	..	600	13 6	14 0	..	..	..

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

July 1, 1846.

I hope soon to have time to write more at length, but I have been overwhelmed with business lately, and have had barely time to eat or sleep. The meal is becoming very popular, and it is very gratifying to hear from all classes, rich and poor, interested and uninterested, the same unvaried testimony to the

wisdom and success of the Government relief operations. All admit that, but for the presence of the Indian meal, oatmeal would have been, instead of 14s., 25s. or 30s., and at least 40s. on loan.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Treasury, July 2, 1846.

I HAVE requested Messrs. Baring to change the destination of the 300 tons of Indian corn meal from Cork to Limerick.

It was ordered to Cork as the *Port of Call*, as we could not tell to what quarter your arrangements might require that it should be ultimately sent; and if the ship has actually sailed for Cork, you have only to send orders for it to go on at once to Limerick.

Before any more meal is ordered to Limerick, I shall await the receipt of your reply to my letter dated the 29th ultimo, in which I requested you to inform me how much of the unappropriated 500 tons of the second thousand you wish to be in meal, and to what places you wish it to be sent.

You will be glad to hear that Mr. Goulburn has written to his successor in the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, Mr. C. Wood, expressing in strong terms his sense of the zeal and ability with which you and those serving under you have acquitted yourselves of your difficult task.

Sir R. ROUTE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 2, 1846.

ADVERTING to my letter, No. 241, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson, reporting the arrangements he had entered into with Messrs. Lane and Co. to meet the pressing demands of his dépôt, and which, I trust, will be approved of by their Lordships.

Their Lordships will observe that no further purchases were intended to be made by Commissary-General Hewetson.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTE.

Lee Mills Dépôt, Cork, June 30, 1846.

WITH reference to your several communications upon the urgent necessity of replenishing our stock in this dépôt, to meet the pressing and heavy demands from the west coast and my committee (57 in number), I have now the honour to acquaint you that, in addition to my purchases of Indian corn and meal, reported to yesterday's date, I have this morning concluded the following arrangements with Messrs. Samuel Lane, extensive corn-factors and millers in this city:—viz., they are to grind in their powerful steam-mills, the use of which I have not hitherto been able to obtain, 2500 sacks, or 312½ tons of corn, on my account, at the usual rate of 3s. 6d. per sack, on condition that I take an equal quantity of meal from them, which they are to manufacture from corn of their own importation. The delivery of the whole, equal to 5000 sacks, or 625 tons, to be completed by the 28th July (supplying in the mean time such portions as may be ready)—the meal at 10l. per ton. The rate is high, but you are aware it is indispensable the cargoes of corn I have purchased should be ground with all despatch, and that the meal (not taken out of the market, as it would not be manufactured here except on the above conditions) is urgently required. I have therefore, under existing circumstances, felt myself imperatively called upon, the parties refusing to await return of post for reference to Dublin, at once to accept their terms. This arrangement, with others I am using every means to accomplish, will, I hope, enable me, weather permitting, to meet the most pressing demands, and to carry on the service without interruption. I now propose to discontinue purchasing until I receive your further instructions.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Treasury, July 3, 1846.

You will find overleaf a copy of a letter from Messrs. Baring, which will show you that our last order for 1500 tons has been completed, and I now await your answer to my previous letters in regard to the remaining 500 tons.

It appears to me that if any more is required, it had better be sent in *meal* direct to the place where it is wanted, which I conclude will be Limerick.

I shall act at once upon any further intimation which I may receive of your wishes to-morrow, and if I do not receive any, I shall probably order another cargo of meal to Limerick.

However great may be the merit of doing this business well, that of getting well out of it, will, in my opinion, be still greater.

I send a copy of the Treasury minute referred to at the commencement of Messrs. Baring's letter, and I am sure you will agree with me that it is well deserved.

MESSRS. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Charles Street, July 3, 1846.

OUR house has received the very flattering approbation of its conduct by the Treasury, and we are proud to have earned your good opinion.

Of the 300 tons of meal bought at Liverpool 110 will certainly be sent to Limerick.

A vessel had been already freighted to take 190 tons to Cork, but we shall try to change her destination to Limerick.

Your order for 500 tons, or about 2500 quarters, Indian corn, has now been completed, of which, about 1400 quarters have been sent to Sligo, and the rest to Cork. You will receive regular advice of these purchases, and we now have ceased to buy.

Prices must decline, and if you want any more, the longer you can wait the cheaper you will buy.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 3, 1846.

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 201, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that between Cork and Sligo, and, as far as I can learn, from thence to Belfast, there is no wholesale or retail sale of Indian corn meal. From Belfast, however, it is widely extended into the interior.

A Mr. Russell is now grinding and preparing one or more cargoes for sale at Limerick, but I have not heard any price announced. This person, in the month of March and April, did retail a limited quantity at 12*l.* per ton, at the time that our price was 11*l.* per ton; but he stated to Mr Coffin that, on the reduction of our rate to 10*l.*, he should sell at 11*l.*, and which he could readily do, as he could make his purchases at 7*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.*

I annex copy of a letter from Deputy Commissary-General Dobree on the prices now ruling at Waterford, which, in fact, are the ruling prices on all the east coast of Ireland, and even at Armagh and Monaghan, and other places to the north-east more in the interior.

At Drogheda, and at some other points, the price is 9*l.*

I lay before you extract of the prices on the 31st May, also on the east side.

The price of oatmeal, from the increased popularity of the Indian corn meal, is fallen to 14*s.* and 15*s.*, and even at that price is nominal in those situations where the latter can be procured, which is, of course, a disappointment to those who held back this supply with a view of exacting 25*s.* per cwt.

In the meanwhile the distress is very severe on the west coast, particularly in Connemara and county Mayo, and on the lower and the south-west coast of Donegal; and on the whole south and south-west coast the weather has been very stormy, preventing the arrival of consignments and stopping communication.

I find that one of the chief grounds for the drain on our two main depôts of Cork and Limerick has been the desire of the several Committees to secure a stock in hand, and frequently they do not draw more than half the amount of their requisitions, and often less; their object being to have this quantity appropriated for their use, to be drawn out from time to time in small portions.

I have applied to have the biscuit now at the several military stations to be

placed at my disposal, wherever it can be made available to the wants of the people. I propose to ask 8s. per cwt.; but it is broken and much of it in powder, and in some cases partially attacked by vermin, and will not realize that price except when it is in tolerably good condition. It is quite an experiment, but the difference of price may recommend it, particularly where the population is chiefly composed of fishermen.

ENCLOSURE.

Deputy Commissary-General DOHREE to Sir R. ROUTH.

Waterford, July 2, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 96, with its enclosure, and also Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Routh's communication of the 30th ult., stating that I should have to receive Indian corn from Cork for the purpose of being ground here.

In ignorance of the arrangements making to replenish our depôts, and of the motives for such arrangements, I think it always my duty to apprise you that there is a very large quantity of maize in this port, and that if it be consistent with your measures, I could obtain a supply of meal of the best quality adequate to our wants under 9l. 6s. 8d. the ton. The water-mills at this season depend on a fall of rain, and the owners of the two steam-mills have so large a stock of corn of their own in hand, that I doubt our being able to get any large quantities ground as we require them. I have been told that several cargoes of corn have been purchased at Cork for 10l. the ton by Commissary-General Hewetson, so that if there be no objection to our purchasing on the spot, and I am of opinion that at the present moment a contract with one individual for any given quantity would not affect the market price unfavourably, such an arrangement would offer great advantages.

I will reply to your letter about the biscuits to-morrow.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 4, 1846.

As Mr. Hewetson's purchases amount altogether to upwards of 1500 tons, the 3000 tons which you last asked for have been more than completed, and I shall therefore order no more meal to be sent to Limerick, unless I should hear from you on Monday or Tuesday, in reply to my former letters, that it is indispensable that more should be sent.

I have not received any private letter from you either yesterday or to-day.

Although Mr. Hewetson reports that he has completed his purchases, and you state that you have instructed him to purchase no more, I feel it my duty again to urge upon you the extreme importance of no more such purchases being made.

The effect of them upon the local markets is evident from the high prices given by Mr. Hewetson, and the notice of them contained in Mr. Dohree's letter; and if we go on in this way, we shall not only habituate the people to depend upon the Government for food, but shall also in some degree create a necessity for their doing so, as the general knowledge that the Government is from time to time in the market as a purchaser must have a strong tendency to keep up prices. The merchants at Waterford and elsewhere are stated to be ready to sell at reasonable prices, and why cannot the Local Committee, and others who require supplies of food, deal with them as well as with the Government? Large importations of Indian corn are taking place, in addition to the influence which must be exercised upon the markets by the expectation of an early and abundant harvest; and if we do not now allow dealings in the provision trade to return to their ordinary channels, I do not know when they will return.

I shall be glad to know how the biscuit answers, but you must not allow Mr. Hewetson to intercept the new army biscuit, except in a case of extreme emergency.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 4, 1846.

I HAD proposed to write to you at length, but I have been prevented, and it is now six o'clock. Indeed I am so surrounded and interrupted, that I am frequently afraid my letters written in such haste must be full of errors, but I know that you will excuse them.

I think all the 500 tons had better be sent to Limerick, but then it depends on the time by which the order can be executed, and a hint should be given to pay attention to the quality, to which objections have been made. If this quantity can be sent from Liverpool on or before the 20th, but not later, it might arrive in good time, but if not, such quantity only as could be dispatched on or about that period.

I should think the whole might be got ready, but I have no idea of the mill power at Liverpool.

Pray remember to caution them about the quality.

I sincerely hope this is all that may be necessary, and I am sorry I have not time to send you my answer to Mr. Dobree's letter of the 2nd, which was forwarded to the Treasury. I will do so, and you will see I am beginning to prepare for the period when our services ought to be discontinued.

It is a question with me, whether the donations should not stop with July, but it is rather too soon to judge.

Messrs. BARING BROTHERS and Co. to Mr. TREVELYAN.

4, Bishopsgate Street, July 4, 1846.

We have the honour to inform you that we have received two letters from Messrs. N. and J. Cummins of Cork, dated 30th ultimo and 1st instant, advising sundry purchases of Indian corn and meal, which they had effected by directions of Commissary-General Hewetson, for account of Her Majesty's Government; and for the payment of which they were instructed to reimburse themselves by drafts upon us.

We take leave therefore to beg you will favour us with your instructions as early as it may be convenient, as we have written to them in reply that we have received no authority from you to honour their bills.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 7, 1846.

Write to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., with reference to this letter, that the enclosed copies of four Reports from Commissary-General Hewetson, dated 25th, 27th, 29th, and 30th of June last, will put them in possession of all the information which has reached this Board regarding the details of the purchases of Indian corn and meal made by that officer at Cork.

These purchases appear to be to the extent of about 1550 tons; and my Lords request that Messrs. Baring will be pleased to settle for the payment thereof through their correspondents, Messrs. N. and J. Cummins of Cork; and their Lordships will be prepared to direct reimbursement of the amount to Messrs. Baring in the usual manner, on being informed of the particulars.

Positive directions have been given to Sir R. Routh not to allow any more purchases of Indian corn or meal to be made by any of the officers serving under his orders in Ireland.

Request that the enclosures may be returned when they are no longer required.

Major SIMMONDS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, July 4, 1846.

THE sale of Indian corn meal has done wonders in the surrounding counties, having secured to the Government golden opinions throughout the land, and I have heard them fearlessly asserted by common workmen, such as—"This is the sort of repeal for Ireland, and may the Almighty bless our Queen!" "After all, Peel is a

true man to Old Ireland, and the right sort." In short, the poor people fully appreciate all that has been done for them, and, if left to their own honest feelings, this truly would prove a land overflowing in all constituting the blessings of life—health, peace, plenty, and happiness.

The Limerick store of Indian corn meal is almost run out, in consequence of the non-arrival of several vessels due from Cork and elsewhere, their non-arrival being attributable to a continuance of stormy weather for several days. It is rather a ticklish affair, and should not a single ship come in immediately, Committees must look to the markets for a present supply of food. Mr. Coffin has yet some unground Indian corn, but there is a difficulty in getting it ground, owing to a want of water in the Shannon. I met with a gentleman this afternoon from Banff, who explained the necessity of extending relief even to small farmers. In conclusion, allow me to suggest for your consideration the advantage, in drawing the relief affairs to a close; that Committees should, as soon as harvest labour commences, begin to withdraw their tickets *gradually* from the people, keeping on their returns to the last, such persons as require relief most.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, July 5, 1846.

I WRITE a few lines to say summer has brought us a little rest, but what is more, it has brought me confidence that we shall not fail at the eleventh hour. Our combinations are successful, and we shall, I have not the smallest doubt, now meet all demands. Besides the "Queen" steamer I have a fleet of sailing craft going between this depot and those on the coast; all the mill power in Cork and neighbourhood, worth having, I have got possession of, and in obtaining which I have had to bring into use all kinds of persuasive argument and means. By the first week in August all the corn in band, and that to arrive advised to this day, say together 16,000 sacks, or 8000 tons, will, I expect, be manufactured by this combination of all our efforts. I do not think we shall find it necessary to turn to the biscuit, but it is well to have it in reserve.

The events look well, and the people were never before so well fed and with such wholesome food. As I have before observed, had not these wise precautionary measures been taken, there would have been a general insurrection throughout all the south and west of Ireland, and what would a famished people not have resorted to?

I find you have ordered meal to be purchased in Liverpool. I wrote some weeks ago to Messrs. Baring of that city to say the meal the trade were importing here from thence was so bad in quality the people were beginning to dislike it, and that a growing prejudice against it had only been checked by the pure wholesome quality of that manufactured by us; that supposing they were not well acquainted with the mode of manufacturing it there, I sent them a copy of my instructions to millers, which I begged, it being of so much importance that none but what was perfectly good should be sent to Ireland at this crisis, they would make known. I trust, therefore, my letter will have had a good effect, and that which you have ordered will turn out of a fitting quality.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, July 5, 1846.

ALTHOUGH Sunday, I must acknowledge your letter of the 3rd, which reached me this morning. The conduct of Messrs. Baring's house is above all praise; and nothing could be more proper, or better deserved, than the Treasury Minute. We have also to thank the very kind and liberal feeling of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in mentioning us to his successor; and I hope that the conclusion of the affair will be worthy of its commencement, and that you will not disapprove of the manner of our getting out of it.

On this point I have a proposition to make to you. At the present price we shall never sell the oatmeal; and before two months, it will be down to 10*l*. per ton, and fall even lower with the incoming harvest, and the new importations of Indian corn.

If you will consent to take time by the forelock, and agree to sell it at Limerick, and Cork, and Galway at 12*l*. per ton now, we may save this loss,

unless you have some other service to which you could apply it. But if you decide on it, you must determine on it *at once*. Flour or grain speculations require promptitude and decision. You must go before the event, and not wait until it overwhelms you. All these holders of oatmeal are coming down by degrees, and their fear of losing now, which prevents them adopting a resolution which they must come to in a few weeks, will be the cause of their suffering a heavier loss hereafter. In all matters of business, the value of a thing is what it will fetch; and as the people have taken to the Indian meal, they will not go back to the oatmeal generally, even at a low price, but partially they may, if a fair and reasonable reduction is *at once* made, so as to give those who retain their old habits a possibility of gratifying them. After a time the large holders will follow their example, and very much to their advantage when they do so.

I wrote yesterday to request the shipment of the Indian corn meal from Liverpool to Limerick; and if we can get the whole of it *there*, I mean the 300 and the 500 tons, with what we can consign from Cork, I shall then propose to let that dépôt gradually exhaust itself; and this is the *general* view that I take of all the dépôts after the 31st of July.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Treasury, July 6, 1846.

I HAVE received this morning your letter of the 4th instant, but as you do not advert to the fact that, including Mr. Hewetson's purchases, the whole quantity of 3000 tons, for which you last applied, has been completed, and you state no urgent necessity for further shipments, but rather leave me to infer that the proportion of meal which might be sent from Liverpool on or before the 20th instant, but not later, is not a matter of vital moment, it has been determined not to order any further quantity.

It must be remembered that while, on the one hand, you have the whole of the Indian corn, oatmeal, and biscuit still in store to dispose of, and have a large quantity of Indian corn yet to grind, on the other hand, the new harvest will soon begin to come in, backed by large importations of Indian corn; for Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom where Indian corn is as yet in any real demand, and the whole or the greater part of the cargoes which have lately arrived, and are yet to arrive, must find their way thither.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, July 6, 1846.

It is quite impossible to appreciate at a value superior to their merit the wisdom, prudence, and care which provided those supplies of food to the poor of this country, the circulation of which is the happy business of my department. This is not my sentiment only, it is the sentiment of all classes; the priest and his flock; the clergyman and his parishioners; the anxious rich and the apprehensive poor. Without such provisions, this portion of Ireland would now be in anarchy. It is a rough word to use, but it is a true account of what has been averted. I believe that many thousands of the poor depend at this moment for subsistence on the supply of Indian meal which the Committees who represent their wants procure for them from the Government dépôts.

These sentiments, my dear Sir, are the result of my experience on the close of the labours of a very busy week, labours which I may feel the effects of hereafter in a certain intellectual stiffness, when they are brought to a close, but which at present stimulate my whole being to an equality with their urgency, and reward me, at the same time, by the beautiful results which I see they create around me. Sometimes a Committee identifies me personally with the grand measure itself, and in admiration of the good which they are enabled to perform, give to the officer who distributes, the praise due to the wisdom which provided; and some of the poor, in their ignorance, anxious to bestow the highest honour on the person to whom they think they owe their greatest gratitude, attribute to Mr. Daniel O'Connell the supplies of food thus sent into the country.

The last week has been a very interesting one; the calls from some Committees

upon my dépôt to replace deficiency of food in the localities they represent; from others, to place at their disposal food within reach of the poor man's charity-created means; from some to give the food wherewith to pay the wages of the poor employed on public works, have been so urgent that from morning to night the doors of the dépôt have been open.

The quantity issued in the six days amounts to 180,000 lbs.; and such gleams of light have been cast through chambers hitherto darkened by the masses of this precious commodity, that I was reminded that the first duty of a Commissary is to keep up his supplies. I have, therefore, appealed to my department to have my dépôt replenished, which, doubtless, will be duly accomplished.

To-morrow I set a mill in Banagher, at work, grinding a small consignment of Indian corn which Commissary-General Coffin has sent me as an experiment. If it succeed, of which I have no doubt, there will be more forwarded.

The retail issue continues to give me assurance that a small quantity of the meal thus issued, spreads around an immense deal of good. People walk eight or ten miles for the stone or stone and a half. I have limited this sale to three days in the week, and the quantity sold to two stones, to any one individual. The number of poor small farm people thus relieved is very gratifying, a class who would sooner starve than go to the Committee at Banagher and confess their wants. They register their names in the book kept at my store without scruple, and go away with the proud assurance that they have been relieved by the charitable wisdom of the State, without mixture of any local charity.

The department of the Board of Works evidently effects much good. Upon a representation of the large assemblage of unemployed poor in this vicinity, mentioned in my last as the cause of my applying for a guard over my stores, that Board forthwith employed them at 10d. a-day in the formation of a road near at hand; all is now quiet again, and my stores are without a sentry.

There cannot be a greater proof of food distress than the fact that money has lost its value as respects food, and that some Committees pay the labourers they employ on local works, in the Indian meal, the labourers preferring it to cash.

The popularity of the Indian meal is complete. The manner in which it turns out from my stores, after a long confinement, is most satisfactory.

Should the experiment of grinding in Banagher succeed, I shall feel the success of my little department here very satisfactory. And I close my epistle with again affirming, that but for the creation of these copious streams of food there would be famine in this part of Ireland.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 6, 1846.

I HAVE your letter this morning of the 4th instant, and I perceive you are alarmed, and indeed I at first partook of that feeling, for your letter was my first intimation of the extent of Mr. Hewetson's purchases. On more quiet reflection I do not think any harm will come out of it, farther than that the price he has paid is somewhat higher than that paid by Messrs. Baring, which is natural enough from the wider range of their information and facilities.

Still it is to be considered that his purchases were of an article *already* in port, and its quality known and open to inspection, and not the purchase of a cargo at sea or in a distant port, of which the weather might retard the arrival, and then to be brought up the river to discharge, to be landed, sent to the mills, and all the process of manufacture before it can reach the Committees. Therefore, looking at these contingencies, and the short time we have to provide, and, as I hope, to issue, I trust there will be no ultimate cause for regret. I acknowledge that my only object was to keep Mr. Hewetson's mills employed; and until I hear from him on the subject, I cannot say that he has done more than this, or what he thought was more, for of course he could have no certainty in regard to arrivals, and he writes me word that he was under great anxiety from the fear of a failure in the supplies, which would have been attended with most serious consequences in many places, even, as he had reason to believe, to the extent of an outbreak; and the month of July is quite as urgent on the score of scarcity as June, and probably it will continue through the half of August, until the people are generally employed on farm labour. As for the new potatoes, those used by the people called lumpers, will not be in before the middle of September. This is a fact that you can easily ascertain on inquiry.

I hope you will agree with me that there is always a greater difficulty in recommending a precise measure for adoption than in carrying out such measure from yourself, when you feel your way, and judge as you advance of the accuracy of your views or information.

If the whole 3000 tons are ordered, certainly the meal ordered at Liverpool beyond that quantity should be suspended, and I shall write to-night to Messrs. Baring's house at Liverpool to wait further orders from the London house before they proceed in it.

I quite understand all your feelings and enter fully into them, but you must remember what an uncertain service this is, and that we must not be too sanguine of being able to name a fixed day for withdrawing all our assistance. I solemnly assure you that I have the greatest desire, and you will see it realized by the event, of suspending our exertions as soon as it can be done safely.

Will you have the goodness to send me a return of the late purchases made by Messrs. Baring, and I have called on Mr. Hewetson for the same information, so that I may know all my resources.

I hope soon, as the subscriptions, and consequently the Government donations, are now diminishing, to have some surplus funds in my hands. What shall I do with them towards the end of this month, when I shall have them disposable. I have been obliged to establish another constabulary dépôt at Oughterard, in Connemara. The constable at Strokestown, County Roscommon, has been seized with fever and delirium, and is at present out of his senses, but I do not hear that any loss has resulted to the public.

The issues continue at Limerick, and we have recommended Russell the dealer to some of the Committees, but he wanted to sell at 11*l.* 10*s.* and even higher. If our depôts were removed, it would require all the police and military to maintain the peace.

I look to the end of August as the date of our terminating our duties, and at all events the Commission might cease on that date, and begin to reduce the establishment early in the month. But we must remember that July is a month of heavy pressure, and it is only in August we can begin to watch events, and prepare to wind up.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 6, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Coffin, of the 4th instant, stating that the two merchants who had held the survey on the oatmeal had claimed a fee of two guineas each for that duty, which he had paid, and likewise a similar sum to the Sub-Inspector Williams.

I do not offer any opinion on this charge, as my experience in these mercantile usages does not authorize me to do so; but I must acknowledge, if I had anticipated their demand, I certainly should not have caused application to have been made to them.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, July 4, 1846.

REFERRING to my letter of the 22nd ultimo, No. 117, I have the honour to inform you that the two merchants, who at my request attended to hold the survey on the oatmeal, claimed from me a fee of two guineas each, alleging this to be a professional charge, in accordance with established usage, which they could not properly waive; and, having no reason to doubt their assertion, I have paid it accordingly.

Sub-Inspector Williams's attendance on the occasion being quite out of the course of his ordinary official duties, I have considered him entitled to equal remuneration, and have, there-

fee, paid him a similar fee of two guineas; but I must observe that it was not claimed by him, and that on every occasion when his assistance has been needed during the present service, it has been most readily and usefully afforded.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 7, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships will not refuse their sanction to these payments.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 6, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of my letter, No. 103, to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, with a view of laying before you the plan I shall endeavour to adopt for gradually decreasing the strength and number of our depôts; but with respect to Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir, I do not propose to recommend any hasty measure during the month of July. I also wait Deputy Commissary-General Dobree's reply.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General Sir R. ROUTH to Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE.

Dublin Castle, July 4, 1846.

I observe by your letter of the 2nd instant that your stock of corn is exhausting, and that you do not expect to be able to obtain any facility of grinding at Waterford, in consequence of the large supply of corn in the hands of the millers, who are willing to dispose of it at or under 9l. 6s. 8d. per ton.

It will occur to you that it is not our object to interfere with trade, but only to step in where the trade price is too high for the people, or to act under circumstances where the trade have no supply on hand.

There appear to be the circumstances which still present themselves at Carrick-on-Suir and Carrick Beg, and partially at Clonmel; but while there is a large supply in the market, and at a reasonable price, I do not see the object of any interposition on our part. I beg therefore to suggest to you to propose to these large holders, who are selling at or under 9l. 6s. 8d., that you are not disposed to compete with their business, but will rather direct the applications of the committees to them if they will agree to continue their sales of meal on these moderate terms.

Your supply will then only be called for at Clonmel and Carrick; and in regard to the former, if the same arrangement could be made with the trade there I should think the same result might be allowed to follow.

I am not of opinion that any of these depôts can now be abandoned; we must watch events; but we may safely begin to prepare for the period when our services at the harvest ought to be discontinued.

Pray favour me with your reply.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 7, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that my Lords entirely approve of the instructions given by him to Deputy Commissary-General Dobree.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 7, 1846.

Your note, dated 5th instant, recommending that the price of our oatmeal at Limerick, Cork, and Galway should be at once reduced to 12l. a-ton, as the

only means of disposing of it without serious loss before the new harvest comes in, has been received by me with much satisfaction, not only as furnishing a striking proof of the degree to which the taste for Indian corn has been established among the people, but also as showing that we possess in our stock of oatmeal a supply of food on which we can rely for helping to carry us on until the period of scarcity is past.

We cannot be expected to procure additional quantities of Indian corn merely because the people prefer Indian corn to oatmeal. We have to administer to their substantial wants, and not to their varying tastes, even if the offer of oatmeal, to which they have so long been accustomed, could reasonably be objected to even as a matter of taste.

I understand the prices at which our oatmeal is at present sold to be 14*l*. a-ton at Dublin and Limerick, and 15*l*. a-ton at other places.

Certainly, this price should be reduced to whatever rate will be likely to save us from the loss which would arise from our being left at the commencement of the harvest with a large stock of oatmeal upon our hands; but, whether the rate of 12*l*. a-ton be the best adapted to accomplish this object, you must judge for yourself; and if you feel satisfied of the solidity of the reasons for an immediate reduction, I see no objection to your acting on your own discretion as regards oatmeal, reporting your proceedings for approval. But you must not go below 12*l*. a-ton.

We shall be obliged to lay before Parliament our estimate of the sum required to make good the deficiency arising from the relief measures sooner than I had expected; and the same opportunity must be taken of laying before Parliament selections from the correspondence showing the nature of the measures which have been adopted, and the precautions which have been taken to protect the public interests in connexion with them. We ought to have all this ready in a fortnight from this time, certainly in not more than three weeks; and it will, therefore, be necessary for you to turn your attention to the subject without delay.

Our estimate of the deficit cannot, I suppose, be founded on an actual account of results; but you must calculate it as nearly as possible, whether it arises from loss on the sale of the meal, donations, or any other source, except the expense of the Commissariat and Acting Commissariat establishment, which will, as usual, be separately provided for in the Commissariat estimate.

You have not yet given us any statement of the sums realized by the sale of the meal, which must be very large, and I hope the money is properly secured in the Bank of Ireland or the Provincial Bank.

The early making up and rendering of the accounts for the Commissioners of Audit is also of much importance, and you can employ on this any of the officers or clerks whose services are no longer required at the depôts.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 7, 1846.

To give you an idea of my posts, I will write you down those of county Mayo alone:—

Dunkeyna.	Dooghart.	Ballynaskill.
Ballyglass.	Achil Beg.	Claggan.
Belmullet.	Killeries.	Cliffden.
Tallaghan.	Renvyle.	Roundstone.

These are constabulary depôts:—

Bellins.	Rosecommon, county Rosecommon.
Castlerengh, county Rosecommon.	Balinoe, county Mayo.
Strokestown, county Rosecommon.	

and I have applications for

Swineford.	Castlebar.	Hollymount and Tumm.
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I do not propose to act upon either of these last four, but probably it will be necessary to meet the want at Loughrea or Gort, which is under consideration.

You can have no idea of the details of all this, and the extent of my correspondence.

I do not think that our purchases will exceed the necessity of the case, but we are again suffering from boisterous weather, and I have eight cargoes now on the way to Limerick, I believe, weather bound.

Be assured of this, that if the precautions we are taking had been neglected, there would not have been an animal left alive in the country, nor a mill nor a store unpillaged.

I have this from so many sources that I cannot doubt it.

Messrs. Baring to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Charles-street, July 7, 1846.

It may interest you to know that two floating cargoes of Indian corn at Falmouth might be had at 26s., and perhaps at 25s., to be delivered in any port in Ireland.

These low rates may check shipment, particularly if the report be true, that the drought has injured the crop of maize in the South of Europe, but I think arrivals and low prices will continue for three or four weeks to come.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Treasury, July 8, 1846.

BEFORE noticing your letter of the 6th instant, I will furnish you with a copy of a note I received yesterday from Messrs. Baring, and of my reply of this morning.

"Bishopsgate-street, July 7, 1846.

"It may interest you to know that two floating cargoes of Indian corn, at Falmouth, might be had at 26s., and perhaps at 25s.; to be delivered in any port of Ireland.

"These low rates may check the shipments, particularly if the report be true that the drought has injured the crop of maize in the south of Europe, but I think arrivals and low prices will continue for three or four weeks to come."

"C. E. Trevelyan, Esq."

"Treasury, July 8, 1846.

"Although the rates at which the two cargoes of Indian corn, adverted to in your note of yesterday, are temptingly low, I am happy to say that we do not require to make any further purchases.

"It is stated at the close of the letter from your firm, that your friends at Liverpool were proceeding in the shipment of the corn meal with all possible dispatch, &c.

"I presume that this refers to the completion of the last Liverpool order for 300 tons of meal to be sent to Limerick.

"It was at one time anticipated that we might have to give a further order on Liverpool for 500 tons, but this has been rendered unnecessary by Mr. Hewetson's purchases; and Sir R. Routh, who appears to have written direct to your agents at Liverpool, on the subject of the above-mentioned 500 tons, writes to me in a letter received this morning:—

"If the whole 3,000 tons are ordered, certainly the meal ordered at Liverpool beyond that quantity should be suspended, and I write to night to

"Messrs. Barings' house at Liverpool to wait further orders from the London house, before they proceed in it."

"Including Mr. Hewetson's purchases, more than the 3,000 tons in question have been ordered, and we have now, I think, come quite to the end of our purchases."

"*Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co.*"

To which I have just received the following answer:—

"*Bishopsgate-street, July 8, 1846.*

"You are quite right in supposing that the shipments by our Liverpool house are the 300 tons of Indian corn meal bought in pursuance of your directions, and no further purchases have been made or authorized."

"I congratulate you on the termination of your feeding operations."

"*C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.*"

Mr. Baring's congratulations on the "termination of our feeding operations," are rather premature, but I am quite satisfied with the progress you are making towards the accomplishment of that important object.

The first and most essential point is, to have it thoroughly and generally understood that our purchases have come to an end, so that the dealers may no longer be interested in keeping up their prices, in order to make good bargains with us, and that they may make their arrangements with confidence for the supply of the markets after we withdraw from them.

The next is, to take every opportunity of restoring the direct communication between the private buyers and sellers of food, as you have so satisfactorily provided for in your instructions to Mr. Dobree, and to give all parties to understand that they will shortly have to make their own arrangements, without any assistance from Government depôts.

And all the rest will be done by the gradual exhaustion of the depôts.

The only additional suggestion I have to offer, is, that you should once more review your depôts in order to see whether a final transfer of supplies is called for from those depôts at which they are less, to those where they are more required.

I have, I believe, already sent you detailed returns of all Messrs. Baring's late purchases; but that there may be no mistake, I will again mention that of your last requisition for 3,000 tons, Messrs. Baring have purchased and sent off 1,500 tons, while Mr. Hewetson has purchased more than that quantity.

The proceeds of the sales should, I think, be paid, as received, into the nearest Branch Bank of Ireland, in order that they may be placed to the credit of your account at the principal bank at Dublin; and where there is no branch of the Bank of Ireland in the neighbourhood, the Provincial Bank would, no doubt, accommodate us by receiving the money at their branches, and making the transfer at Dublin.

On a review of all that has passed between us of late, I beg to assure you that where, as in this case, there is an anxious desire to co-operate towards a prescribed end, nobody is more ready than I am to make allowances for those pressing exigencies which must be met in the best way the circumstances of the time appear to allow.

The only point on which I am anxious for an explanation, is, on what grounds Mr. Hewetson considered himself justified in making purchases so much exceeding the quantity you had authorized.

Deputy Commissary-General DOBREE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Waterford, July 8, 1846.

SINCE my last letter to you our sales of India meal have been very considerable, particularly at Clonsilla, where the market price has been higher than at

Waterford, and where the demands from the counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny have been very great, whilst of the 200 tons of oatmeal originally deposited there, only 23 tons have been disposed of.

Within the last three or four days, Indian meal has considerably fallen in price in this market, and is to be purchased wholesale under 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* the ton, which we charge; in fact, the importations on private account are so large that the merchants are now selling this article at a loss, and the supply promises to be ample till the in-coming of the potato crop, which for the poor is not available till the beginning of September.

Sir R. ROUTE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Castle, Dublin, July 8, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 6th, and you have judged very rightly in not ordering the further meal from Liverpool, for, in my letter, I had not calculated the tonnage of Mr. Hewetson's purchases, which I had intended only to feed his mills.

I do not calculate on the biscuit; the Committees all show a great repugnance to take it, nor will they consent to do so whilst there is Indian meal to be had.

They preferred, at Limerick, to give 11*l.* per ton to Mr. Russell, rather than have the biscuit at 8*l.*

The only place where it is possible is Clonmel, but in a very small quantity, for the prices are falling there.

The dealers, at Waterford, agree to supply the Committees at 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, but there is some question about the quality.

At Carrickbeg the constable disposes in quantities not exceeding from 3*l*bs. to 7*l*bs., of about 4000*l*bs. daily.

At Clonmel the demand is also brisk, at 10*l.* per ton, but our price ought to be 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

There is great distress in County Mayo, and I give orders to-day for two more constabulary depôts at Hollymoust and Castlehar. At the former place, and in its vicinity, there are about 1100 men employed by the Board of Works, and they cannot pay for the oatmeal. Castlehar has a large poor population, and they cannot send to Westport, distant about nine Irish miles.

Mr. Parker is behaving very zealously, and independently of his own depôt, he has three constabulary depôts under his charge, and manages the whole with activity and judgment.

Mr. Waller is getting on well also. His depôt has not been so active as I expected, in consequence of the great extent of private speculation. As he disposes of his stores, we shall not replenish his depôt. He has two constabulary depôts. Captains Percival and Pole are decidedly, however, the most useful in that branch.

The weather is more calm, and the wind to the south, which is favourable to the ships bound to Limerick, about which I am very anxious.

I am collecting my funds from the outposts, and as I accomplish it I shall advise you.

The Mediterranean and Western Island Maize is decidedly inferior to the American.

Mr. Hewetson tells me all Messrs. Baring's cargoes, except two, are arrived and discharging.

He had sent round the "Polyphemus" steamer to Waterford, which will probably be the last cargo to that port. He does not mention the size of the "Polyphemus," and it is her first voyage on our account.

All Wexford and Wicklow, and the South of Kilkenny and Carlow, are selling at 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and we cannot keep up the price of 10*l.* long at Clonmel.

There will be no change at Cork, nor round that coast, nor Limerick, for the present. Sligo will show it first from its communications with Liverpool.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 9, 1846.

WE have hardly touched the last 5000*l*, and I am now calling in my funds from the outposts.

Your note of the 7th is very satisfactory.

We have been most unfortunate in the weather, very boisterous and contrary winds keeping out the ships bound to Limerick.

The "*Antoinette*," another of Messrs. Baring's ships, had arrived with her cargo heated.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 10, 1846.

I HAVE your letter of the 8th July, and observe Messrs. Baring's letter and your reply, and their congratulations. I sincerely hope that they may not be premature; but you must bear in mind that we kept back all issues during the winter, making the people consume their potatoes, and promised to throw open our depôts during the summer months, when the heavy pressure (just before the harvest and at the time when the potatoes must be all at an end) would weigh most urgently on the markets. This is precisely that time, and you will find that my calculation of the 3,000 tons by no means over-rated the demand. This is even a worse month than June. With regard to Mr. Hewitson's purchases, which are regularly reported in my official of this day, he has evidently acted for the best, and the *quality* of his purchases is admirable, and they were seasonable, and kept all his old mills employed, and furnished corn for the new mills engaged.

I am not sure that it would have a good effect to put forth any document stating that we had determined to make no more purchases, for the certainty of our retiring from the supply would induce all the small dealers throughout the country to raise their prices immediately. We had better feel our way, and towards the end of this month we shall judge on more certain grounds, and quietly lead to the result we are all desirous of reaching. It is not to be denied that this is the crisis of the struggle.

I sent an order yesterday to Mr. Waller to load a schooner of 100 to 140 tons from Dundalk to Westport, and consign the cargo to Captain Percival. She will go north about, and be about 10 to 12 days on the voyage. I can spare this quantity safely from Dundalk, and if I find he has still too much, I shall bring up to Dublin a further quantity from his depôt, which I wish to break up on or about the 10th August, certainly not later. As an issuing depôt Waterford will cease to be one, but there are two important sub-depôts to supply from that store, Clonmel and Carrick, where there is much want of provisions. I must do also something for Dungarvan, that is, as a constabulary depôt; there is reported to be much distress there, and the application is one of long standing.

From county Mayo there is a most earnest demand for two more constabulary depôts, which is supported by the representations of the Board of Works, in consequence of the absolute want of provisions at Swineford and at Ballaghadareen. I have given orders for the former, and I am taking steps in regard to the latter. These will be dependencies on Sligo, which had previously two sub-depôts of Ballina and Ballymote.

I have also strong applications from Loughrea and Gort, county Galway, and from Dunmore, all which I mention to you that you may understand the pressure that exists through the country, and to beg of you to bear all these considerations in your mind.

I have about 10,000*l*. to my credit at the Bank in Dublin, but I have transfers on their way to me which will greatly increase it.

I think one of our first reductions should be a term fixed for donations or subscriptions, and, if the Treasury assented to it, I should recommend that it should be made known that all such donations would cease with the present month.

This would be a stepping stone to the remaining steps to be taken, which would follow well in the wake of this order, and I think no time should be lost in making it known.

By the 20th to 25th of the month we shall be able to see the state of the depôts, and come to a resolution about dates of reduction.

I should be delighted to see them all closed by the 15th of August if the circumstances were favourable to it. At all events I cannot anticipate any longer period than the end of August, and that only to a very few. As I have observed, however, another fortnight will throw light on this question.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 11, 1846.

I HAVE duly received your letter of yesterday's date.

It was not my intention that any official announcement should be made of our having finally ceased to make purchases; but I think there should be no concealment on the subject, both for the guidance of our own officers, and to enable the larger dealers to make their arrangements with confidence for carrying on the supply. I rely upon the stock we have on hand being sufficient to enable us to control the markets in the distressed districts as long as it is desirable to exercise any check over them.

I see no objection to the plan of announcing that donations, made in addition to subscriptions, should cease with the present month; but previously to adopting this, or any other step for which the Government will have to answer, you will, of course, submit the subject for the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant.

The short way of preparing the estimate for Parliament would be, to add the sums which have been transferred from time to time from civil contingencies to your account at the Bank of England, to the cost of Indian corn, meal, oatmeal, freight, &c., and to deduct from the aggregate result the sums realized, or expected to be realized, by the sale of the meal; but Parliament would probably expect to have the estimate laid before it in greater detail; and at any rate, the Government would wish to have such detailed information, to use as occasion may require.

The following heads occur to me as those under which it may be proper that the estimate should be furnished:—

1.—Expense of the Relief Commission, clerks, &c., independently of your salary, which is borne on the Commissariat estimate.

2.—Sums advanced by the Board of Works for the purpose of making local inquiries into applications for relief, and for the superintendence and inspection of works.

3.—Sums advanced to the Board of Works by directions of the Lord Lieutenant, for the purpose of giving employment in cases of great emergency which had not been provided for in any other manner; this head not to include sums to be repaid from funds afterwards available under the Act 9 Vic., c. 1.

4.—Donations in aid of subscriptions.

5.—The cost of the Indian corn, and other supplies of food which have been provided to meet the present emergency, and the freight, grinding, and other charges.

And from the aggregate sum of these items will have to be deducted the amount realized, and expected to be realized, from the sale of the supplies.

The only part of the above estimate which can be furnished in this office is, the cost of the purchases made in the United States and in this country, and of the freight chargeable upon them; but I must depend upon you for the cost of the purchases made by Lord Lincoln's desire, and for the grinding and other items.

I have now given you all the assistance in my power in this matter; and I rely upon your immediately taking effectual steps to have the estimate prepared.

Another *general Report*, describing the progress of your operations since the last Report was made, and any changes that have taken place, is much required to lay before Parliament with the other papers; but it will not be necessary for you to enter into calculations of expense in this Report further than may be required by the plan of the Report.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 11, 1846.

MR. HEWETSON is working hard to replenish Limerick. He had dispatched 10 schooners with 8300 sacks. The "Rhodamantus" and "Dee" were loading 1800 more, and will be leaving Cork this day; and another schooner was loading with 1840 sacks of the meal purchased at Cork; in all, 11,440 sacks and barrels; and, in the course of another week, I calculate on 5000 more sacks.

I think you will agree with me on the advantage which has been derived from these Cork purchases; which, though dearer, have been of unexceptionable quality, and that they will bear Mr. Hewetson harmless through his operations. I refer you to Mr. Hewetson's official report of the "Jane," the "Antoinette," and the "Vinceloe." What shall we do about these vessels, as we shall require to have the same quantities replaced? I have been thinking much of your proposal to announce our intentions of making no more purchases, and I am come to the conclusion that, if this is the intention, it had better be put forth at once.

The "Société" was much worse than any sample I have seen; altogether unfit for human food; and indeed in such a state as almost to require the intervention of the police to prevent its importation for any purpose.

You were quite right in refusing to have anything to do with it.

Mr. Coffin tells me that the calls for food will continue unabated, rather augmenting than diminishing, till the end of this month. That from then, until the middle of August, the new potato will draw away our customers. He says, with regard to oatmeal, that people never ask about it; and it seems almost to be forgotten that such a thing exists. In Sligo the price has fallen to 12s., and is going down. Mr. Coffin states that any reduction above 12s. would be of no avail; that the Indian meal has become so general, and is so popular a food, that, coupled with the consideration that the funds of the Committees are becoming low, it is even doubtful whether it (oatmeal) will be sought after at 12s.

P.S. I add a postscript to send you a paper pasted up near the parish of Kilglass, county Roscommon, imploring for work. It is a very poor country, and it is for that reason I have so many depôts in the immediate neighbourhood, namely:—

Strokestown.	Castlehar.	Swineford
Castlerough.	Hollymount.	Ballina.
Roscommon.	Balinrobe.	Ballymote.
Carrick-on-Shannon.	Ballaghadareen.	

But it is work they want, and we must recommend some small outlay in that vicinity; for this month of July (being the nearest to the harvest, and yet not the harvest), is much worse than June.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Roscommon, District of Strokestown.

DOCUMENT found pasted on the townland of Moyglass, in the parish of Kilglass and Barony of Ballintubber, on Monday, the 6th day of July, 1846.

To the Honorable and Committee of Public Works.

We the indigent and needy and distressed class of Workmen of this part of the Vicinity having no means to procure a subsistence, can no longer bear the merciless pangs of hunger, humbly deprecates the Committee will take into consideration and commiserate the awful and melancholy state of these humble and peaceful People, and give them Employment, according to every other part of the Country, before they are exposed to the impending danger of present famine which has neither shame or honesty, and before We violate the ties of honesty which we were bred to. We desire Work and nothing but Work, and hope the Committee and Gentlemen of the Vicinity will find that for us, and hopes the honorable Gentlemen will not be offended at this Notice, because We are no Molists, We disdain it.

Let no Person take this down.

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Westport, July 11, 1846.

It is gratifying to know that the Indian meal is not only approved of by the people but that they begin actually to prefer it to oatmeal. There was a poor fellow here yesterday from Ballynakill, 20 miles off, who came all the way to get a barrel of it, which I sold him, and he said that the people who had been living on it about his neighbourhood for the last few weeks, not only found themselves in stronger health, but that they *looked* better, their eye and their complexion proving the nutritious and wholesome qualities of their food.

I had heard the same remark from Dr. Bourke, of this place, who attends the poor; he has not only observed the alteration himself in their appearance, but heard from themselves the good effects which they have experienced in their increased health, strength, and capability of fatigue.

I think that the people are beginning to see the mistake of depending altogether on their potato; and a peasant told me yesterday, unsuggested, that he should sow more green crops in future, and buy meal, which is the advice I endeavour to give them whenever I meet them.

Mr. SAUNDERS to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Flesh, Killarney, July 11, 1846.

THE quantity of meal sales at the stores to-day and yesterday will, I am sure, be a sufficient reason for the enclosed cheque in your favour for 300*l.*, being sent on the part of the Killarney Poor Relief Committee, for the purchase of 20 tons of meal, which I have sent cartmen for this day, and which I sincerely trust you will direct to be forwarded without delay. Indeed, the destitution of this district has become quite *frightful*, and if we fail keeping up a supply adequate to the wants of the population, dreadful indeed must be the consequences. At the market to-day there were only five one-horse cart-loads of potatoes, and which of course obtained fancy prices, such as few even of the rich could purchase.

Mr. Healy, a holder of oaten meal, *sold* all his stock a few days back in a few hours, and I am informed his stock was nearly the only one remaining for sale in the locality. The district having recourse to our stores has a population of about 50,000. The sales to-day and yesterday were continued from 6 A.M., to 8 P.M., without cessation, and to crowds whose clamours were repeatedly expressed at the necessary resolution of the committee to limit the sales to a small quantity to each purchaser. How long even this state of things can continue must and does refer to the supplies being continuous, and we rely on your support to maintain them so. The steamer "*Alban*" only brought us 29 tons, instead of the 39 due, and which we expected to receive by her. This was disappointment, which, however, I have sent cartmen to remedy by bringing the 10 tons deficient; therefore I have given three letters, authorising each of three sets of cartmen to bring 10 tons—*viz.*:

10 per balance due on 39 tons.	
10 half of enclosed	} 200
10 half of enclosed	
<u>30</u> total tons.	

And I have also to supplicate you to arrange for the conveyance to Killoglen of a supply of 50 tons, to be sent by the "*Rhadamanthus*," the vessel of which the command has been recently given to the late commander of the "*Alban*." Our committee, from his previous kindness, rely on his sympathy and kindness to aid the dreadful sufferings of the numerous poor of this district.

Memorandum of the Sales at the Stores of the Killarney Poor Relief Committee—*viz.*:

July 10, 1846,

3,400 tickets of 6 lbs. each, 20,400 lbs.

July 11, 1846,

4,783 tickets of 6 lbs. each, 28,698 lbs.

And the quantity allowed to each purchaser was considerably under the quantity required by each.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. WALLER.

Dublin Castle, July 11, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 39, advising the chartering of the fast-sailing schooner "Liska," of 60 tons, from your port to Westport, at 10s. per ton for barrels and 9s. 6d. per ton for sacks; all of which I beg to approve.

I am now to acquaint you that the quantity which can be spared from your depôt is about 150 tons, of which you have already disposed of 60, and you may therefore ship the remainder as early as possible; but I beg to observe to you, that the expediency of the measure very materially depends on the promptitude of its execution.

You will also understand, that as soon as the remainder of your depôt is exhausted, you are to close all your affairs at Dundalk and repair to Dublin, preparatory to your return to England.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, July 12, 1846.

ANOTHER busy week has expired since my last note. The demands upon me continue much the same. My Committees take about 300 tons of meal per week, and those of Mr. Coffin 500. His district and this are the heaviest in their wants; but we are enabled to meet them, except Mr. Coffin's for a few days, in consequence of the adverse winds and bad weather on the west coast (which coast was certainly never intended for a civilized country) keeping at sea at one time 12 of my craft with his supplies. This obliged us to turn over portions of the demands to the trade, and such is the cupidity of the holders of Indian meal, they immediately ran it up 11l. 10s. per ton; but my vessels all came in close upon each other and relieved the market. The trade is, of course, the legitimate channel for supplying the wants of the country; but it will take time to bring things into a proper train, and to secure the people from the effects of monopoly. Our magazines now act as a check, and keep prices at a fair level. Considerable consignments of Indian corn are (which, of course, you know) on the way to this country and England. About half-a-dozen vessels are even now here waiting for orders from London houses; and if their cargoes are left much longer on board, they will be destroyed by heat.

Except the "Vincidor," all the supplies advised to me have now arrived, and I may quote my stock this day, when all manufactured, at 3000 tons of meal, which will, I expect, with what is to go direct to Mr. Coffin, carry us through August. September, I hope, will relieve us altogether, as by that time there ought to be a sufficiency of potatoes, and the trade prepared to make up any deficit in food.

I believe I did not acquaint you with Mr. Dobbin's death, the efficient man I had at Haulbowline. His friends say our hard work occasioned the illness which carried him off. May I ask what Lieut. Wentworth, the Naval Storekeeper, who took over his charge, is to receive as a remuneration? He expects the same as poor Dobbin got: 7s. 6d. a-day.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, July 13, 1846.

THERE have been poured into the surrounding country, during the week just passed, 120,000 lbs. of the precious food, of which I am the distributor, eagerly requested by local committees, and gratefully received by them for their poor. The efforts of the Board of Works and the co-operating assistance of this Department, are working huge good to the people during the present month, which is the month of the poor man's trial. New committees even have been forced into existence, since I last wrote, by the cries of the poor; and in the letters of Secretaries, I trace a continued dependence upon those supplies which have already mitigated the wretchedness over which they preside. My mighty storehouse, which once seemed to defy the appetite of whole counties, has been nearly emptied. The residue might almost be counted, but the Department is providing new supplies for me; and I have besides a mill in Banagher grinding with marked success

the grain which is forwarded to me from Limerick. This operation is, I am happy to say, attended with much success, and the specimen of meal I have sent to Limerick is highly approved by Commissary General Coffin. I have succeeded in inspiring the miller himself with a desire to turn forth a capital article of the kind; and, mingled with his love of gain, a desire for reputation.

The popularity of this food is very high; it confers strength, while it is frequently sought only to prolong existence; and of all the productions of the earth, in every climate, none could have been selected which would have served so completely the intentions of the State, in supplying a deficiency of food to the poor.

A clergyman writing to me on behalf of his committee in the county Tipperary, says, "We have just arrived at that season of the year when ordinarily there is the greatest amount of distress. Many of those heretofore purchasing Indian meal might perhaps, unknown to us, have had some other species of food to help them on in part; if so, it is gone, and the Indian meal is left alone to them now as the 'staff of life.'"

Some painful instances of superior distress have come to light. I recount one. A respectable small farmer came from twelve miles off, to my room. Having filled in his first unsupported application, he had now brought to me a letter from his priest. The loss of nearly all his potatoes had reduced himself and family to the verge of famine, until the new crops should be ready. Knowing there was a Committee near him, I asked why he did not apply to them? He said he would sooner starve. I asked him the difference? He said, "By going to the Committee I proclaim myself a pauper—by coming to you I purchase from the Government, what the Government have provided for those 'who have suffered loss.' I sold this man a sack for the use of himself and family, and I believe there has not been a more charitable issue from my stores. I have many instances of people of this description using the Indian meal, who before used only the best flour. In a word, the benevolent uses of this food exceed all description, and it is impossible to colour too highly the despair which would have been added to the wretchedness herabouts, had it not existed.

The retail sale, which I have lately confined to three days in the week, from its before occupying too much time, continues to give great help to the needy poor around. The clergyman here says to me, "The benefits of the food you send to Committees abroad, we cannot doubt, but we do not see them; but 'this quiet retail sale we know has saved from starvation many a poor soul 'around our very dwellings.'"

All is quiet herabouts. My stores are unguarded; they are protected by the goodwill of the people towards the source of such safety.

But for these depôts of food, most assuredly it would not have been Her Majesty's Treasury Department which would now be receiving the records of security to person and to property, but that other Department which provides those advantages by the painful exercise of weapons of terror and defence.

MR. TREVELYAN TO SIR R. ROUTE.

Treasury, July 14, 1846.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer entirely approves of the form in which I have suggested to you to prepare the estimate, and I hope you have it well in hand.

The point which will require the most careful consideration will be the amount which may be expected to be realized by the sale of the Indian corn.

As a considerable sum must have accumulated from this source, would it not be advisable to begin to make our repayments to the Commissariat Chest-Account? The price of the corn was advanced from this fund, and the sums realized by its sale are therefore owing to it.

The only further suggestion I have to make in regard to your General Report, is, that you should properly place on record the zeal and activity, and anxious desire to acquit themselves in a manner worthy of the beneficent service entrusted to them, displayed by the whole of the department in Ireland, and the particular merits of the most distinguished individuals among them, each according to his degree.

Nothing can be more gratifying to our feelings than the manner in which the new Chancellor of the Exchequer has appreciated our exertions in carrying out the measures of relief, and protecting the public interests in connection with them, under all the varied circumstances of difficulty and discouragement which met us in the different stages of the undertaking.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, July 14, 1846.

SINCE I last wrote to you I have had a period of considerable anxiety and embarrassment, in consequence of the almost entire exhaustion of our depôts. This did not arise from want of resources, for there has never been any failure at Cork, though the stock of supplies there was at one time very low, but was caused by the state of the weather; which, for nearly a fortnight, prevented the arrival of any consignment from seaward. I had no less than eleven invoices from Cork before one of the vessels could enter the Shannon; and, but for a boat-load from Dublin by the canal, we should for a few days have been without the means of satisfying a single demand. As it was, I found myself under the necessity of refusing some altogether, and of giving only limited assistance to the districts least able to dispense with our aid. In general, the disappointment caused no expression of discontent; and, although the applications were most urgent, our excuses for not complying with them seemed to be received without suspicion. It was, however, a great relief to me when I was enabled to prove the truth of them by resuming our former liberality of issue; for any long continuance of failure would certainly have straitened the pecuniary means of the Committees, even in those districts where they had the opportunity of supplying themselves by private purchase, and in some would have caused alarming privation.

I now consider that we are secure from any similar difficulty, having not only satisfied the immediate wants of the people, but so far replenished the depôts that the season of potato digging must be near at hand before they are likely again to be exhausted. In the meanwhile, the consumption of meal will be immense; for almost everywhere in this part of the country the poorer people, including even many of the small farmers, depend wholly upon it for subsistence. Of this you may form some idea, when I tell you that the issue from this depôt alone in the last two days has been 123 tons, and none of the Committees take more at once than they expect to sell in the course of a week; some not so much. I expect, from the opinions expressed by most of those acquainted with the state of the country, that the demand will continue unabated till the end of this month, and then gradually diminish; becoming very moderate towards the middle of August, and terminating altogether before the end of that month. This anticipation does not seem likely to be much affected by the state of the new potato crop; because the people will, of course, fall in upon the potatoes, good or bad, as soon as they are eatable; and if they find them not likely to last, will only be the more eager to consume them while they are at all fit for use.

I am continually receiving assurances of the satisfaction which the present arrangements have given to all parties concerned. Some dissentients there will of course be, but I have reason to believe that the feeling of the higher classes will be very generally expressed in the resolutions of Grand Juries and other public bodies, and that of the lower class is well enough shown in the comparative quiet and security prevailing through the country during a period of such general want. It is, I think, universally agreed that this is due to the introduction of Indian corn as a cheap substitute for the ordinary food of the country. Whether or not the same object could have been as well or better attained by trusting to private competition for gain is a totally different question on which opinions vary.

Not I alone, but all, I believe, who have been engaged in this anxious and laborious duty will be glad of a respite when it comes to an end.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

July 14, 1846.

I AM SORRY to say it seems to be the general opinion that the disease is reappearing, and in Wicklow and other districts where it was not very prevalent last year. This event, however, even if confirmed, ought not to suspend our arrangements for discontinuing the supply. Whatever may be done hereafter, these things should be stopped now, or you run the risk of paralysing all private enterprise, and having this country on you for an indefinite number of years.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, July 15, 1846.

THIS month is a heavy pull on my dépôt. I regret the loss of the cargoes of "Jane" and "Venredor," that is, the former I was obliged to reject, the latter has not turned up, and will, I fear, be heisted. Several vessels are now here for a market, and I am pressing the trade to purchase and store them, for appearances tend to show they will, sooner or later, all be wanted for the people.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 17, 1846.

MR. HUDSON's Motion will not, I believe, be acceded to, it being considered desirable that we should not expose our resources while the undertaking is still in progress, but that we should lay a series of papers before Parliament when it is all over, giving a full explanation of all that has been done.

You shall receive an official direction by to-morrow's post how to dispose of the surplus proceeds of the Indian meal.

I shall also endeavour to send you, early in next week, a practised accountant from one of the public offices.

All those members of your establishment, whether permanent or temporary, who were sent from this country and wish to return hither, may be ordered to report themselves at the Treasury, when their services are dispensed with.

I quite approve of the notice you propose to give for the termination of the lease of the Lee mills, and you must consider whether there are any other buildings similarly situated.

I quite agree with you that the uncertainty respecting the next crop only makes it the more necessary that our present relief operations should be brought to a decided, though gradual close, this being the only course open to us to prevent the people from becoming habitually dependent on the Government for food; and if such a state of feeling were once superadded to the other complications of Irish affairs, there is no saying what might be the consequence.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 17, 1846.

Mr. Trevelyan submits to the Board that it will be proper to give directions that the sums which are from time to time collected by the Officers of the Commissariat Department in Ireland in payment of the Indian corn meal and other supplies provided by Government for the use of the people in that part of the United Kingdom, during the existence of the scarcity occasioned by the failure of the potato crop, should be repaid to the credit of the Commissariat Chest Account in the books of the Paymaster-General, from which account the advances for the purchase of the supplies in question have been made.

My Lords approve.

Write to Sir R. Routh, and desire that he will pay into the Bank of Ireland, to be transferred to the credit of the account of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General at the Bank of England, the sums which are from time to time collected by the Officers of the Commissariat in Ireland, in payment of the Indian corn, meal, and other supplies provided by Government for the use of the people during the existence of the scarcity occasioned by the failure of the potato crop, advising the Paymaster-General of every such payment to the credit of his account.

Sir R. Routh will furnish this Board with weekly statements of the payments made by him in pursuance of the above direction.

Acquaint the Paymaster-General with the direction given to Sir R. Routh in this matter, and desire that he will carry the sums so transferred to his account, to the credit of the Commissariat Chest Account in his books, as repayment of advances made from that account for the purchase of the supplies in question.

Transmit copy of this minute to the Commissioners of Audit, for their information.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, July 17, 1846.

I hope to finish with contract millers about the 1st August. Our own mills, which do not turn out more than 400 to 500 sacks per week, will work their time, if necessary. The trade will, I hope, employ the mills I give up but in a communication I have had with some of the leading men, they say, unless the Government will give a solemn pledge not to interfere with the supply of the people, they can do nothing.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, July 17, 1846.

THE pressure continues to be very great, I think, greater than in the month of June. I almost fear we shall not have enough. I shall be anxious to see the Limerick dépôt return on Monday. I calculate that we have 4000 more sacks this month, and 2000 sacks in the first fortnight of August, disposable for Limerick at Cork, that is independent of the "Jane's" cargo and the Vincedor, not yet arrived.

I fear this is not enough: the quantities which have turned out bad ought to be replaced. We must go on to the 15th August, and have a little over for casualties. You order also the "Swan's" cargo at Sligo not to be replaced. Surely you do not mean this: it would hardly be expedient to run the thing so very close, particularly at Cork, where they require an extra cargo or two for contingencies. We shall require a small addition at Dublin to carry us through. I have no report yet to make to you of the oatmeal, until next week. Pray replace the "Jane's" cargo at Cork, and have the goodness to ask if the "Vincedor" has incurred any unexpected delay, so that those two cargoes may at once be made applicable, and consigned to the mills at Cork. Time is such an object in these operations.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 18, 1846.

In order to send you an accountant who will really be of use to you, I have had recourse to the Admiralty, and I hope to send you next week a gentleman of the name of Bromley, whose qualifications are highly spoken of.

I have just received your note of the 17th inst., in which you urge some additional supplies to enable you to end well.

It is too late to do anything to-day, and to-morrow is Sunday; but early on Monday I shall submit the subject to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with every disposition to comply with your wishes; and I will take care that whatever may be sent at this last moment shall be promptly sent (by steam if possible), in the immediately available shape of good Indian meal.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that a further shipment has been made from Dundalk to Westport, by Mr. Waller, of 801 barrels, and 64 sacks of Indian corn meal, and this cargo will have proceeded to sea early this morning.

I do not think it of any advantage to keep up the dépôt at Dundalk, where the mercantile price has fallen to 8s. 6d. per cwt., which compels us to sell at

the same reduction, and also at Armagh. At Monaghan there is no variation; but under all the circumstances, I shall, at the close of the month, abandon this post, and I shall take immediate steps to transfer the remains to Dublin.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVILYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that I have desired the several officers in charge of the Commissariat stations, in Ireland, to notify to the respective District Committees, that we should discontinue to supply from our depôts, on the 15th August, except for such quantities as should remain in store, which would continue to be disposed of until they were exhausted.

By the second week of August, the new potatoes will become available, and as far as I can judge of the probable, though uncertain demand on our depôts, I have every reason to hope that the supply which they contain will be sufficient to meet it up to the 15th proximo.

I submitted this period to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, at Dublin, to which he offered no objection, and in forwarding the last week's return of our supplies to the Chief Secretary, I communicated to him the same intention.

I trust it will also be satisfactory to my Lords, as the period on which the new crop becomes available, and from the evident expediency of fixing a day both for terminating our purchases, and for preparing the people for the event, at a time when they will be occupied by the labours of the harvest.

If, however, by circumstances, any further supply on the part of Government, should be called for, there is still at most of the large stations, a supply of biscuit, about to be exchanged in the several military depôts, which have been for some years in store, and which in case of need will be forthcoming. Being much broken, it is probably worth about 8s. per cwt., but the depôts are scattered, and the quantities in each small.

Whilst there was Indian meal to be obtained, the Committees have almost invariably objected to purchase it.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVILYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 18, 1846.

HAVING reference to our remains of oatmeal at the several posts in Ireland, and observing that the introduction of the Indian corn meal had almost completely superseded the use of the former, which was scarcely ever asked for, and as the Indian corn meal itself is falling in price, which reduction must in the course of another month, as the harvest approaches, become general, and further taking into consideration that the ordinary current prices of oatmeal at this season of the year usually rules at 12*l.* per ton, to which it must fall as the new crop comes in, I have the honour to submit to you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that I have felt myself under the necessity of reducing our rate at Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Galway to 12*l.* per ton; and in this rate I have also included Sligo, which is a great oatmeal country, with a large stock in hand, held back by the millers for high prices, and now coming into the market at 13*l.*, and the sales dull. With the competition of Indian corn, and the approach of harvest, it can only command the usual price of the season.

At Clonmel we have been obliged to reduce our price to 13*l.*, at which rate the demand is reasonably brisk; and I conceive that our depôts at Waterford, at Carrick, and at Clonmel, and the constabulary depôt at Dungarvan, will close satisfactorily on the 15th August.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 20, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships entirely approve of his proceedings, as reported in his three letters dated 18th July.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, King's County, July 20, 1846.

I HAVE had another very busy week, mixed with some anxiety; but the operations of two mills now at work here, grinding the corn sent to me from Limerick, and the supply of meal forwarded to me from Dublin, have placed my dépôt in a position to satisfy the requisitions which for the next fortnight will continue to be made upon it. I have lately had the opportunity of applying a very convincing test to the urgency of the causes of this demand of food. I was in some apprehension of a temporary exhaustion of my granary, and for two days I limited the amount of meal which some Committees required, in order to be able to give to all in proportion to my stock. This limitation drew from them the most earnest inquiries as to my farther persisting in such restrictions, and thus afforded me demonstration of the infinite advantage of such supplies to them, for the language used was that of urgent beseeching. From one clergyman, secretary to a large town committee, I heard: "Our people will suffer greatly, if you are not able to supply us. Potatoes are not to be obtained, and oatmeal is very high." There can be no doubt that at the present moment great, if not unparalleled, distress exists, from the want of food within reach of the poor man's purse. Committees doubtless continue their applications because the Indian meal is the cheapest known food, and one which the poor have at the same time taken a delight in. If such a food was not in existence, these committees would have to expend their funds on other kinds of food for the poor, which would of course cause their funds to be sooner exhausted. But it is a point to be considered by those contemplating this service from a distance, whether a lengthened continuance of these supplies would not always ensure a demand, to the detriment of legitimate trade on the part of the moneyed classes, and of honest, industrious habits on the part of the poor.

My retail sale continues to give joy to my bosom, and to many hundreds of the poor for ten miles around. I am proud that I instituted it; practically convinced that I confer an immense amount of good—the good intended—to those so circumstanced that no committee labours could reach them. The quantity sold is trifling, and in small proportions; but the benefit of such a sale is very great. It embraces a class who, with a purse of a few shillings, are enabled to bring themselves and families out of the disasters of a short season, without professing their poverty or applying to public funds for aid. Without it, as respects the Banagher locality, a kind of selfish character would have attached to my immense stores, which now extend abundance at home as well as abroad.

My two mills are continuing their labours of steam and water most successfully, and the sample they produce is equal to any which has been issued from my dépôt.

Already the poor are whispering of the hope of this supply being continued to them always; a remark natural to people in their position, but indicative of some of those evil results which must be expected from State provisions of this description, which, long continued, exasperate the wretchedness which they are only intended to alleviate when aggravated by particular and sudden emergency.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, July 20, 1846.

I AM almost inclined to try the "Vincidor," and get on without further assistance from you at Cork, for we have all the mill power or nearly so, and we must give it up to the trade as soon as possible after the 1st of August. Therefore if you send anything, meal would be preferable, for the corn would delay the object I have in view of giving up the mills to the trade, so as to place them in our position.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 20, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that in obedience to their instructions communicated in your letter No. 222 of the 18th inst., I shall pay into the Bank of Ireland to-morrow, to be transferred to the credit of the account of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General at the Bank of England, the sum of 15,000*l.* sterling.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 21, 1846.

MR. BROMLEY, of the department of the Accountant-General of the Navy, has been selected to assist you in winding up the accounts, and, as he has the reputation of being a good accountant, and is zealous for the service, I expect that he will be of real use to you. He will proceed to Dublin to place himself under your orders without delay.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has fully considered the subject of replacing the Cork cargo, which turned out to be unfit for use, and he is decidedly of opinion that, as there are several cargoes of Indian corn belonging to private merchants in Cork harbour which cannot be disposed of in consequence of our operations, we ought not to add to our stock at that place; and if our stores there are likely to be exhausted before the 15th August, the Local Relief Committees and others in want of meal should be referred to the private holders.

Pray communicate this decision to Mr. Hewetson without loss of time, in order that he may announce it to "the trade," who should proceed without delay to convert their grain into meal.

I have written to Messrs. Baring to ask them what has become of the "Vencidor."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also desired me to mention to you that he holds in the strongest manner the opinion stated in one of your recent letters, that *whatever steps it may hereafter become necessary to take to meet future possible emergencies, it is indispensably necessary to wind up our present operations and bring them to a close at the earliest date at which it can be done with safety and propriety.*

In reducing your establishment you will, of course, follow the usual rule of dispensing first with the services of those who, for whatever reason, are the least efficient.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than your recent letters.

Messrs. BARING to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Bishopsgate-street, July 21, 1846.

THE "Vencidor," from Falmouth to Cork, put into Fowey the 2d instant with serious damage, having been in contact with a brig (name unknown) off Scilly. After her repairs are completed she will proceed, and I have desired inquiries to be made as to the probable time at which she may be expected at Cork, and the answer shall be communicated to you.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 21, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the decision of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Wood, No. 88, in regard to a charge levied for harbour dues on the cargoes of Indian corn and oatmeal imported into Galway by Her Majesty's Government, amounting to 54*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, which he had declined paying for the reasons therein assigned, subject to further instructions.

ENCLOSURE.

Assistant Commissary-General WOOD to Sir R. ROUTH.

Galway, July 20, 1846.

I have the honour to report to you, that harbour dues amounting to fifty-four pounds and tenpence, are charged on the cargoes of Indian corn, Indian corn-meal, and oatmeal, imported by Her Majesty's Government into Galway, for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland; and I beg leave to state, that I have been called upon, by the Rev. J. D'Arcy, Secretary to the Board of Galway Harbour Commissioners, to pay the amount of the same imposed tolls.

I decline entertaining the claim, until I be duly authorised to do so; and I feel that I am borne out in my resistance to such payment, by the spirit of a clause in the Act of Parliament for the improvement of the Harbour of Galway. The following is a copy of the clause alluded to:—

"Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any ship, or vessel, or boat, belonging to, or employed in the service

of His Majesty, his heirs, and successors, or in the service or employ of the Customs, Excise, Ordnance, or Post Office, coming into or using the said harbour."

According to my reading of the above clause in the Act, vessels of every description, on Government account, coming into or using the harbour of Galway, are, without any reservation, exempt from the payment of dues, tolls, &c., of every description.

The Reverend Secretary and I are at issue on the point, and he is desirous, as you will perceive by a copy of his letter herewith enclosed, that the settlement of the question should be left to the adjudication of magistrates. I decline, on my own responsibility, abiding by the interested influence of such decision; and deem it the more official mode of proceeding, to bring the transaction under your consideration, in order that you may transmit to me such instructions for my guidance in the matter as you may think proper.

REPORT on the above by the ASSISTANT SOLICITOR to the TREASURY.

July 23, 1846.

In obedience to your Lordships' commands, signified by your reference of the annexed letters, relating to a dispute as to the payment of certain harbour dues on the cargoes of Indian corn and oatmeal imported into Galway by Her Majesty's Government, I have considered the same, and have the honour to report that I am unable to advise your Lordships upon the question in dispute without seeing the Act of Parliament under which the dues are imposed, and being furnished with further information regarding the ownership and employment of the ships in question, and the particular contracts made regarding the freight of the articles imported.

The clause of the Act referred to by Mr. D'Arcy as giving jurisdiction to the magistrates may perhaps admit of a different construction; but of this it is impossible to judge without seeing the Act itself.

FURTHER REPORT by the ASSISTANT SOLICITOR.

July 28, 1846.

WITH reference to my Report of the 23d instant, respecting the claim for harbour dues on ships importing Indian corn and oatmeal into Galway by Her Majesty's Government, I beg leave further to report that I have been furnished with a copy of the Act 11 Geo. IV. c. 122 (local and personal), under which, I presume, the dues in question are claimed; and by the 62d section of the said Act I conceive that the ships are exempted from toll, on entering and using the said harbour, if they are hired by Her Majesty's Government, or are employed for the sole purpose of importing their cargoes in Her Majesty's service.

By the 49th section of the Act, any dispute respecting the demanding or taking of toll may be determined by any Justice of the Peace for the place where the cause of dispute arises; and should the present dispute be brought by the Galway Harbour Commissioners before the magistrates in Petty Sessions, as intimated by Mr. D'Arcy, it would seem proper that some person should be directed to attend on behalf of the Government, in order to insist upon the exemption from toll of the ships in question, if they shall appear, upon inquiry, to have been employed in the service of Her Majesty.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 28, 1846.

Transmit copy of this Report to Sir R. Routh, for his information and guidance with reference to his letter of the 21st instant.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, July 23, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of my letter this day addressed to Commissary-General Hewetson, and if there is any variation in these instructions which my Lords should be pleased to direct, I request the favour of your early communication.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR R. ROUTH to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Dublin Castle, July 22, 1846.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer being of opinion that it is unnecessary to replace the cargo at Cork which had turned out bad, you will understand that you are to receive

no further consignment to your address; and I am to confirm to you the orders previously transmitted of suspending our supplies on the 15th of August, and to give up our mills as soon as possible after the 1st of August, so as to place the trade in a position to relieve us on the 15th.

If your supplies should be exhausted before the 15th, you are at liberty to make use of the biscuit in charge of the barrack-master; or if the committees decline receiving it, you will refer them to the private holders of meal, as it is our intention to wind up our present operations, and bring them to a positive close (except for the disposal of any remains in store) on Saturday the 15th of August.

You will be pleased also to give the necessary notice in writing, on the 31st instant, of our intention to give up the Lee Mills premises, according to agreement, and any other stores or buildings occupied by you in the same manner.

As soon after the 15th of August as your duties will enable you to do so, you will break up your establishment, following the usual rule of dispensing first with the services of those who for whatever reason are the least efficient.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 24, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships entirely approve of the instructions which he has furnished to Commissary-General Hewetson, in his letter to that officer, dated 22nd instant.

SIR R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 22, 1846.

I UNDERSTAND that it will be expected that the Government should make some announcement whether it is their intention to order any importations during the ensuing year, without which, there will be a reluctance on the part of the corn dealers and merchants to enter into these speculations. I do not think such announcement is immediately necessary, nor perhaps would it be right officially to do so, but through some channel the intimation should be conveyed in all the month of August, or as soon after as it could be conveniently determined. I wait your approval of my letter to Mr. Hewetson to act throughout on the same system.

MR. A. WALLER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dundalk, July 22, 1846.

OUR Relief Committee here died a natural death; the works on the public roads gave employment to the most necessitous, and so prevented the necessity of the town's people putting their hands into their pockets to make a subscription, which they seemed very averse to. The people are becoming fond of their new food when mixed with other meal, but they do not eat much of it as yet alone, unless it be in the shape of strabout. There is a large vessel now unloading here with 1200 quarters of Indian corn, so that there will be plenty for them notwithstanding the withdrawal of the Government supplies.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, July 24, 1846.

In your letter to me, dated the 22d instant, you state as follows:—"I understand that it will be expected that the Government should make some announcement, whether it is their intention to order any importations during the ensuing year, without which there will be a reluctance on the part of the corn-dealers and merchants to enter into these speculations."

It should, I think, be understood that if it should become necessary for the Government to make purchases of meal during the ensuing year, they will be made in the United Kingdom, and not in America or elsewhere abroad. This will have the effect of stimulating, instead of discouraging the trade. All the calculations of the merchant are liable to be upset by the Government procuring large supplies abroad, and throwing them unexpectedly into the home market; but if the Government makes its purchases in the home market, the wholesale dealer may gain and cannot lose by the interference, and the tendency of such an expectation would therefore be to attract large quantities of food to Ireland.

An assurance to this effect was given to the trade when uneasiness was felt in consequence of our American purchases, and it was found to be quite satisfactory.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

July 24, 1846.

SHOULD the Government be again called upon, I should say a reserve of fifty thousand barrels of Indian meal—not corn—for the trade want the mill power, should quietly be brought from the United States to England, and there stored. With steamers next spring it could be rapidly thrown into all the old depôts on the coast. By introducing such a supply into England, and keeping it quiet, the trade would not be alarmed; but all this will, no doubt, become at no distant period, matter for very serious consideration, and it may become imperative again on the Government to step forward.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

July 23, 1846.

I RECENTLY suggested, as a precautionary measure, that forty or fifty thousand barrels of United States manufactured Indian meal, well kiln-dried and packed, should be quietly imported into an English neighbouring port—not an Irish one—and there held in reserve. With caution it might be introduced at a much cheaper cost than those we have now expended. I propose meal, because I find it keeps well, and in order to all the mill power of this country being left for the trade.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Commissary-General HEWETSON.

Treasury, July 31, 1846.

I HAVE omitted to notice two points in your recent letters which require an answer.

The first relates to Lieutenant Wentworth's extra allowances, on which subject I shall be obliged to you to inform me whether the duties performed by him differed either in nature or extent from those performed by the late Mr. Dobbin, and if so, in what respect.

The other is your proposition to procure a supply of Indian corn meal from America, and lay it up in some port in England; in reference to which I cannot do better than give you *in extenso* a copy of a reply which I lately sent to a somewhat similar question from Sir R. Routh.

See Letter to Sir R. Routh, dated 24th July, 1846, on the opposite page.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 25, 1846.

ADVERTING to my letter No. 275, I have the honour to report for the information of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that upon further communication with the directors of the Grand Canal, they have agreed to allow Government boats, laden with Indian corn meal, &c., to pass, in the first instance, as heretofore, without the payment of tolls, and to submit, at the close of the service, an account of the amount due thereon, at the reduced rate of 3s. 4½d. per ton per mile, not exceeding 3s. per ton for any distance on the Grand Canal, or its several branches.

Captain POLE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Banagher, King's County, July 26, 1846.

ANOTHER busy week is closed. The requisitions of Committees have been as urgent as ever, and the amount of Indian meal poured amongst the population, in a circle of forty miles, has been as ample as ever (131,000 lbs.), from a stock now kept up by small consignments of meal from Dublin, and by grain from Limerick, which I convert, by the operations of two Banagher mills, into food with decided success.

I know of no reason at present why this demand, if urgent before, should not be so still; as it is made to supply the cravings of a population which have (as respects the mass) no security against want, except the provision made by the State to replace a crop which lately failed, and their hopes of the crop of the present year,—the season for the maturity of which is not yet complete. The poor man withholds the spade from his potato field as long as he can, because it is great loss to him to use them before they are full grown, as they are neither so large nor so nourishing in quality when used early.

It is almost useless to point to the general harvest as the poor man's security,—that harvest produces little of what is within his reach; for those who own the

richer productions of the earth seek purchasers where there is capital, and thus avoid the market amidst the people whose labours have replenished their barns. The potato is still the safeguard of the poor in this district of Ireland, and the accidents which may befall it are what alone the poor have to pray to Providence to avert.

Harvest labour must soon, however, become general, and this is a point of consideration, for wages will therefore accrue to the poor; and should the operation of the present Corn-laws cheapen foreign and Irish-produced supplies of food to the poor of this country, those wages and those supplies of food ought to bestow present advantages on the poor.

During the last week I have notified officially to my thirty committees that supplies of food would cease to be laid in at the Government dépôt from the 15th August. I regard this, always speaking with humility when I thus speak, as a wise step: for whatever precautions may be necessary to provide against the effects of a new calamity, a pause in the present system is wisdom, both because it marks the kindness of the general Government with distinctness, and resigns the people of this land, for a time, to those regular social preservatives against want, of which industry on the part of the poor, and sacrifice on the part of the wealthier orders, are the proper foundations.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, July 27, 1846.

OUR labours are now, I hope, drawing near to an end. The demands on the dépôts during the last fortnight have been exceedingly heavy, upwards of a thousand tons of meal having been issued at this place, Clare, and Kilrush, between the 11th and the 25th; but the decrease in the last week, as compared with that preceding, is nearly one-third, and I am given to understand that it will now be very rapid, the people having in many places already begun to dig their potatoes.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 27, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the approval of the Right Hon. my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter, dated 25th inst., from Commissary-General Coffin, submitting a tender for the hire of a large lighter from the agent of the Dublin Steam Packet at Kilrush, to serve as a floating dépôt at that place, for the purpose of supplying the numerous committees and constabulary stations in that vicinity.

Mr. Coffin also submits the appointment of a clerk to Captain Mann, at Kilrush, on the grounds therein stated, which I believe to be quite necessary, but it might probably have been as well to have selected a constable. The period is so short that I have thought it better to act at once on Mr. Coffin's recommendation.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General COFFIN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Limerick, July 25, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to submit for approval a copy of a tender made to me by the agent of the Dublin Steam Packet at Kilrush, for the hire of a large lighter belonging to the company, to serve as a floating dépôt at that place. Great advantage arises from supplying committees as much as possible from that point, instead of bringing the meal hither to be afterwards sent to places intermediate between the two; but the small storage obtainable at or near Captain Mann's station does not enable him to keep up a sufficiently large stock for the purpose; and as Commissary-General Hewetson informs me that all the remaining consignments from Cork will be sent in the large steamers, only one of which can come alongside the pier, the lighter will afford great facility in discharging them, as well as in loading the cutters and the small steamers when employed in distributing the meal along the river. I have accordingly engaged this vessel on the terms proposed, and placed her at Captain Mann's disposal. The usual rate of hire, when employed in loading or discharging merchant vessels, is a guinea a-day.

I beg also to report that I have found it absolutely necessary to give Captain Mann the assistance of a clerk in addition to a storekeeper. The duties so zealously undertaken by him are now quite equal in labour and responsibility to those of the dépôt at Banagher, exclusive of those of his own department; and having found on the spot a fit and trustworthy person, who was willing to render the requisite services for the short remaining period, at the pay of 5s. a day, I have accordingly engaged him from the 24th instant. His name is Mr. John P. Trousdale.

Mr. P. N. O'BRIEN to Commissary-General COFFIN.

*City of Dublin Steam Company's Office,
Kilrush, July 23, 1845.*

In answer to your inquiries touching the charge per week of one of the company's lighters, while engaged by Captain Maan, R.N., as a temporary store for Ladian meal, at this port, I beg to say that I am satisfied to let Captain M. have one of the lighters at a charge of 3*l.* per week.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

July 28, 1845.

Write to Sir R. Routh approving of Mr. Coffin's proceedings in both respects.

Commissary-General HAWKESON to Sir R. ROUTH.

Cork, July 29, 1845.

WITH regard to the spread of the potato disease, I should hope there will be a sufficiency for current use, as the farmers will all be anxious to bring what they have at once forward, fearing by keeping they may rot on their hands. The trade will also, I trust, be prepared to meet any present deficiency. Seeing we are in earnest in keeping out of the market, they do not longer hesitate in making purchases.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 31, 1845.

As the scene of our operations during the last active service in Ireland is now drawing to a close, I think it will be desirable as a reference, and perhaps as a guide, to lay before you for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury a trace of the course we have pursued.

I received their Lordship's instructions in November last, to proceed to Dublin, where I was appointed a member of a Relief Commission to inquire into the scarcity arising from the loss of the potato crop, and of which the Right Honourable E. Lucas was chairman.

At an early period in the autumn of 1845, the general blight in the potato crop throughout the south and west districts, and detached parts of the north and east, excited so much alarm, that though it did not exaggerate the fact, the apprehension was so great that it antedated the period when the supply would fail. The crop was unusually large, and early in December a very severe frost set in, and appeared partially to arrest the progress of the disease under certain circumstances, and in certain situations. There was also a marked capriciousness in the disease itself, leaving particular fields untouched and healthy, whilst others in their immediate vicinity were almost a mass of corruption.

None of the remedies suggested for the preservation of this crop were successful, but that which most assisted this object, was the plan adopted by the peasantry amongst themselves, of leaving the potatoes in the ground until they were required for use.

I have not been able to obtain any satisfactory explanation of this calamity, which has spread simultaneously over the greater part of Europe and America, and in every diversity of climate, and it is as difficult to decide whether the fungus is the cause or effect of the disease. Those who advocate the latter, and that a sound plant is only to be raised by renovation from the seed, have not succeeded in their experiment, the result being nearly an equal division between sound and diseased plants. The plants raised from the seed did not produce one sort only, but exhibited promiscuously every variety of the potato.

As soon as the rains set in towards the end of January and until March, the partial suspension of the disease gave way, and re appeared with greater virulence, not only amongst the potatoes already tainted, but manifesting itself amongst the sound plants in districts which had hitherto resisted it.

These variations in climate and the effects they produce, first in diminishing the anxiety and apprehension in the fall, and subsequently in confirming all these fears, will account for the diversity of opinions which prevailed in relation to the extent of the scarcity.

I enclose a note of a few letters received by the Commission in confirmation of this scarcity, the originals of which and many thousand others from all classes of society are on record in the office.

One great and salutary effect was obtained in the postponement of the great pressure for which we were preparing.

It will be unnecessary for me to detail the arrangements entered into by Her Majesty's Government for the introduction of a new food from the United States, which by its cheapness and nutritious qualities was calculated to replace advantageously the loss of the potato crop.

The quantity of Indian corn and Indian corn meal imported from America into Cork through the house of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., somewhat exceeded eight thousand tons.

No individual could have undertaken it, for the duty was a prohibition, and being a new article of food untried, and of doubtful success, it was altogether out of the sphere of mercantile speculation on the large scale on which only it could have the desired result.

In consequence of the unusually boisterous weather, these shipments did not begin to arrive until the early part of February.

They were unloaded and stored at Cork, where a new difficulty arose in regard to the grinding, and to the best manner of preserving the meal, which is particularly delicate, after it was ground.

Having been sixteen years in Her Majesty's service in America, I was fully aware of the process, and caused the grain to be kiln-dried before grinding, which has completely succeeded; and notwithstanding the apprehension entertained of its deterioration in quality, and the extreme heat of June, we have experienced no loss nor received any complaint.

The plan which we adopted in the grinding was first to keep the corn eight hours on the kilns, and turn it twice, so as to be thoroughly dried without parching. It was then allowed to cool for forty-eight hours. In grinding it, the stones were kept wider apart than for wheat, and not driven too rapidly, lest it should heat the meal.

The meal was then ordered to remain seventy hours to cool before it was dressed, and after it was dressed, it was again left to cool for a day or two before it was sacked, each sack containing 20 stone or 280 lbs.

Having procured a great variety of receipts for the use of Indian corn meal from the United States, I embodied them in a small pamphlet (copy annexed), which was distributed through the country.

It should be very much cooked or baked; and when used as bread,* it is much improved by mixing the yeast with one-sixth of wheaten flour, using hot water, and after it has risen, to add the five parts of Indian meal.

But the mush, or stirabout, seems to be the favourite preparation in Ireland, of which a large quantity is made at once to economize the fuel, and then eaten cold, or cut in slices and repassed through the oven.

It has become so popular, that the oatmeal which we have in store is seldom asked for, though offered at a low price.

The Indian meal is so nutritious, that one meal in the morning supports the labourer throughout the day; and it has been remarked by the peasantry that where it has been used, fever has been less prevalent, or has entirely disappeared.

The great object which now presented itself was to postpone the assistance of Government to the latest possible period, and to enforce the necessity of self-exertion as a claim to that assistance, for once commenced this aid could not be suspended or withheld without danger to the public peace. The uncertainty of the demand to be made upon us, of which it was impossible to frame any calculation, and the limited quantity in store in comparison with the exigencies of the whole country, made it an important object to postpone the commencement of the issue, until it was indispensable, so that the resources within the reach of the community might be first applied to their wants, before the depôts in reserve were opened for their supply. The expectation and certainty, of it, when the great pressure arrived, satisfied the people in the midst of many sacrifices, and induced in the meanwhile a proportionate activity and outlay amongst the landed proprietors.

It was at this time the printed instructions to district and town committees, prescribing their formation and duties, and giving a general outline of the views of Government, were submitted to the proper authorities by the Relief Commission, of which I had then become chairman, and after approval they were promulgated throughout the country.

As some slight alterations were subsequently introduced, chiefly in explanation of the task of male or female work to be exacted, and to regulate more uniformly the issue of tickets for employment, I annex some of the later copies.

One of the main objects in these instructions went to establish, that the aid of the Government should be only auxiliary to the efforts of the people, and the large amount subscribed, and much of that in small sums from 6d. to 10s., afford a gratifying proof of the good feeling of the proprietors.

I have observed before, that the potato crop, though very much diseased was very abundant, exceeding by one-third the usual average crop, and it was to this circumstance that we owed the possibility of keeping the Government stores in reserve to so late a period; though it is also certain, that the people submitted patiently to great sacrifices.

The date fixed for opening the public depôts for sale was the 15th of May, but the farm labour having been delayed by the heavy rains, the great pressure was not experienced until towards the end of that month, and beginning of June.

The issues from the depôt of Limerick, amounted then to 500 tons per week, and of Cork to 300 tons per week, and from the other depôts in like proportion.

Towards the end of June, it was found necessary to purchase an additional 8000 tons of Indian corn, chiefly of Mediterranean produce, which is not usually so good, or so sweet, as that of the United States.

From the latter country the corn shipped is usually of the growth of the previous year, and more dry and less exposed to be heated, whilst the European corn is more fresh, and more easily damaged.

Great care was taken to reject all that was injured; and by the increased activity used by the department at Cork, Limerick, and Sligo, the whole of the new purchase has been brought into use.

In coming now to speak more immediately of the exertions of the Commissariat, in a service so new and so complicated, I must explain the machinery and its organisation through which our arrangements have been conducted.

Our main depôt was Cork, under the charge of Commissary-General Hewetson. Here the unground Indian corn, and the meal received from America were unloaded and stored, and under this officer's charge the whole of the corn was ground.

This was a most important duty, and was admirably performed. The following mills were employed in this operation:—

Water-course (steam)	per week	.	.	.	1000 sacks.
Cork Mills	"	.	.	.	700
St. Dominicks (water)	"	.	.	.	60
Lee Mills	"	.	.	.	300
Carragaline	"	.	.	.	350
Raffeen	"	.	.	.	50
Ardra	"	.	.	.	100
Riverstown (water and steam)	.	.	.	.	500
Middleton (water)	.	.	.	.	200
Carrigrohane (water)	.	.	.	.	600
Kilnap (water and steam)	.	.	.	.	200
					<hr/>
					4060

The large naval magazines at Haulbowline, Cove of Cork, were occupied by the department, and the Admiral was always ready to afford his efficient and invaluable assistance, particularly in the appropriation of Government steamers for the conveyance of these supplies to the out-depôts.

The following localities were selected as depôts:—

On the west coast, and on the Shannon, Limerick and Kilrush (with several sub-depôts in the mouth of the Shannon)—Galway, Westport, Sligo, Banagher.

On the Grand Canal—Athy, Tullamore.

On the Royal Canal—Longford.

On the south-east side—Waterford, with Clonmel-on-the-Suir.

On the east side—Dublin, Dundalk.

Of these the most important were Limerick and Dublin.

Limerick embraced the supply of county of Kerry, county of Limerick, a large part of county of Tipperary, and county of Clare, all very distressed, and incorporating with it the depôt of Banagher and the adjoining country, and all the requisitions bordering the Shannon as high as Athlone.

This important service was placed under the orders of Commissary-General Coffin.

Dublin was the central dépôt from whence county of Wicklow, and county of Meath, and the country bordering the Grand and Royal Canals, including the dépôts of Tallamore and Athy, were supplied. The posts of Banagher and Longford also received their supply from Dublin, though not attached to that dépôt, and large shipments were likewise despatched through the Grand Canal to Limerick.

This duty was confided to Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

The dépôt at Galway, in charge of Assistant Commissary-General Wood, included that country and the Arran Islands, and part of Connemara, comprising Oughterarde and Clifden.

Westport, in charge of Captain Perceval, superintended the supply of county of Mayo, and the coast from Ballynakill and the Killerries to Belmullet, including Newport and Achil Island.

The remainder of the coast of county of Mayo, baronies Tyrrawley and Gallen, and all county of Sligo, and the coast and part of the interior of Donegal, as high as Rutland, were supplied from the dépôt at Sligo, under the charge of Assistant Commissary-General Stevens.

Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Campbell from the Longford Dépôt, superintended the supply of Leitrim, county of Cavan, and county of Roscommon and the line of the Shannon from Athlone to Carrick.

Mr. Parker, C.C., was in charge of the dépôt at Athy, with three sub-comstabulary dépôts at Castlecomer, Castle Dermot, and Mountmellick, reporting as well as Tallamore to Assistant Commissary-General Lister.

The dépôt at Dundalk was intended for the supply of Armagh and Monaghan, but the private speculations to this port and Drogheda very much diminished the labour which was expected to devolve on Mr. Waller, whose exertions were not called into the activity which they merited.

Neither were the labours of Deputy Commissary-General Dobree at Waterford, though very much more extensive and important, equal to the ability his experience was calculated to display, resulting chiefly from the same cause, which it was impossible to foresee.

His management of the dépôt at Clonmel was very judicious, and the activity with which it was carried out, very praiseworthy to Mr. Cummins, a young man of much promise.

The dépôt at Cork, under Commissary-General Hewetson, embraced all the duty of that large county, in addition to the general service required of him for the supply of the outposts. He was employed, without intermission, in discharging the American cargoes, in grinding and reloading them as fast as the steamers and sailing vessels could be prepared to receive them, nor do I know a single instance in which delay occurred. His duties, however, lay together, whilst those of Commissary-General Coffin, scattered over a wider district, comprising more details at greater distances, called for the exercise of the same anxious activity, with more foresight and discrimination.

These were the main Commissariat dépôts; and from the extent of the issues, you will judge of the labour required of the department; for independently of the supplies issued to committees, in quantities from five to twenty tons, there were usually issues to the poor from one to seven pounds, and the multitude and eagerness of the parties crowding round the doors to obtain these small purchases are difficult to describe. The hours allotted to such issues depended on the other duties of the dépôt, but, in some instances, they have been continued from six in the morning until nine at night.

Such issues were not, of course, practicable at Limerick, Cork, or Dublin, where the pressure of the committees, particularly at the two first, made it impossible to attend to such details.

I now describe the manner of the sub-distribution of these dépôts into smaller channels.

I am much indebted to the co-operation of the Inspector-General of the Coast-Guard; but amongst the officers serving under him, I must particularly mention Captain Mann, R.N., who entered at once into all the arrangements of Commissary-General Coffin, and superintended most efficiently the supply of the small harbours and localities in the mouth of the Shannon, and on the coasts of county Clare and county Kerry, where the distress was very prevalent.

I lay before you a list of the stations of the Coast-Guard. Their cutters are

small, and their capacity and means of transport limited, and their stations not intended to store a large supply. They are thus hardly fitted for any great or lengthened emergency without other assistance; but on all occasions in which they have acted with us, their zeal and activity have been useful and conspicuous. When the rough and boisterous weather on this coast is considered, together with the minuteness of their issues, and the crowds of poor and destitute persons waiting to receive them, it is difficult to do justice to their exertions. Nearly the whole of their payments were made in small coins and copper, which were remitted to the depôts from whence the supply was received.

The whole of these duties have been performed by the Coast-Guard, without any remuneration whatsoever.

But still more serviceable, though not developed to the full extent of which it is susceptible, was the assistance rendered by the constabulary, under the orders of Colonel McGregor, the Inspector-General of that force, consisting of about 11,000 men.

I refer you to my letter of the 20th May, addressed to Colonel McGregor, and transmitted to you in my letter of the 21st May, No. 162.

I now lay before you the circular issued by that officer, to give effect to the system which I proposed.

These arrangements afforded to me the facility of establishing branches from our depôts, throughout the interior of the country, at all those points where a cheap food was necessary to the relief of the people.

The constables are generally a superior class, and many of them men of intelligence, and some of education. I found them to be honest and zealous and laborious. They received 2s. 6d. per day in addition to their constabulary pay.

These constabulary branches might have been carried to any extent, the admirable order conspicuous throughout this corps, their local information, their influence in the country, the assistance close at hand to be derived on any occasion from their own detachments, rendered their services particularly applicable to our duties.

A simple form of account was prepared, which was readily understood, and as far as I can perceive, correctly carried out.

I annex list of these stations.

Their actual duty was limited to sales, but I had contemplated the probability of a want of funds, and the necessity of making payment for labour in food on the certificate of a Superintendent of Works.

The subscriptions collected by the District Committees, and the donations of Her Majesty's Government in aid of these subscriptions (somewhat exceeding two-thirds of the amount), made it unnecessary to recur to this measure.

I lay before you a list of these subscriptions, such as they were received from the parties.

I also lay before you a list of the grants made under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant, in aid of these subscriptions up to the 31st July.

It is proposed to fix the 10th August for the last day on which the recommendation for these grants on the present emergency should cease and determine.

The District Committees have been very variously conducted; but they have had great difficulties to contend with—a large population clamorous for food and employment, and no precise information of the extent of works that might be approved, or the day on which they could be commenced.

I scarcely know which is the most difficult undertaking, to feed or to employ such vast numbers, with this difference only, that the former will brook no delay, nor admit of interruption.

The Committees were all new to the plan and order they were intended to establish; and if failures occurred, we must not forget the sum of one hundred thousand pounds raised by private subscriptions, or the energy of those landlords who maintained their tenantry out of their own individual resources. It must be remembered that the emergency was sudden, and the system of relief and its organization new, and that every person who was called to act in it had his experience to acquire.

All these Committees who have received a grant of public money have engaged to furnish the Government, through this department, with a certified copy of their expenditure, and the application of their funds to the purposes of relief in conformity to the printed instructions, and these documents will hereafter be laid before the Government.

Information has been given to these Committees of the suspension of the Commissariat issues, on the 15th August; but I think it probable that in most instances there will be remains in store to carry them on beyond that period, so that no public inconvenience can possibly be experienced under this arrangement. There will be also the biscuit in the Ordnance stores, even if the Indian meal should be exhausted, to fall back upon, in the event of any further supply being required after the period announced for its discontinuance.

It is probable that if the same duty was to be performed again, I should be able to suggest many improvements and some economy. The depôts of Clifden and Bellmullet, on the west coast, became too extensive for the Coast Guard establishment, notwithstanding the exertions of Lieut. Stokes and Lieut. Dawson; and they are points which would require the presence of a Commissariat Accountant.

The east coast, from its vicinity to Liverpool and Bristol, have mercantile facilities, which make them more independent of the assistance of Government, with the exception only of Dublin, as the mouth of the Grand and Royal Canals, which communicate with the interior of the country.

The present emergency was something so sudden and so unusual, that the service could not at once be contemplated as a whole.

On any future occasion, if it should unfortunately be indispensable to revert to these measures, it is probable that the Government would make its purchases in the United Kingdom, and not in America or elsewhere abroad, which would afford an economy and a facility in the immediate distribution of the supply to its destination, without the obligation of a large depôt and establishment at Cork for storing and grinding, and which made a second voyage necessary before the consignment reached the point at which it was intended to be distributed.

It would also have the effect of stimulating instead of discouraging the trade.

All the calculations of the merchant are liable to be upset by the Government procuring large quantities from abroad and throwing them unexpectedly upon the home market; but if the Government makes its purchases in the home market, the wholesale dealer may gain but cannot lose, and the tendency of such an expectation would therefore be to attract large quantities of food from abroad.

The American corn or meal should be introduced in the winter or spring, when it is less exposed to damage than in summer, and we found its quality superior to that of the Mediterranean markets.

But the principal features in these operations to which I would call your attention, are the small comparative expense at which this large quantity of food has been made to supply a whole population, the little disturbance, almost unperceived, that it has occasioned to the ordinary course of trade, and the quiet manner throughout all its channels in which the relief has been distributed.

I hope their Lordships will permit me to speak of the exertions of Commissary-General Coffin, a brother officer of my own rank, whose talents and public services have frequently called forth their Lordships' approbation. His high character, his qualities and standing, recommend him for some distinction, both as a testimony to himself, and a source of emulation to the department.

The late promotion of Commissary-General Hewetson makes it only necessary for me to repeat the high opinion I entertain of his activity and abilities.

Deputy Commissary-General Dobree is an experienced and valuable officer, whose active services should now be retained in the department.

Assistant Commissary-General Lister has served seventeen years under my orders, which enables me to give him my full confidence, and I feel safe in any charge which he superintends.

Assistant Commissary-General Cameron has conducted the accounts, in which he has much experience and order, and on which I shall report hereafter.

Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Leonce Routh has afforded me much relief and valuable assistance, in the correspondence, which has been very laborious, and of a nature that exacted despatch. He is prompt, active, and intelligent, and I recommend him to their Lordships' encouragement.

I beg to recommend the assiduity of Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General Campbell, who has served so many years in his present rank, and the exertions of Mr. C. C. Parker, at Athy, who was for a long time on the Irish Commissariat; and I must likewise speak favourably of Mr. Cummine, who has been in charge at Cloonmel.

I am much indebted to Captain Perceval, who has been in charge at West-

port; and by his activity and gentlemanly manner has contributed to the success in that district.

Captain Pole also, at Banagher, is an intelligent, zealous officer.

Assistant Commissaries-General Gelston, Stevens, Wood, and Bayley, have all laboured hard and advantageously in their several avocations.

I shall be ready to enter on this subject more in detail hereafter, but I cannot quit it without bringing under your notice the unsparring labour and activity of the Department, seldom less than ten to twelve hours per diem, frequently at their desk beyond midnight, and, during a portion of the time, not excepting Sundays.

But I can vouch for the general feeling of satisfaction with which they look forward to the result of those labours appearing in their Lordships' opinion to have accomplished their object in the relief of the people.

A practical relief of this description, distributed to a nation in small issues, to reach the poorest families, is an event of rare occurrence, even in history. It is a formidable undertaking even to anticipate, and yet, with whatever imperfection, successfully to have accomplished it, may be received as a work of much labour and thought, and not unworthy of their Lordships' commendation; and it is a just tribute to pay to the characteristic endurance of the Irish peasantry that no outrage or violence has disturbed the public peace, and in its place a deep feeling of gratitude has risen up in return for the paternal care of Her Majesty's Government.

In conclusion, I respectfully lay before you copies of two letters which were addressed to me by His Excellency Lord Heytesbury and the Earl of Lincoln, on their retirement from office in Ireland.

ENCLOSURE 1.

Lord HETTERBURY to Sir R. ROUTE.

Vice Royal Lodge, July 1, 1846.

I CANNOT quit this country without expressing to you the high sense I entertain of the value of your services, in the difficult circumstances in which we were placed by the failure of last year's potato crop.

The quiet and regular manner in which your whole system of relief was organised and carried out, demands my warmest acknowledgments; nor must I omit to notice the excellent management by which you were enabled to keep the markets under your control, and to ensure good and wholesome food to the people, at a moderate price.

These services can only be justly appreciated by those, who, like myself, were fully cognisant of the difficulties of your position.

Accept my sincere thanks for all that you have done.

Lord LINCOLN to Sir R. ROUTE.

Irish Office, July 4, 1846.

I SHOULD be very unwilling to hand over the business of this office to my successor, without having written to you and expressed how sensible I am of the valuable services which you have rendered to the Government and to the country during the short time that I have been officially connected with Ireland.

The operations which you have had to conduct, required not only great zeal, energy, and perseverance, but much tact and discretion; and whilst the objects and instructions of the Government have been ably carried out by all who have been employed in an undertaking not less arduous than unusual, in no instance has the success been more complete than in the department over which you have presided.

No higher praise can be bestowed upon such services, under peculiar circumstances, than to say, that they have been executed in so noiseless a manner, that the public is as yet ignorant of the magnitude of the evil which they have successfully intercepted.

Accept my warmest acknowledgments for your great exertions and very valuable services.

ENCLOSURE 2.

Co. Clare.—Henry Staught, Esq., J.P., Electoral Division of Cloncy.—7th March, 1846.

The greater part of population subsisting on potatoes perfectly black, and which will shortly be consumed.

Co. Tipperary.—Rev. James Birmingham, P.P.—Borrisokane, 7th March, 1846.

Population of parish hardening on starvation, one-half being out of provisions.

Co. Cork.—Rev. E. G. Hudson, Dean of Armagh.—Ferry P.L. Union.

Potatoes in district nearly all gone; dozens of starving children and women are seen following ploughs, and quarrelling for the rotten potatoes left ungathered three months ago.

Co. Clare.—R. Mann, Esq., Inspector of Coast Guards.—Kilrush, &c., 7th March, 1846.

In district of Kilrush, 870 families represented as having very little employment and not

one day's food; one hundred to be employed next week; want of sound seed much dreaded; at Killoeragh, fever extensive, and portion of workhouse allotted to that district nearly full.

Co. Limerick.—*J. Waller O'Grady, Esq., J.P.*—*Patrick's Well, 7th March, 1846.*

Provisions scarce in neighbourhood; that numbers of the poor labouring class have not at present the means wherewith to live, or labour to give sustenance during the remainder of the summer.

Co. Tipperary.—*Extract from Resident Magistrate Redmond's Report to His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant.*—*Carriok-on-Sair, 7th March, 1846.*

The quantity of potatoes brought to market has considerably decreased.

Co. Clare.—*Sir Lucius O'Brien, Lieutenant Co. Clare.*—*Baronies of Bunratty, Upper and Lower, 7th March, 1846.*

That suffering and urgent distress prevails in the villages of Newmarket and Clara.

Co. Kerry.—*H. Clifford, Esq., Inspector of Coast Guards.*—*Trillick, 7th March, 1846.*

Co. Galway.—*John Smith, Esq., Clonsilla.*—*Clifden District from Ballinakill Bay to Clifden.*

Many out of provisions, having neither potatoes to eat nor potatoes for seed; numbers lying sick in fever, deprived of sustenance, save that given in charity; no employment for the people.

Co. Tyrone.—*Clerk of Union to Poor Law Commissioners.*—*Clogher P. L. Union.*
Guardians of opinion that no sound potatoes will remain after seed-time.

Co. Clare.—*R. Lyons, Esq., B. M.*—*Report to the Under-Secretary.*—*Ennis.*

That the tradesmen and others in town of Ennis are severely suffering from want of food; people expressing a determination not to starve whilst food can be procured.

Co. Clare.—*Extract from Minutes of the Poor Law Guardians.*—*Ennis Poor Law Union.*

Supply of potatoes brought to market insufficient for the wants of the inhabitants of the town of Ennis.

Co. Clare.—*The Magistrates, Clergy, and Farmers of Parish.*—*Parish Killoane, Barony of the Islands.*

Upwards of 100 families in great want; and upwards of 50 who cannot procure more than one meal daily; quantity of potatoes remaining not sufficient for consumption of the population one month.

Co. Clare.—*Memorial from the Magistrates, Gentry, &c. to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.*—*Town of Killoane.*

Alarming scarcity existing; the working classes, to the amount of 500 or 600 persons, cannot procure one meal per diem.

Co. Clare.—*Captain Macnamara, R.N.*—*Parishes of Ibrickane and Kilmurphy, Barony of Ibrickane.*

Numbers of persons in the most deplorable state, having no means of subsistence but a scanty supply of diseased potatoes.

Co. Clare.—*Memorial from the Parishioners to the Lord Lieutenant.*—*Parish of Clare Abbey.*

That out of 200 families residing in Clare Abbey village, 50 have to subsist on one meal daily.

Co. Clare.—*Magistrates of the Town and neighbourhood of Ennis to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.*—*Ennis.*

Much suffering existing from the want of employment and food; supply of potatoes at market has almost disappeared, and from the high prices, the people are unable to purchase; an outbreak expected in the absence of immediate assistance.

Co. Cork.—*Extract of Resident Magistrate Little's Report to the Under Secretary.*—*Bandon District.*

Co. Tipperary.—*Sub-Inspector Cox's Report to Inspector-General of Constabulary.*—*Castle and neighbourhood.*

Several families in Clonsilla are, in consequence of the "rot," left without provisions; one-third of the inhabitants of Ballygagh and Ballyporewood are out of potatoes, and many of the small farmers will shortly be so situated; seed potatoes selling at 15d. per stone.

Co. Tipperary.—*Memorial of the Justices and Cess-payers of the Barony of Lower Ormond, pursuant to Act 1 Vic. c. 21, to His Excellency.*—*Lower Ormond.*

The inhabitants of barony are suffering severely from failure of potato crop; distress daily arising.

Co. Kilkenny.—*J. Hocket, Esq., Mayor of Kilkenny, to the Chief Secretary.*—*City of Kilkenny.*

Positive scarcity may be apprehended early in summer.

Co. Wexford.—*Rev. W. Serres, Chaplain-General, Glebe, Tyrrell's-pass.*—*Tyrrell's-pass, Parish of Newtown, Barony of Fartullagh.*

Distress pressing and urgent.

Co. Wexford.—*Rev. W. Scott, Rector.*—*Tighemon.*

Likely to be much suffering and piteous.

Co. Wicklow.—Sir George Hudson, Bart.—District of Bray.

Great mass of population consuming food totally unfit for use.

Co. Galway.—D. H. Kelly, Esq., D.L.—Barony Ballymore.

Several of the inhabitants actually starving, without either potatoes to eat or potatoes for seed.

Co. Galway.—Report of W. Lewis, Esq., County Inspector, to the Inspector-General of Constabulary.—Ten miles around Loughrea.

Thousands of families (in a circle of two miles round Loughrea) that will not have a potato to subsist on by the middle of May next.

Co. Galway.—Assistant Poor Law Commissioner Barke.—Barony Leitrim.

Several persons at present out of potatoes; others whose stocks will not last more than a month; whole stock will be consumed by May; that there will be a deficiency of sound seed for coming season.

Co. Antrim.—Rev. Samuel G. Potter, Cashendall.—Barony Loner Glenasm, March 28, 1846.

Farmers living on potatoes and salt, and do even not expect this long; persons have died of absolute want; a family instance actually starving, having neither money nor food.

Co. Clare.—H. Bayles, Esq.—Barony Loner Tuils, Broadford, 28th March, 1846.

Potatoes are fast disappearing, being consumed as food by the higher classes; fears this will continue the famine to next year; the people are becoming reckless of consequences.

Co. Limerick.—John O'Brien, Esq.—City of Limerick, 28th March, 1846.

The population are necessitous, and require immediate relief.

Co. Limerick.—Lord Guiltmore.—Co. Limerick, 28th March, 1846.

States that famine (almost) exists in the rich and populous district; and states, if deep and serious attention is not paid to the poor, very serious consequences will result; heard to-day that several bullocks were killed and carried off from the borders of county; encloses a letter from the chairman of Castleconnell Relief Committee expressive of distress in district.

Co. Limerick.—John Waller O'Grady, Esq.—Barony Pubble Brien, Patrickswell, 28th March, 1846.

Minds of the people are getting "fearfully uneasy;" states from personal knowledge the privations suffered by some to be dreadful.

Co. Tipperary.—Extract from Minutes of Tipperary Poor Law Guardians, of 21st inst.—Barony of Clonsilla, Poor Law Union of Tipperary, 28th March, 1846.

One hundred heads of families attended Board, requesting employment to alleviate their apparent utter destitution from the failure of the potato crop.

Co. Dublin.—J. O'Ferrall, Esq.—Kingstown, 28th March, 1846.

Report states that 695 persons are now suffering privation from the high price of provisions; 317 are in extreme distress, then means of buying food being more inadequate than that of the others.

Co. Kilkenny.—Rev. Luke Fowler.—Barony of Cranagh, Freshford, 28th March, 1846.

Distress is daily spreading in village of Freshford, amounting to all but starvation; writer's house daily beset by starving people; impossible to provide even a scanty supply for the numbers famishing.

King's Co.—Dean Hawkins.—Monaghan, 28th March, 1846.

The potatoes of many poor people of neighbourhood are all consumed; many poor people would gladly walk to Roscrea (5 miles) for Indian flour at famine price.

Queen's County.—W. Cope Cooper, Esq.—Baronies of Ballydun and Slievermarique.—Poor Law Union, Athy, 28th March, 1846.

Barony of Slievermarique requires immediate relief; population in many parts starving.

Queen's Co.—Extract from Guardians' Minutes of 20th inst.—Mountmellick Poor Law Union, 28th March, 1846.

That a number of decent women with families, amounting to 80 human beings, apply to the Guardians for relief, they being without food or sufficient employment; these applicants form but a small proportion of those actually subsisting on food made from "the wash" of a starch yard, food but indifferently suited for pigs.

Co. Westmeath.—Queries of Poor Law Commissioners answered by W. Fetherstone, Esq.—Barony of Fethallagh, Poor Law Union, Mullingar, 28th March, 1846.

Con-acre holders suffer most; poor-house fuller than in summer months; poor labourers, supply of potatoes in many instances already exhausted, and unless immediate relief is given the consequences will be awful; 350 labourers are unemployed in barony.

Co. Leitrim.—Lord Clements.—Poor Law Union, Mohill, 28th March, 1846.

Minutes state that the cottiers at present are almost destitute; Lord Clements states that around parties have visited the houses of dealers in oatmeal for the purpose of forcing them to lower their charges.

Co. Leitrim.—A. Moore, Esq., Poor Law Office.—Poor Law Union, Mohill, 28th March, 1846.

Three gentlemen wait on the Guardians representing the extreme destitution of the labouring classes, and the urgent necessity of immediate relief; the guardians resolve that there is no doubt of the extreme failure in the potato crop, and that they entertain the most serious apprehensions for the poor of the Union; many farmers are said to be in great want, and many families have provisions only to the 1st of May.

ENCLOSURE 3.

MEMORANDUM ON INDIAN FOOD.

Method of grinding Indian Corn.

The grain, Indian corn, to answer your queries about mill-stones, is sometimes very hard, and is called flint corn, but all the mill stones used for grinding other grains may be used for Indian corn. This grain being larger than wheat, it is necessary that the stones should be kept wider apart and not driven too rapidly, for when the motion of the stones is too rapid, the meal becomes heated and injured, and the cause of injury to the meal is its being ground too fine—"it kills or deadens the meal." I have seen the French huhrs, the common stones of the country, and certain varieties of trappe used for grinding this grain, without any perceptible difference in the quality of the meal. In the southern parts of the United States, the common country stones are almost universally used, and very efficient for the purpose. They are made of a variety of syenite. Steel mills are also in common use in plantations, not so much for making meal, but are convenient for "chopping" the grain, or making grits or hominy, which is a dish almost universally seen on the tables of the rich as well as poor. By steel mills, I mean a mill of precisely similar construction to those used for grinding coffee or spices, with this difference, that those used for grinding corn are much larger. But I presume you know that those of stone used in the United States are made in England.

Braintree, January 5, 1846.

Various manners of using Indian Corn for Human Food.

Soppaxon, or Porridge, that is to say, boiling milk, broth, or water, thickened with Indian corn meal, in the same way that people in the south of England thicken them with wheat flour, and that people in the north thicken with oatmeal. Put into water, this is a breakfast, supper, or dinner for little children; put into milk or broth, it is the same for grown people. It is excellent in all disorders arising from bad digestion. In milk or broth it is a good strong meal, sufficient for a man to work upon.

It takes about three pounds and a half of Indian corn flour to make porridge for ten persons, less than half a pound of corn flour for a meal for one man, and a warm, comfortable meal that fills and strengthens the stomach. Three pounds and a half of wheaten flour would make four pounds and a half of bread, but it would be dry bread, and bread alone; and not affording half the sustenance or comfort of the porridge.

Mush.—Put some water or milk into a pot and bring it to boil, then let the corn meal out of one hand gently into the milk or water, and keep stirring with the other, until you have got it into a pretty stiff state; after which let it stand ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, or less, or even only one minute, and then take it out and put it into a dish or bowl. This sort of bulk pudding—half porridge you eat either hot or cold, with a little salt or without it. It is eaten without any liquid matter, but the general way is to have a basin of milk, and taking a lump of the mush you put it into the milk and eat the two together. Here is an excellent pudding, whether eaten with milk or without it; and where there is no milk, it is an excellent substitute for bread, whether you take it hot or cold. It is neither hard or lumpy when cold, but quite light and digestible for the most feeble stomachs. The Indian corn flour is more wholesome than wheat flour in all its manners of cooking. It is a great convenience for the workman in the field that mush can be eaten cold. It is, in fact, moist bread, and babies soon makes it pleasanter than bread. It is a great thing for all classes of persons, but particularly for the labourer. He may have bread every day, and be may have it hot or cold; and there is more nutrition in it than you can get out of the same quantity of wheat flour. It is eaten at the best tables in America almost every day; some like it hot, some cold, some with milk, some to slice it down and eat it with meat; some like it best made with water, others with milk, but all like it in one way or another. Some put these cold slices again into the oven, and eat them hot; or they might be heated on the griddle. It is believed in America that the Indian corn, even used in this one single manner, does more as food for man, than all the wheat that is grown in the country, though the flour from that wheat is acknowledged to be the best in the world.

Hominy is made of the broken grain; broken by the steel mills described in the first page. It is soaked over night in warm water, changed in the morning to clean cold water, and boiled gently as beer and a half. Warm it over when cold; eat it with milk, or molasses, or salt, or bacon, or alone. The weekly allowance to a working man is ten pounds of the flint corn, or twelve pounds of the golden corn. Judge what a nutritious food this must be, for twelve pounds of it to be sufficient to maintain a working man seven days.

Samp, though not in such common use as porridge or mush, is very much used. The husk or skin of the corn is scalded off, or dipped in hot lye, or beaten off as we do the skin of oats. This is put into a pot with pork or fat, and boiled just in the same manner as the people in the country make pease porridge; but the samp is more wholesome and more nutritious.

Wheaten bread, with one-third Indian corn meal, is decidedly improved by it, and is preferred at all the tables of the first American families. It acquires by this addition a sweetness in flavour, and a freshness that we in vain look for in bread made entirely of wheat.

Indian Corn and Wheat flour Bread.—Take one quart of corn meal, and a little salt and one quart of boiling water. Wet the meal, let it stand till it is blood-warm, then add two quarts of wheat flour and a half of a pint of yeast, and let it rise. This quantity will make two loaves. Bake it one hour and a half.

Brown Bread.—Take one quart and a pint of Indian meal, one quart and a pint of rye flour, and a little salt. Mix well together; then take half-a-pint of yeast, a quart and a half of blood-warm water, and let it rise; bake it in an iron stand in the oven all night.

Rye and Indian Corn Bread another way.—Scald three pints Indian meal in boiling water, one quart rye meal, a little molasses, salt, scalded altogether, not to be made stiff; yeast put in when cold.

To make an Indian Meal Pudding.—About four table-spoonfuls of Indian meal, a pint of milk, one egg, and two full table-spoonfuls of treacle, mixed well together, put into a basin, tied down, and boiled an hour.

In the midst of a wilderness, with a flint and a steel, and a bag of corn meal, an American sets himself at defiance. He makes a large wood fire on the ground, and while that is burning up, he takes a little wooden or tin bowl, or sometimes in the crown of his hat, in which he mixes up a sufficient quantity of his meal with water, and forms it into a cake about an inch thick. With a pole he then draws the fire open, and lays the cake down where the centre of the fire was. To avoid burning, he takes some ashes over the cake first, he then rakes on a suitable quantity of the live embers, and his cake is cooked in a short space of time.

In Canada, the French inhabitants place the unground corn in hot ley, thereby getting rid of the outside skin, after which they boil it in milk, until it is well thickened and the grain soft, and with a little sugar to sweeten it, it makes an excellent and very nutritious breakfast.

The usual mode of making bread or cake of Indian meal, is to scald the meal in boiling water, and make it of a proper consistency of dough, and bake it on tins before the fire half an inch thick; and at the South and West, it is made three quarters of an inch thick. It is Indian meal, water, and salt, of a consistency to roll out on a tin or board, or flatten out with the hands.

It is also made into gruel, or thicker into tasty pudding, by stirring the meal into hot water gradually until it is of a consistency of starch, or a very soft pudding, which hardens as it becomes cold.

It is eaten with butter, fat, salt, or sugar, or molasses, or any relish of salt meat or fish, or alone.

It is also made the basis of thickening any broth or soup, or made with eggs and snet into puddings of the usual consistency, and with molasses.

No mistake can be made in using the meal, as it can be mixed with, or adapted to anything.

Maize or Indian corn has never been extensively used in Great Britain, and this has arisen from the almost total ignorance of the English people as to the mode of preparing it for human food. It is, perhaps, the most productive crop that can be grown, and its nutritious qualities, when properly prepared, are equal to its productiveness. We are satisfied that it may be grown in that country, or, at any rate, in the south and eastern parts of it, with great advantage; indeed, the experiment has been tried, and with decided success. The late Mr. Collett grew an average crop of the dwarf kind on Barn Elms farm, Surrey, for three or four years, as the editor can testify from his own personal inspection, and he himself has succeeded in rearing the large sort to perfection, the cobs or ears, when quite ripe, averaging eight or nine inches; this, however, was effected upon a small scale, and in a garden.

Indian Cake, or Bannock.—This, as prepared in our own country, is cheap and very nice food. Take one quart of Indian meal, dressed or sifted, two table-spoonfuls of treacle or molasses, two tea-spoonfuls of salt, a bit of "shortening" (butter or lard) half as big as a hen's egg, stirred together; make it pretty moist with scalding water, put it into a well-greased pan, smooth over the surface with a spoon, and bake it brown on both sides before a quick fire. A little stewed pumpkin, scalded with the meal, improves the cake. Bannock split and dipped in butter, makes very nice toast.

Green Indian Corn.—This is a most delicious vegetable. When used as a vegetable, the cobs, or ears, are plucked about the time that the corn has arrived at a milky state, or just before it assumes a solid substance. A part of the leaves or filaments by which the cob, or ear, is surrounded, is taken away, and the cobs boiled from twenty to forty minutes, "according to its age." When it is done, it is served with cold or melted butter, and eaten (after being stripped of its remaining leaves) by taking the two ends of the cob in the hands, and hiving off the corn. The editor can bear testimony to its delicious quality, from having grown it in his own garden and partaken of it.

Indian Corn, or Maize Pudding, baked.—Scald a quart of milk (skimmed milk will do), and stir in seven table-spoonfuls of sifted Indian meal, a tea-spoonful of salt, a tea-spoonful of molasses or treacle, or coarse moist sugar, and a table-spoonful of powdered ginger or sifted cinnamon; bake three or four hours. If whey is wanted, pour in a little cold milk after it is all mixed.

Boiled Maize Pudding.—Stir Indian meal and warm milk together "pretty stiff;" a little salt and two or three "great spoonfuls" of molasses added; also a spoonful of ginger, or any other spice that may be preferred. Boil it in a tight-covered pan, or in a very thick cloth; if the water gets in, it will ruin it. Leave plenty of room, for Indian meal swells very much. The milk with which it is mixed should be merely warmed; if it be scalding hot, the

pudding will break to pieces. Some chop suet very fine, and warm in the milk; others warm thin slices of apple to be stirred into the pudding. Water will answer instead of milk.

Rye and Indian Bread.—There are many different proportions in the mixing of this bread. Some put one-third Indian with two of rye; others like one-third rye and two of Indian; others prefer it half and half.

If you use the largest proportion of rye meal, make your dough stiff, so that it will mould into loaves; when it is two-thirds Indian, it should be softer, and baked in deep earthen or tin pans after the following rules:—

Take four quarts of sifted Indian meal; put it into a glazed earthen pan, sprinkle over it a table-spoonful of fine salt; pour over it about two quarts of boiling water, stir and work it till every part of the meal is thoroughly wet; Indian meal absorbs a greater quantity of water. When it is about milk-warm, work in two quarts of rye meal, half a pint of lively yeast, mixed with a pint of warm water; add more warm water if needed. Work the mixture well with your hands: it should be stiff, but not firm as flour dough. Have ready a large, deep, well-buttered pan; put in the dough, and smooth the top by putting your hand in warm water, and then patting down the loaf. Set this to rise in a warm place in the winter; in the summer it should not be put by the fire. When it begins to crack on the top, which will usually be in about an hour or an hour and a half, put it into a well-heated oven, and bake it three or four hours. It is better to let it stand in the oven all night, unless the weather is warm. Indian meal requires to be well cooked. The loaf will weigh between seven and eight pounds.

There is another mode which many persons think preferable. Scald a quart of rye and another of Indian meal, with a small quantity of boiling water. Boil a tea-spoonful of salt in a pint and a half of milk, mix the rye and Indian meal together, and pour the milk over them—add half a pint of fresh yeast; but not before the meal is cooling. The mixture must be well kneaded and placed in a deep pan by the fire to rise. When it has risen sufficiently, take it out of the pan, make it into any shape you like, and put it into an oven well heated. If the fire is too brisk, the crust will brown and the inside remain heavy.

It should bake from two to three hours.

To make excellent Bread without Yeast.—Scald about two handfuls of Indian meal, into which put a little salt, and as much cold water as will make it rather warmer than new milk; then stir in wheat flour, till it is as thick as a family pudding, and set it down by the fire to rise. In about half an hour it generally grows thin; you may sprinkle a little fresh flour on the top, and mind to turn the pot round, that it may not bake to the side of it. In three or four hours, if you mind the above directions, it will rise and ferment as if you had set it with hop yeast; when it does, make it up in soft dough, flour a pan, put in your bread, set it before the fire, covered up, turn it round to make it equally warm, and in about half an hour it will be light enough to bake. It suits best to bake it in a Dutch oven, as it should be put into the oven as soon as it is light.

Hasty Pudding.—Boil water, a quart, three pints, or two quarts, according to the size of your family; sift your meal, stir five or six spoonfuls of it thoroughly into a bowl of water; when the water in the kettle boils, pour into it the contents of the bowl; stir up well, and let it boil up thick; put in salt to suit your own taste, then stand over the kettle and sprinkle in meal, handful after handful, stirring it very thoroughly all the time, and letting it boil between whiles. When it is so thick that you stir it with difficulty, it is about right. It takes about half an hour's cooking. Eat it with milk or molasses. Either Indian meal or rye meal may be used. If the system is in a restricted state, nothing can be better than rye hasty pudding and *West India* molasses. This diet would save many a one the horrors of dyspepsia.

The Canadian Voyageurs employed by the North West and Hudson Bay Companies, who are exposed to the severest labour without cessation, rising at 5 o'clock, a.m., and working till sunset; if on the water, continually paddling; and at the portage carrying the packs on their shoulders weighing 200 lbs.; these men are fed entirely on Indian corn. Each man receives, per diem, one quart of Indian corn, husked (that is the outer skin taken off), and one ounce of fat or grease; this is boiled in water, and the grease or fat with it, and when cooked produces one quart and a half, and no man can eat more in a day. They live on this food for six weeks together without any change, and grow fat on it. The Canadian peasantry are well fed in their own homes, yet they enter with alacrity into this service and this manner of living. Taking adults and children, the cost of living for fifty persons is estimated at 4s. 6d. sterling, per diem; calculating the Indian corn at 3s. sterling per bushel of forty quarts, and forty ounces of grease or fat, at 1s. 6d., say for forty men, or fifty adults and children.

Dr. Bartlett, the able Editor of the *New York Tribune*, who has published an admirable pamphlet on this subject, makes the calculation somewhat less, but of course on the prices in the United States:—

"I carefully weighed out one pound of the meal, and gave it to a person who understood the mode of cooking it. In the course of boiling it absorbed about five pints of water, which was added at intervals until the process was complete. The bulk was again weighed, and gave as the result four pounds and a half. Such are the powers of expansion possessed by this grain. On dividing the mass into portions, it was found to fill four soup plates of the ordinary size, and with the addition of a little milk and sugar, gave a plentiful breakfast to four servants and children.

According to this experiment, one pound of maize flour, which cost one penny, would give a breakfast to four persons, at one farthing each, and if we add to this another farthing for milk, sugar, or butter, the breakfast would cost one halfpenny each, and would be an ample meal for females and children.

It is found from daily experience in all the rural districts of America, that persons, instead of becoming tired of this food, become more attached to it.

Be careful to observe that Indian corn in all its preparations requires thorough cooking. If not sufficiently boiled or baked, it loses its flavour and becomes indigestible.

The following recipes are extracted from Dr. Bartlett's admirable pamphlet:—

Griddle Cakes.—Use milk altogether, and no water. Two eggs yellow and white to be allowed for a pint of corn meal, the milk to be a little warmed, and the whole to be well beaten up with a spoon. There must be milk enough used to make the whole as liquid that it will pour out of the saucepan on the griddle, one spoonful of wheat flour and lard (pure butter is better) the size of a walnut.

The griddle is a flat round iron concern, standing on three legs, and of any size; it must be made not very hot, as it would then burn the cakes, and it must be well cleaned and greased while warm, that it may be perfectly smooth, so that the cakes may be easily turned, that they may be done brown (not burnt) on both sides; to promote their turning easily is the object of adding the wheaten flour. The dough, or rather the batter, must be well beat up, and prepared directly before being cooked, though it might set on hour, but it would not bear to be mixed over night. The cakes are usually poured on until they spread on the griddle to the size of the bottom of a breakfast plate.

Egg Pake.—Three eggs to a quart of meal, no wheat flour, to be made also with milk, as water would make it heavy, a spoonful of butter, all well beaten together, and made up of a consistency thicker than the cakes, too thick to pour out, but just thick enough to require to be taken up with a spoon—may be baked like cakes, immediately after being mixed, must be baked in a tin pan, which must be placed in a Dutch oven, not too hot at first, but the fire under it to be increased. The object is to have it begin to bake at the bottom, when it will rise in the process of baking, become brown on the top, and, when put on the table and cut, resemble what we call pound cake. Salt, of course, add as usual to your taste in both cases.

Indian Meal Breakfast Cakes.—Pour boiling water into a quart of corn meal; stir it until it is wet; then add two well-beaten eggs, and milk enough to make it a thick batter; measure a small tea-spoonful of dry saleratus,* and dissolve it into some warm water, and put it into the batter with a small quantity of salt; butter square tin pans, fill them two-thirds full, and bake in a quick oven; when done cut it in squares, and serve hot. * See page 35.

Indian Muffins.—Pour boiling water into a quart of corn meal, stir it well, let it be a thick batter; when it is cooled a little add to it a table-spoonful of yeast, two eggs well beaten, and a tea-spoonful of salt; set in a warm place to rise for two hours; then butter square tin pans, two-thirds fill them, and bake in a quick oven; when done serve hot or cut in squares, or bake as wheat muffins.

Johnny Cake.—A prepared from the corn meal scalded, and the dough rolled or pressed out to half an inch in thickness, is cooked one side at a time in front of the fire, after being put on a board, sheet of tin, or plate, or any other material of suitable shape.

Ash Cake.—Is prepared from the Indian meal dough made as above, and is cooked as follows:—Make a bed by scraping away the ashes on all sides, roll the dough, after being made into form, between two cabbage leaves, place it in the bed, and cover up with the previously removed ashes and cinders. A little practice will determine the length of time requisite for cooking. The process resembles that of roasting potatoes.

Corn Cup Cakes.—Take two cups of corn meal and one of wheat flour, or in that proportion, make them into a thin batter with milk and eggs, and cook them on a griddle.

Ace Cakes.—Is prepared by wetting up corn meal with boiling water, is made into a cake, and cooked in front of the fire on a board or plate. This resembles the Johnny Cake.

Baked Indian Pudding.—One quart of milk boiled, stir in seven spoonfuls of meal while it is boiling hot, mix it quite thin, when it is moderately warm add molasses, a little ginger and salt, four eggs, a lump of butter the size of an egg.

Boiled Indian Pudding.—One tea-cup of molasses, one piece of meat the size of two eggs, chopped fine, three spoonfuls of meal, scald the meal with boiling water or milk, mix it quite thin, when it is nearly cold add four eggs well beaten. It requires three hours' boiling in a strong cloth.

Indian Gruel.—To one quart of boiling water, stir in two table-spoonfuls of Indian meal, mixed with a little cold water, boil 15 or 20 minutes, add a little salt.

The Mexican mode of using the Indian corn differs from all the foregoing.

The whole corn is soaked in water until it becomes soft. A small quantity is then placed on a flat stone, on which it is crushed into an uniform smooth paste by a roller, also of stone, somewhat of the shape and size of a common paste roller. Successive portions are added, and the paste, as it accumulates, removed into a dish, until a sufficient quantity is thus prepared; after which it is made into cakes of the thickness of pancakes, called "*Tortillas*." These are baked quick on a hot hearth, or on an iron plate, and usually eaten as hot as possible; but are also kept till cold, and then re-baked in the same manner, when they become as crisp as thin biscuits. No other kind of bread is used in the country districts, or by the majority of the inhabitants of even the large towns; and many of the wealthier classes prefer it to the best wheaten bread. The muleteers, who are always on the road, are considered to prepare these cakes better than other people, and they make them of the thickness of a London crumpet, but they then require a longer time, and a stronger heat to bake them properly. These are called *Tortillas gordas*.

There will be found some repetition in the preceding pages, as the selections are made from various sources, some original and some printed, and they are frequently different manners of arranging the same thing.

I have always understood that the Indian corn grown in the northern states of America is best adapted to the uses of cattle, and that grown in the south the most delicate and the best for human food. I believe it requires a dry temperature, and at least one month of a hot sun. It grows in all the south of Europe, and is the principal food of the inhabitants of Portugal, a great part of Spain, and of Italy. The Indian corn bread is there eaten without any mixture of wheat, and not usually of any other grain. It is sweet and agreeable to the taste, and those who are accustomed to its use become exceedingly fond of it. It is also used in the south of France.

To those who are unaccustomed to the use of Indian corn bread, I think the thin cake baked or toasted over or near the fire is more palatable than the bread in the form of a loaf; the material is the same, but in the form of a thin flat cake it is lighter; but a little habit soon leads you to prefer the bread in the usual form.

In conclusion, it will be found on trial that everything which can be made with wheaten flour may be made with Indian corn meal, and that the latter is more wholesome and more nutritious.

No. 3 (a).

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMITTEES OF RELIEF DISTRICTS.

From Minutes of Proceedings of the Relief Commission appointed on the 18th November, 1845, for carrying into effect measures to relieve the Distress in Ireland, consequent on losses of the Potato Crop of 1845.

THE Relief Commission having had under their consideration the necessity of establishing Local Committees, properly organized in the several districts where destitution is likely to prevail, through whose superintendence the approach and progress of distress in such localities may be watched, and the means of relief administered according to the instructions of Government,

It is Resolved,—

I. That Lieutenants of counties be requested to form Committees for conveniently-sized relief districts, in those cases where it shall be established, on good and sufficient grounds, that very considerable loss of the potato crop has been sustained, and that extreme distress is near at hand. That these Committees be comprised of the following classes:—

Lieutenant or Deputy-Lieutenant of the county,
Magistrates of petty sessions,
Officer of Board of Works,
Clergymen of all persuasions,
Chairman of Poor Law Union of the locality,
Poor Law Guardians of electoral district or districts,
Coast Guard Officer, where available,
Resident magistrate,

And such other active and intelligent gentlemen as the Lieutenant may select.

II. That each Committee should hold regular periodical meetings at a place or places to be fixed by them, where all Committee business should be transacted; and that regular minutes should be kept of their proceedings in a book to be supplied to them from this Commission, and that three members should be a quorum.

III. That such Committee should make themselves acquainted with the provisions of the Act 1 Vic., c. 21, and the Amendment Act passed in the present year, 9 Vic., c. 1, which are intended to afford a summary method of affording relief by means of public works; observing that it is desirable, in order to facilitate their operation within the district, that all memorials from special sessions held under these Acts should be accompanied by proper plans, sections, and estimates, of the works proposed to be constructed.

IV. That a most important duty of the Committee will be to promote, by every means in their power, the most profitable and most natural sources of employment in their district, by stimulating private enterprise; by urging the improvement and drainage of farms and estates, and by promulgating a knowledge of the facilities afforded by the Legislature for these objects, to meet the present emergency.

To supply the Committee with the necessary information, copies of the following documents will be forwarded to them:—

Address to Land Proprietors, from the Royal Agricultural Society.

Act 1 Vic., c. 21, and 9 Vic., c. 1, for facilitating Public Works.

Estate Drainage Act.

Amendments of Drainage Act.

Amendment of Board of Works Act, enabling proprietors to borrow money for improvements.

Extraordinary Sessions Presentment Act, 9 Vic., c. 2.

Fishery Piers Act.

V. That it is evident, and is also in strict accordance with the views and instructions of the Government, that the land-holders and other rate-payers are the parties both legally and morally answerable for affording due relief to the destitute poor, and that the same parties are, from their local influence, and their knowledge of the situation and wants of the people in their neighbourhood, best able to furnish such relief without waste or misdirection of the means employed.

That the measures to be adopted by the officers of Government are to be considered merely as auxiliary to those which it is the duty of the persons possessed of property in each neighbourhood to adopt.

That the Local Committee should, therefore, put themselves in communication with such persons, and should solicit subscriptions from them proportioned to their means, and to the extent of distress in the locality to which they belong.

That where notwithstanding such subscriptions some assistance is likely to be required from the Government, a list of the sums subscribed, together with a list of the landlords who do not contribute, should be confidentially brought under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant, who, after due consideration of the case, will determine on the sum to be contributed from the funds at his disposal in aid of the local subscription.

But those landlords are not to be considered in the list of persons refusing to contribute, who, by farm drainage, by other works of a more general nature on their estates, or by residence and employment, enable their tenants to meet the present emergency without an appeal to the public assistance; but no such expenditure, nor any other sum not actually placed under the control of the Committee, can be regarded as part of a subscription.

The Government will be prepared to supply to the Local Committee, at a moderate price, such reasonable quantity of Indian meal and oatmeal, as the Committee may propose to purchase for distribution, either in lieu of money wages, to destitute persons employed by them, or for sale at one uniform price, at or under first cost, with a view of enabling the poorer classes to obtain a sufficiency of food with the wages ordinarily earned.

VI. That some instances may occur in which the necessary supply of food cannot be obtained by funds derived from the proprietors or voluntary associations of the district.

In such instances stations will be established in the distressed localities for the sale of food. Such sale will be conducted by the Commissary-General, through the agency of the Commissariat, of the Coast Guard, or of the Constabulary, with the co-operation of the Local Committee of the district.

VII. That in cases wherein any assistance is afforded by Government, either in aid of local subscriptions, or otherwise, the following rules are to be invariably observed in the administration of relief:—

1st. A task of work shall be required from every person capable of giving it who applies for relief.

2nd. The payments for the work performed shall be made in food, and shall in every case be limited to such a quantity of food as will be sufficient to support the workman and the helpless persons of his family.

3rd. If in any case it be impracticable to pay in food, the payments in money shall be limited to what is absolutely necessary for the above purpose.

4th. Gratuitous relief shall be afforded only to those persons who are entirely incapable of giving a day's work, and who have no able-bodied relative on whom they are dependent, and in those cases only in which their reception in the workhouse of the Union is, from want of room, impracticable.

5th. The works in which destitute persons are to be employed by the Local Committee shall be in prosecution of some public improvement, approved of by this Commission, within or adjacent to the distressed locality, and shall be such as will be capable of being brought at once to a close when the circumstances of the people are improved. Small repairs in town streets and lanes; cleansing of those localities, and sewers connected with them; and cleansing as well as whitewashing houses occupied by poor persons, are also works of utility, and deserving attention. As further means of employment, the breaking of stones for sale may be found available; and females may be employed in tasks of knitting, spinning, straw-plaiting, mat-making, also in washing and repairing clothes for poor persons, or in such other in-door works of utility as the Committee may find suitable.

VIII. That the Committee should obtain township lists, with minute reports of the circumstances of each family from whom application for relief may be made; that at their meetings certificates or tickets should be given to such only as are ascertained to be without means of providing food for their families; that such certificates or tickets be the authority to the Superintendent of the Public Works for receiving the persons to whom they are granted; and that a register of all certificates or tickets granted by the Committee be preserved in a book to be supplied for that purpose by this Commission.

Under no circumstances should the work tickets be distributed to the persons in need of employment otherwise than at meetings of the Committee.

The tickets may not in any case be distributed by individual members of the Committee.

It is also particularly to be observed that the tickets should not be distributed to any persons but those with respect to whom the Committee shall have made inquiry, and ascertained that they have no other resource than employment on public works.

At all times caution should be used in distributing the tickets only to as many persons as can be usefully employed on works in progress or to be immediately commenced.

IX. That the secretary, or person officiating as such, of the Committee should take charge of the books, correspondence, and other documents, and may be paid for his services by the Committee.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

No. 3 (5).

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMITTEES OF RELIEF DISTRICTS IN TOWNS.

Extracted from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners appointed in reference to the apprehended Scarcity.

THE Commission having had under their consideration the necessity of establishing Local Committees, properly organized in towns where destitution is likely to prevail, through whose superintendence the approach and progress of distress in such localities may be watched, and the means of relief administered according to the instructions of Government,

It is Resolved,—

I. That the mayor, or where there is no mayor and aldermen, the chairman of the Town Commissioners of any town in which it shall be established on good and sufficient grounds that extreme distress is near at hand in consequence of the failure in the potato crop, be requested to convene a meeting composed of the following classes:—

Mayor and aldermen,

The Town Commissioners (in towns where there is no mayor and aldermen),

Clergymen of all persuasions,

Chairmen of any Poor Law Union which may include any part of the town,

Poor Law Guardians of electoral district or districts,

Magistrates of Petty Sessions.

That this meeting should select from amongst themselves not more than 20 members, who, with the resident magistrate (if any), the Coast Guard officer (where available), and an officer of the Board of Works, should form the Local Relief Committee.

II. That such Committee should hold regular periodical meetings at a place or places to be fixed by them, where all Committee business should be transacted; and that regular minutes should be kept of their proceedings in a book to be supplied to them from this Commission, and that three members should be a quorum.

III. That it is evident, and is also in strict accordance with the views and instructions of the Government, that the owners of property and other rate-payers are the parties both legally and morally answerable for affording due relief to the destitute poor, and that the same parties are, from their local influence, and their knowledge of the situation and wants of the people in their neighbourhood, best able to furnish such relief without waste or misdirection of the means employed.

That the measures to be adopted by the officers of Government are to be considered merely as auxiliary to those which it is the duty of the persons possessed of property in each neighbourhood to adopt.

That the Local Committee should, therefore, put themselves in communication with such persons, and should solicit subscriptions from them proportioned to their means, and to the extent of distress in the locality to which they belong.

That where notwithstanding such subscriptions some assistance is likely to be required from the Government, a list of the sums subscribed, together with a list of individuals from whom subscriptions might have been expected, should be confidentially brought under the notice of the Lord Lieutenant, who, after due consideration of the case, will determine on the sum to be contributed from the funds at his disposal in aid of the local subscriptions.

In cases where there may arise a scarcity of food within a district, or the price of food may have been artificially raised, the Government will be prepared to transmit to the Local Committee, at cost price, including the expense of carriage, a quantity of food corresponding to the amount of the subscriptions paid in for that purpose, and to place that food in the hands of the Local Committee for distribution, on their own responsibility, at cost price, or as wages of labour to destitute persons employed on local works, or when absolute destitution is united with inability to labour, in gratuitous donations.

IV. That in cases wherein any assistance is afforded by Government, either in aid of local subscriptions, or otherwise, the following rules are to be invariably observed in the administration of relief:—

1st. A task of work shall be required from every person capable of giving it, who applies for relief.

2nd. The payments for the work performed shall be made in food, and shall in every case be limited to such a quantity of food as will be sufficient to support the workman and the helpless persons of his family.

3rd. If in any case it be impracticable to pay in food, the payments in money shall be limited to what is absolutely necessary for the above purpose.

4th. Gratuitous relief shall be afforded only to those persons who are entirely incapable of giving a day's work, and who have no able-bodied relative on whom they are dependent, and in these cases only in which their reception in the workhouse of the Union to which they belong is, from want of room, impracticable; and, lastly,

5th. The works in which destitute persons are employed, shall be in prosecution of some public improvement, approved of by this Commission, within or adjacent to the distressed locality, and shall be such as will be capable of being brought at once to a close when the circumstances of the people are improved.

V. That the Committee should be prepared with plans or suggestions of small useful works of public improvement, for the employment of the destitute poor, in all cases where relief is given to the able-bodied.

VI. That the Committee should divide the town into districts, and should obtain minute re-

ports of the circumstances of each family from whom application for relief may be made; that at their meetings, certificates or tickets should be given to such only as are ascertained to be without means of providing food for their families; that such certificates or tickets be the authority to the Superintendent of the Public Works for receiving the persons to whom they are granted; and that a register of all certificates or tickets granted by the Committee be preserved in a book to be supplied for that purpose by this Commission.

VII. That the secretary, or person officiating as such, of the Committee, should take charge of the books, and other documents, and should conduct the correspondence with this Commission.

VIII. That towns in which there is no mayor and aldermen, nor town commissioners, be considered as coming under the class of county relief districts.

Castle, Dublin, 14th March, 1845,

J. P. KENNEDY,
Secretary.

LIST of COAST-GUARD STATIONS in IRELAND that have been supplied with Indian Corn Meal for Sale to the distressed Population.

Waterford District.

Boonahon
Islands of Kado
Dunmore East
Arhanstown
Fethard

Cost District.

Eastferry
Ballycormac
Poor Head
Light House
Crosshaven
Robert's Cove
Ringabella

Kinsale District.

Courtmarsherry
Upper Cove
Old Head
Oyster Haven
Dunry Cove

Skibbereen District.

Castle Townland
Milk Cove
Glendore (Union Hall)
Baltimore
Crookhaven

Whitehouse District.

Dunmanus
Bantry

Castletown District.

Berchaven
Colaris

Knightstown District.

Valentia (supplying Portmagee)
Knightstown
Ballinskelly
Kells

West Cove District.

West Cove
Waterville

Dingle District.

Dingle

Beale District.

Beale and Ballybunion

Kilrush District.

Kilrush

Seagfield District.

Dunbeg
Liscaston

Galway District.

Ballyvaughan
Kilcoogan
Arran Islands
Recorder's Quay (Fairhill)
Lettermore
Kilkeevine
Barna
Spiddle

Clifden District.

Roundstone
Tully
Ballinskil
Claggan
Killerics
Clifden
Bundarra

Keel District.

Keel (Achill Island)
Clare Island
Dugurth
Bullmouth
Achillbeg

Newport District.

Newport (Mayo)
Innistark
Burrispool
Boffin
Rostrunk

Belmullet District.

Belmullet
Tulloughan
Dulough
Ballyglass

Dunkelhan District.

Dunkelhan

Pulladiva District.

Pulladiva
Pullocheny
Innistown
Portavad

Port Raine District.

Killibegs

Lochru District.

Lochru
Port Hoo

Sligo District.

Rathley

Rutland District.

Rutland

20,591

6.

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle, May 27, 1846.

INSTRUCTIONS for the guidance of the Constabulary having the charge of, or engaged in the sale or distribution of OATEN and INDIAN CORN MEAL, issued by authority of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

1. In cases where the Commissary-General requires the assistance of the constabulary in the conveyance of supplies for Relief Committees, or to depôts, county inspectors will appoint a constable to take charge of such supplies, with the usual escort, to the place of consignment.

2. In places where there are no Relief Committees, the custody of, and accountability for the stores (which will be confined to Oaten and Indian Corn Meal), will remain with the constabulary. The county inspector is therefore authorized to appoint a constable for this duty, who will retail the meal in small quantities, and at low prices, viz.:

OATMEAL	15s. per ton.
INDIAN CORN MEAL	10s. „

The constable so employed will be entitled to 2s. 6d. per diem, from the Commissariat Department, in addition to his constabulary pay.

3. If absolutely necessary, a room may be selected in the immediate neighbourhood of the barrack, for the custody of the meal, for which a moderate rent will be allowed by the Commissariat Department.

4. No sale is on any account to be made to dealers or retailers.

5. A form of account, with printed instructions, will be sent to the constable, to enable him to account for the stores in his charge, and to note down the proceeds of the sale.

6. Commissariat officers will be sent from time to time, to collect the sums last referred to; but on their visits can only be periodical, the money should be lodged, at least once a-week, with the sub-inspector of the district.

7. If it should be necessary to distribute the meal in payment for labour, under the directions of a Relief Committee, the constable will still retain the custody and accountability, and enter the issues and receipts in the printed account.

D. MCGARRON, *Inspector-General.*

LIST OF CONSTABULARY DEPÔTS in IRELAND for the sale of INDIAN CORN MEAL.

<i>Dublin District.</i>	<i>Sligo District.</i>
Tullamore	Tobercurry
<i>Limerick District.</i>	Mullaghbroe
Clare Castle	<i>Westport District.</i>
Kilrush	Ballinrobe
Couryclore	Castlebar
Dodragh	<i>Longford District.</i>
Killinee	Castleroa
Fort Dunsagha	Carriek-on-Shannon
<i>Waterford District.</i>	Roscommon
Carriek-on-Suir	Strokestown
Dungarvan	<i>Dundalk District.</i>
<i>Sligo District.</i>	Armagh
Millpoint	Monaghan
Ballymote	<i>Athy District.</i>
Ballynadare	Castle Dermott
Ballina	Castle Comer
Killalea	Mountmellick
Ballyghaderreen	

A STATEMENT of Sums issued, by order of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, as Donations in Aid of Subscription raised by Relief Committees for the Purchase of Food in Ireland,

Date.		Relief Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
1846.			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
March 25		Limerick	75	0	0	169	10	6
		Limerick	400	0	0	500	0	0
April 4		Woodford	50	0	0	100	0	0
"		Loughrea	15	0	0	25	0	0
"		Killmacula	100	0	0	100	0	0
April 8		Bonin	200	0	0	417	11	0
April 11		Clare	60	0	0	71	7	6
"		Loughrea Union	350	0	0	890	0	0
"		Bruff	150	0	0	250	0	0
"		Crusheen	85	0	0	120	0	0
"		Newmarket	90	0	0	127	0	0
"		Bunratty	40	0	0	50	0	0
"		Six Mile Bridge	50	0	0	70	0	0
"		Quinn	85	0	0	190	0	0
"		Doonas	250	0	0	377	1	6
"		Mitchelstown	500	0	0	492	0	0
"		Graig	150	0	0	202	10	0
April 14		Carrick-on-Seir	200	0	0	114	0	0
"		Killarney	300	0	0	650	0	0
"		Templemore	100	0	0	209	16	0
"		Broadford District	125	0	0	235	10	0
"		City of Limerick	500	0	0	1006	0	0
"		Feakle	40	0	0	88	0	0
"		Castletyona	20	0	0	49	0	0
"		Clonmel	500	0	0	500	0	0
"		Aglisha	40	0	0	79	0	0
April 18		Temple Kelly	30	0	0	53	0	0
"		Kilworth Kilmainshart, Cork	200	0	0	264	7	6
"		Tulla	100	0	0	135	8	0
"		Clannorris Inaghiaman, Kerry	500	0	0	943	0	0
"		Monagal, Barony of Glenish	30	0	0	53	0	0
"		Arran Islands, Barony of Arran	7	10	0	7	18	6
April 22		Feakle	15	0	0	17	10	0
"		Cappawhite	60	0	0	90	10	0
"		Cove	30	0	0	64	9	0
"		Coberseshish	35	0	0	59	0	0
April 23		West Muskerrey	200	0	0	347	4	0
April 24		Tipperary	200	0	0	481	1	0
"		Portumna	60	0	0	100	0	0
"		O'Brien's Bridge	50	0	0	52	0	0
"		Killaloe	300	0	0	264	0	0
"		Malloy	250	0	0	314	6	0
"		Ballycowan	75	0	0	112	0	0
"		Cove	50	0	0	86	0	0
"		Kildorrery	150	0	0	180	4	0
April 25		Tossagh and Tangbboy	15	0	0	17	15	6
"		Cahir	240	0	0	324	16	4
"		Cullen and Lottogher	150	0	0	224	18	0
"		Ballymackey	50	0	0	75	13	4
April 26		Carrickbeg, Waterford	65	0	0	160	0	0
"		Newagh	120	0	0	182	9	0
"		Skibberoon	120	0	0	209	2	5
"		Tipperary	200	0	0	505	19	6
"		Cashel	300	0	0	441	19	2
"		Waterford	750	0	0	1015	19	6
April 29		Cork	1550	0	0	2300	0	0
April 30		Newcastle	150	0	0	287	0	0
"		Murroe	160	0	0	200	0	0
"		Ashda	18	0	0	41	11	0
"		Templederry and Lattara	60	0	0	73	0	0
"		Enly	85	0	0	127	0	0
"		Doon Parish	150	0	0	183	14	6
"		Ballynetty	200	0	0	291	0	0
"		Kilmaistulla and Temple Kelly	35	0	0	53	0	0
May 2		Fernoy	600	0	0	797	8	4
"		Corcomroe	200	0	0	305	8	10
"		Clonrush	65	0	0	96	4	0
"		Cashel	75	0	0	194	0	0
"		Gowran	150	0	0	261	0	0
"		Thales, County Tipperary	400	0	0	571	1	0
"		Parishes of Glenworth and Deryvalane	200	0	0	300	0	0
"		Frishford, Kilkenny	70	0	0	101	0	0
"		Kilkenny	400	0	0	609	11	0

A STATEMENT of Sums issued, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1845.							
May 5	Patrick's Well	100	0	0	144	0	0
"	Kazurk, County Cork	170	0	0	243	8	6
May 6	Barony of Berms, County Tipperary	250	0	0	389	2	0
"	Town of Galway	350	0	0	508	10	0
May 8	Parish of Inch, County Tipperary	140	0	0	166	0	0
"	Barony of Kerry	200	0	0	284	10	0
May 9	Barony of Mohill	170	0	0	254	12	0
"	Blackrock and Ballymoe	100	0	0	156	8	6
May 11	Claghern District	300	0	0	434	7	6
"	Erins District	200	0	0	311	6	0
"	Ellismore District	180	0	0	251	0	0
May 13	Kilrush District	180	0	0	271	0	0
"	Iniscarra Parish	150	0	0	209	0	0
"	Tethard	250	0	0	359	7	2
"	Ballymore, Barony of Barretts	70	0	0	104	0	0
"	Croon District	300	0	0	341	0	0
"	Carrigbeg District	25	0	0	50	0	0
"	Wexford Electoral District	410	0	0	626	0	0
"	Tallow District, County Wexford	320	0	0	480	0	0
May 15	West Passage, County Cork	55	0	0	78	12	0
"	Donmura, Barony of Ormond	120	0	0	180	0	0
"	Tellacrow	160	0	0	231	12	6
"	Corkguiney, Kerry	350	0	0	521	0	0
"	Rathmore, Cork	800	0	0	265	15	0
"	Middleton and Ballypallase	350	0	0	536	3	6
"	Chonahilly	250	0	0	356	8	6
May 16	Gaulier and Middlekind	190	0	0	260	0	0
"	Inniscree and Ballyoughtough	120	0	0	186	17	0
"	Carrick-on-Suir	100	0	0	144	5	6
"	Myross District, West Carberry	40	0	0	50	0	0
"	Kilree, Major Parish	150	0	0	223	5	6
"	Kilaldriff Barony	80	0	0	123	0	0
"	Lettermore Island	5	0	0	8	1	0
"	Waterford	750	0	0	1000	0	0
"	Inchigella Parish	90	0	0	133	10	0
"	Loma and Derra Parishes	50	0	0	70	11	6
May 19	Castlemael	110	0	0	159	0	0
"	Dargavan	243	0	0	349	12	6
"	Banaha, County Tipperary	100	0	0	138	0	0
"	Churchtown, County Cork	140	0	0	207	8	6
"	South Division, Barony of Lifford	70	0	0	90	7	6
"	Kilrea, County Clare	23	0	0	38	9	0
"	Tulla, County Clare	110	0	0	228	13	0
May 21	Ballynet, County Kilkenny	110	0	0	171	0	0
May 22	Kilgerlin, County Kerry	55	0	0	100	10	0
"	Templeberry, County Tipperary	30	0	0	43	2	6
"	Belmalist, County Mayo	60	0	0	84	0	0
"	Tinnahogue, County Cork	60	0	0	73	10	0
"	Donade, County Cork	300	0	0	441	8	6
"	Lennamore, County Galway	10	0	0	10	0	0
"	Kilkease, County Lanesek	240	0	0	358	2	4
"	Carrifin, County Clare	140	0	0	206	13	6
"	Celina, County Kilkenny	130	0	0	238	18	0
May 23	Craheen, County Clare	90	0	0	126	12	0
"	Inniscree, County Cork	40	0	0	59	0	0
"	Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare	25	0	0	40	10	0
"	Johns Town, Kilkenny	120	0	0	183	0	6
"	Derow, Queen's County	140	0	0	198	15	0
"	Youghal, Cork	400	0	0	565	16	6
"	Cona, Barony of Kinsale, Cork	300	0	0	431	5	6
"	Cushyone, Cork	240	0	0	329	0	0
"	Crossakel, Meath	100	0	0	148	0	0
"	Tooignany and Kilroe, Clare	100	0	0	117	7	6
"	Garry, Wexford	120	0	0	180	0	0
"	Kilrade, Cork	220	0	0	322	4	0
"	Tuam, Galway	180	0	0	259	14	0
"	Ardfinan, Tipperary	170	0	0	250	0	0
May 25	Perlew, Wexford	160	0	0	240	0	0
"	Taymen, Wexford	75	0	0	85	18	6
"	Kilmeaty and Fow, Waterford	100	0	0	136	2	6
"	Scariff, Clare	60	0	0	89	12	6
"	Clonlea and Kilman, Clare	100	0	0	147	2	6
"	Berrisoleigh, Tipperary	200	0	0	265	11	0
"	Shrewellston and Glentan, Tipperary	95	0	0	140	0	0

A STATEMENT of SUMS RAISED, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846.							
May 28 .	Clanonty and Clagher, Tipperary	150	0	0	291	4	2
"	Ballykeane, Limerick	60	0	0	50	0	0
"	Castletown Arns, Limerick	100	0	0	126	15	9
"	Kilmichael, West Muskerry, Cork	100	0	0	117	19	0
"	Monimory, Cork	50	0	0	75	12	0
"	Butteworth, Cork	130	0	0	199	11	4
"	Rathfriland, Dublin	65	0	0	83	0	0
"	Coolavin, Sligo	40	0	0	55	0	0
"	Ballymore, Kilkenny	48	0	0	48	17	6
"	Kilmacduane, Clare	104	0	0	104	10	0
"	Kilmichael, Clare	89	0	0	89	0	0
"	Ballygarra, Limerick	180	0	0	235	17	9
"	Ireysan, Queen's County	100	0	0	141	17	0
"	Kilkeran, Galway	80	0	0	40	0	0
"	Kilrush, Clare	85	0	0	52	14	1
"	Liscannel, Cork	90	0	0	127	2	6
June 1 .	Killash, Cork	300	0	0	421	8	0
"	Terryglass, Tipperary	45	0	0	64	10	0
"	Barony of Ballinaboy, Roscommon	50	0	0	71	9	0
"	Kilmoe, Tipperary	180	0	0	242	7	6
"	Spiddal, Galway	65	0	0	74	11	0
"	Newpallan, Limerick	200	0	0	208	9	6
"	Banansiera, &c., Waterford	325	0	0	485	0	0
"	Ballyadams, Queen's County	250	0	0	371	13	6
"	Kilmaddy, Limerick	120	0	0	173	12	0
"	Athael, &c., Tipperary	225	0	0	381	2	6
"	Kildisart, Clare	85	0	0	123	2	6
"	Killdiana, Clare	30	0	0	42	12	0
"	Newport, Tipperary	255	0	0	379	10	0
"	Donoughmore, Cork	65	0	0	92	0	0
"	Trolee, Kerry	800	0	0	1,203	10	0
"	Mayglass, Waterford	35	0	0	49	0	0
"	Castletown, Limerick	100	0	0	122	19	0
"	Braune, Limerick	180	0	0	263	17	0
"	Kilworth and Macrone, Cork	60	0	0	85	1	6
"	City of Limerick	600	0	0	1,211	18	0
"	Dungarran and Kilrush, Waterford	65	0	0	97	0	0
June 2 .	Ventry Rente, Kerry	400	0	0	600	0	0
June 3 .	Ballickmyster, Queen's County	320	0	0	473	4	11
"	Kilteely, Limerick	90	0	0	97	12	0
"	Kilholane, &c., Limerick	150	0	0	210	0	0
"	Carrigrohane, &c., Cork	70	0	0	85	15	0
"	Kilmoe, Cork	38	0	0	55	0	0
"	Barony of Barn, Cork	180	0	0	267	13	6
"	Ballinacorney, Cork	80	0	0	117	0	0
"	Kilmurry, Clare	74	0	0	109	0	0
"	Goresbridge, Kilkenny	155	0	0	232	0	0
"	Clifton, Galway	100	0	0	121	15	6
"	Roscommon, Roscommon	67	0	0	78	16	0
"	Dunkill and Fenoo, Waterford	55	0	0	76	0	0
"	Kilbarran District, Cork	270	0	0	409	17	2
"	Tulla Sub-District, Cork	50	0	0	44	0	0
"	Roscarberry, Cork	120	0	0	192	5	0
"	City of Cork, Cork	900	0	0	1,303	12	5
"	Kilfrin, Cork	110	0	0	172	10	0
"	Island of Lettermore, Galway	5	0	0	4	8	0
"	Gort District, Galway	135	0	0	260	17	0
"	Killarney, Kerry	400	0	0	591	13	4
"	Oulo and Cleggan, Limerick	100	0	0	137	15	0
"	Behanishan, Tipperary	200	0	0	283	1	0
June 6 .	Kilbenny, Cork	110	0	0	164	4	0
"	Glonebeg, Tipperary	55	0	0	80	15	0
"	Ardnagadey, Cork	160	0	0	207	12	0
"	Kilrush, Waterford	100	0	0	161	3	0
"	Ballycough, &c., Tipperary	45	0	0	68	2	6
"	Crestee, Clare	105	0	0	155	0	0
"	Idrone, West, Carlow	210	0	0	312	5	0
"	Ahlinagh, Cork	60	0	0	84	8	0
"	Monena, Tipperary	220	0	0	331	6	0
"	Moynakey, Tipperary	70	0	0	105	13	0
"	Cora, Cork	225	0	0	383	5	3
"	Tramore, Waterford	110	0	0	135	2	0
"	Dynart, Waterford	30	0	0	40	0	0
"	Castlemorgan, Cork	135	0	0	206	10	0

A STATEMENT OF SUMS ISSUED, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1845.							
June 6 .	Holycross, &c., Tipperary	178	0	0	255	7	3
"	Lisdowny, Kilkenny	110	0	0	155	7	6
"	Glansherry, Waterford	75	0	0	111	10	0
"	Derrygrath, Tipperary	40	0	0	62	3	6
"	Kinsara, Galway	65	0	0	96	4	0
"	Bantry District, Cork	220	0	0	332	10	0
June 8 .	Tubrid, &c., Tipperary	180	0	0	272	8	0
"	Shanna Golden, Limerick	180	0	0	276	2	6
"	Knockary and Hospital, Limerick	300	0	0	450	0	0
"	Cleanness, Cork	80	0	0	117	16	0
"	Tallow, Carlow	180	0	0	271	8	0
"	Ballymore, Cork	60	0	0	86	0	0
"	Ovens, Cork	45	0	0	62	0	0
"	Berrislane, Tipperary	50	0	0	72	14	6
"	Stradbally, &c., Waterford	100	0	0	149	12	6
"	Margallow, Meath	60	0	0	80	0	0
"	Gallally, Limerick	300	0	0	375	0	0
"	Cloughjordan, Tipperary	60	0	0	105	10	6
"	Oldcastle, Meath	85	0	0	128	9	6
"	Gl. Killeenole, Tipperary	75	0	0	111	14	6
June 11	Carnagebeg, Waterford	9	0	0	9	0	0
"	Donaghmore, Cork	25	0	0	25	0	0
"	Inch and Kilmale, Clare	90	0	0	136	0	0
"	Ballinglass, Wicklow	50	0	0	126	0	0
June 12	Clare Abbey, &c., Clare	75	0	0	112	0	0
"	Kilcorney, Cork	25	0	0	34	19	0
"	Chodrasid, Cork	85	0	0	121	13	6
"	Anaghdown, Galway	60	0	0	150	0	0
"	And 5 tons of Indian corn meal	50	0	0			
"	Kerebhane, Kerry	55	0	0	82	0	0
"	Mallow, Kilkenny	90	0	0	134	0	0
"	Upper Half Barony Ling, Sligo	85	0	0	125	0	0
"	Carrigilla, Leitrim	85	0	0	125	0	0
"	Kilmallock, Limerick	80	0	0	213	10	6
"	And 10 tons of Indian corn meal	100	0	0			
"	Creehyre, Mayo	35	0	0	41	0	0
"	Ashby, Meath	90	0	0	134	0	0
"	Fuerty, Roscommon	30	0	0	43	10	0
"	Newcastle, Tipperary	50	0	0	110	17	6
"	And 5 tons of Indian corn meal	50	0	0			
"	Deeris-within-Drum District, Waterford	575	0	0	558	13	2
"	Newtownsherry, Waterford	85	0	0	134	8	7
"	Barony of Gunned, Loughed	170	0	0	252	10	0
"	Ardlow, Wicklow	300	0	0	452	1	7
June 13	Chandosid, Clare	85	0	0	52	0	0
"	Schaff, Cork	100	0	0	143	6	7
"	Killeenon, &c., Cork	85	0	0	121	12	0
"	Mallow, Cork	160	0	0	233	2	2
"	Kennison, Kerry	175	0	0	259	2	0
"	Uelingford, Kilkenny	50	0	0	73	7	9
"	Kilcomney, King's County	105	0	0	153	0	0
"	Rathaspic, Waterford	75	0	0	110	12	4
"	Nenagh, Tipperary	175	0	0	264	5	0
"	Carrigrohane, Cork	70	0	0	106	5	0
"	Templemarrage, Cork	60	0	0	87	4	0
"	Donchford, Cork	115	0	0	173	3	6
"	Ballymore, Cork	70	0	0	100	13	0
"	Kilmurry, Clare	90	0	0	131	0	0
June 15	Benagher, King's County	85	0	0	125	14	0
"	Bruff, Limerick	90	0	0	120	2	6
"	Effin, Limerick	100	0	0	146	11	0
"	Killican, Mayo	16	10	0	16	10	0
"	New Inn, Tipperary	110	0	0	146	10	0
"	Clerahan, &c., Tipperary	100	0	0	145	3	8
"	Enniscorthy, Waterford	540	0	0	798	2	6
"	Youghal Area, Tipperary	200	0	0	270	0	0
"	Tollymore, Cork	20	0	0	29	0	0
"	Charlville, Cork	250	0	0	372	14	0
"	Cloyne and Charlestown, Cork	180	0	0	261	16	0
"	Donagh, Cork	55	0	0	80	14	6
"	Newmarket, Cork	100	0	0	145	13	6
"	Kells, Meath	150	0	0	150	0	0
June 17	Theresa District, County Roscommon	21	0	0	30	15	6
"	Dysart, County Roscommon	10	0	0	15	0	0

A STATEMENT of Sums Issued, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Commission.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846.							
June 17	Templemore, Tipperary	135	0	0	135	10	0
"	Clonsilla, Tipperary	679	8	0	1006	8	6
"	Mullinsboro, Tipperary	105	0	0	154	2	0
"	White Church, Waterford	180	0	0	250	19	6
"	Shilmside East, Wexford	90	0	0	127	14	6
"	Town of Wicklow	170	0	0	246	19	0
June 18	Newcastle, Limerick	170	0	0	250	16	0
"	Corrigher, &c., Cork	30	0	0	44	0	0
"	Castletown Roche, &c., Cork	210	0	0	316	18	8
"	Lettermore, Galway	60	0	0	99	0	0
"	Warrentown, King's County	180	0	0	248	17	6
"	Kilcomstock, Longford	40	0	0	56	5	0
"	Coag, Mayo	49	0	0	49	10	0
"	Conce, Monaghan	150	0	0	223	15	6
"	Ardenmore, Tipperary	40	0	0	57	15	0
"	Ballydaff, Waterford	80	0	0	114	10	0
"	Cumalin, Wexford	95	0	0	159	13	0
"	Ballyford, Cork	80	0	0	119	8	6
June 19	Corrigobol, Clare	45	0	0	63	0	0
"	Peckle, Clare	95	0	0	95	12	6
"	Carraigine, Cork	140	0	0	240	17	6
"	Benishannon, Cork	40	0	0	86	1	0
"	Ballinacree, Mayo	75	0	0	107	12	0
"	Nesle, Barony Kilmain, Mayo	52	0	0	78	10	0
"	Dundrum, Tipperary	100	0	0	143	19	3
"	Lismore, Waterford	63	0	0	63	1	6
"	Druminey, Westmeath	52	0	0	78	0	0
June 22	Droanriff, Cork	120	0	0	182	18	0
"	Ballymacarret, Down	100	0	0	136	8	8
"	Arvan Island, Galway	50	0	0	50	0	0
"	Oranmore and Ballinacourty, Galway	93	0	0	93	10	0
"	Thomastown, Kilkenny	300	0	0	449	4	0
"	Kinalty, King's County	55	0	0	83	12	7
"	Croagh, Limerick	60	0	0	90	16	0
"	Shilleek, Wicklow	670	0	0	1033	7	2
"	Ballyclaugh, Cork	110	0	0	169	14	0
"	Carraigobol, Cork	100	0	0	139	10	0
"	Ballynt, Galway	50	0	0	60	10	0
"	Gortman and Killeen, Galway	29	0	0	28	17	0
"	Paulstown, Kilkenny	115	0	0	171	0	0
"	Shinrone, King's County	67	0	0	100	3	6
"	Drogheda, Louth	500	0	0	743	17	10
"	Kilmain, Mayo	35	0	0	35	10	0
"	Lower Navan and Spring, Meath	110	0	0	162	0	0
"	Rosmalia, Queen's County	100	0	0	143	4	6
"	Athlone, Roscommon	126	0	0	189	6	4
"	Autroth and Mastlestown, Tipperary	60	0	0	84	0	0
June 24	Ballyke, Cork	110	0	0	151	3	0
"	Ballygibbon, &c., Tipperary	59	0	0	69	0	0
"	Clones, Waterford	170	0	0	254	6	0
"	Cappoquin, Waterford	140	0	0	203	4	6
"	Tullon, Waterford	35	0	0	49	8	0
"	Feras, Wexford	100	0	0	143	4	9
"	Carroon, Clare	120	0	0	179	13	6
"	Dungourney, &c., Cork	100	0	0	154	1	0
"	Rahara, Limerick	52	0	0	78	15	0
"	Kilcolman, Mayo	20	0	0	25	0	0
"	Kilmasalla, &c., Tipperary	62	0	0	92	10	0
"	Kilgobinet, &c., Waterford	120	0	0	186	10	0
June 26	Coppermine District, Limerick	100	0	0	169	7	6
"	Clough, Kilkenny	100	0	0	141	1	9
"	Clonbur, Galway	35	0	0	36	0	0
"	Lisnagh District, Tipperary	29	0	0	29	0	0
"	Dualla, Tipperary	120	0	0	153	14	4
"	Kilmore, Wexford	75	0	0	108	16	0
June 27	Lisgoold, Cork	100	0	0	119	5	0
"	Kilbarren, Tipperary	55	0	0	78	6	6
"	Burris, Tipperary	120	0	0	162	19	0
"	Drangan, &c., Tipperary	85	0	0	122	19	9
"	Burris, Clare	230	0	0	346	10	0
"	Kilkeel, Clare	90	0	0	133	4	6
"	Kilmeel, Clare	30	0	0	39	8	0
"	Dolshane, Cork	50	0	0	71	4	0
"	Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary	75	0	0	106	5	9

A STATEMENT of Sums Issued, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Donation.			Subscription.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846.							
June 27	Kilmeen, Galway	55	0	0	80	0	0
"	O'Brien's Bridge, Clare	35	0	0	45	16	0
"	Canine and Upperwoods, Queen's County	80	0	0	114	5	6
"	Carriekbeg District, Waterford	20	0	0	19	14	9
"	Parsinstown, King's County	110	0	0	164	11	2
June 29	Coolgrene, Wexford	60	0	0	83	19	0
"	Strule and Ballymahon, Longford	112	0	0	187	18	6
"	Cenin, Monaghan	50	0	0	65	7	0
"	Six-Mile Bridge, Clare	50	0	0	56	7	6
"	Rathdowney, King's County	80	0	0	119	6	6
July 1	Ballymacbough, Caran	18	0	0	25	10	0
"	Mount Nugent, &c., Caran	16	0	0	22	10	0
"	Kilkeog, Cork	40	0	0	48	5	0
"	Kantark, Cork	25	0	0	35	11	6
"	Carriaghan, &c., Cork	60	0	0	84	17	8
"	Shandon, Cork	150	0	0	179	8	6
"	Aghada, Cork	30	0	0	30	4	0
"	Dunmore, Galway	30	0	0	41	0	0
"	Castle Island, Kerry	300	0	0	432	6	0
"	Strule and Headford, Mayo	40	0	0	60	0	0
"	Swineford, &c., District, Mayo	75	0	0	103	0	0
"	Kilmain District, Mayo	14	0	0	18	0	0
"	Ballingarry District, Tipperary	20	0	0	30	12	6
"	Drom, Tipperary	80	0	0	123	11	6
"	Boyle, Roscommon	125	0	0	188	2	0
July 2	Ballyhaseg, Wexford	45	0	0	63	5	6
"	Clemons and Tobris, Kilkenny	60	0	0	85	13	0
July 3	Ballymore, Cork	25	0	0	32	10	0
"	Lacks and Darba, Tipperary	60	0	0	85	0	0
"	Committee at Cappawhite, &c., Tipperary	120	0	0	140	3	6
"	New Ross, Wexford	170	0	0	244	14	6
July 4	Kilkeog, Clare	26	0	0	39	5	0
"	Churchtown, Cork	20	0	0	26	12	6
"	Kilmanurragh, Cork	40	0	0	57	7	6
"	Killmea, Cork	140	0	0	212	3	2
"	Leohearn, Cork	90	0	0	133	15	0
"	Coltra, Galway	30	0	0	45	0	0
"	Dunmore, Galway	7	0	0	7	4	6
"	Nass, Kilkenny	175	0	0	259	18	6
"	Knocktopher, Kilkenny	20	0	0	31	5	0
"	Spilkestran, King's County	40	0	0	56	16	0
"	Ballygarry, Limerick	80	0	0	117	4	4
"	Rathkeale, Limerick	225	0	0	339	9	4
"	Castletown, &c., Meath	50	0	0	70	0	0
"	Parishes of Wilkinstown, &c., Meath	35	0	0	47	0	0
"	Ballinaskill, Queen's County	65	0	0	96	5	6
"	Athleague, Roscommon	40	0	0	47	10	6
"	Cashelockna, Wexford	45	0	0	67	12	6
"	Tullyhaseg, Caran	35	0	0	52	0	0
"	Kilmeash, Cork	55	0	0	76	19	0
"	Ballinacree, Cork	50	0	0	68	0	0
"	Eyrecoart, Galway	50	0	0	60	0	0
"	Spiddal District, Galway	6	0	0	6	0	0
"	Kilvine District, Mayo	4	10	0	4	10	0
"	Kilgella District, Roscommon	5	0	0	5	0	0
"	Meath, Tipperary	80	0	0	120	16	6
"	Templedigan, Wexford	35	0	0	58	10	6
"	Wells, Wexford	35	0	0	50	5	0
July 9	Mulmainan, Wexford	80	0	0	107	12	3
"	Wingfield, Wexford	56	0	0	84	0	6
"	Williamstown, &c., Waterford	55	0	0	81	19	2
"	Uppercourt, &c., Tipperary	65	0	0	96	16	6
"	Stokesstown, &c., Roscommon	60	0	0	85	0	0
"	Boycetown, &c., Meath	112	0	0	164	3	9
"	Achill, Mayo	22	0	0	32	0	0
"	Dungbela, Leath	140	0	0	200	0	0
"	Gratard, Longford	75	0	0	109	2	6
"	Kilmeay	300	0	0	241	10	0
"	Tammolagane, Cork	50	0	0	63	8	6
"	Ballymore, Leitrim	150	0	0	179	7	6
"	Kildorery, Cork	64	0	0	84	14	6
"	Lake, Cork	80	0	0	119	2	6
"	Kilkeallan, Caran	25	0	0	33	10	0
"	Drommemon, Caran	20	0	0	29	19	42

A STATEMENT of SUMS ISSUED, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846							
July 9	Marroon, Cork	120	0	0	174	17	6
"	Castletaven, Cork	27	0	0	40	0	6
"	Ballymore, Galway	21	0	0	31	0	0
"	Tyboland, Monaghan	86	0	0	52	11	4
"	Tipperary	170	0	0	250	6	3
"	Ballycurra, Wexford	45	0	0	67	11	6
"	Gulart, Wexford	65	0	0	96	5	0
"	Arklow, Wicklow	35	0	0	29	12	2
"	Kilmurry, Cork	120	0	0	175	8	0
"	Kilbourne, Cork	30	0	0	44	1	6
"	Meviddy District, Cork	48	0	0	63	18	0
"	Cannaway District, Cork	48	0	0	70	0	0
"	Parodub District, Kilkenny	29	0	0	27	0	0
"	Ballyfoyle, &c., Kilkenny	80	0	0	102	17	4
"	Finece, &c., Tipperary	29	0	0	28	1	0
"	Connell, &c., Kilkenny	60	0	0	70	10	6
"	Clarina, &c., Limerick	120	0	0	171	11	6
"	City of Waterford	210	0	0	312	0	0
"	Drumshambo, Leitrim	80	0	0	114	9	0
"	Meacourt, Kilkenny	28	0	0	28	10	0
"	Fahera, Mayo	20	0	0	28	0	0
"	Moylough, Galway	50	0	0	70	6	6
"	Upper Loughree, Cavan	300	0	0	448	0	0
"	Ashford, Wicklow	100	0	0	143	0	0
"	Roscommon, Roscommon	29	0	0	28	5	0
"	Knockphar, Kilkenny	39	0	0	39	15	2
"	Eanis, Clare	58	0	0	38	14	0
"	Kilcullen, Kildare	20	0	0	23	10	0
"	Killavin, Wexford	85	0	0	132	2	0
"	Castlerough, Roscommon	160	0	0	140	0	0
"	Ballina, Mayo	112	0	0	167	0	0
"	Monks, Westmeath	50	0	0	70	0	0
"	Nogheval, Westmeath	85	0	0	125	1	2
"	Ballymacward, Galway	30	0	0	30	0	0
"	Callan, Cork	75	0	0	102	10	0
July 16	Pales Kenry, Limerick	90	0	0	134	10	0
"	Killalee, Clare	75	0	0	77	1	10
"	Dunmore, Galway	9	10	0	9	10	0
"	Monaghan, Monaghan	90	0	0	133	19	0
"	Newpallas, Limerick	30	0	0	40	7	6
"	Hollymount, Mayo	30	0	0	40	0	0
"	Cashel, Tipperary	150	0	0	213	8	0
"	Ennis District, Monaghan	80	0	0	117	16	0
"	Clonlara, &c., District, Clare	20	0	0	28	0	0
"	Monamony District, Cork	18	0	0	25	4	2
"	Cleora and Carrig, Cork	90	0	0	180	19	6
"	Ballinskil, Galway	30	0	0	33	0	0
"	Miltown, Kerry	160	0	0	290	4	0
"	Valencia, Kerry	50	0	0	73	9	0
"	Corofin, Clare	15	0	0	18	10	0
"	Lower Philipstown, King's County	60	0	0	82	8	0
"	Swierford, Mayo	80	0	0	85	0	0
"	Nenagh, Tipperary	100	0	0	136	6	6
"	Grange Mochler, &c., Tipperary	90	0	0	124	6	3
"	Rathoreen, &c., Westmeath	40	0	0	55	0	0
July 17	Kilkeenny, Cork	22	0	0	32	17	0
"	Upper Half Barony, Sligo	67	0	0	100	0	0
"	Gaultier, &c., Waterford	40	0	0	53	0	0
"	Herbertstown, Limerick	110	0	0	152	6	3
"	Quinn, Clare	40	0	0	58	3	0
"	Dalla and Killaniff, Tipperary	62	0	0	91	1	0
"	Brookfield, Clare	65	0	0	95	0	0
"	Rathmore, Tipperary	25	0	0	80	12	6
"	Elphin, Roscommon	66	0	0	98	5	0
July 18	Bellina, Mayo	20	0	0	26	0	0
"	Knocklough, Limerick	180	0	0	218	2	6
"	Cross Boyne, Mayo	7	10	0	7	11	0
"	Ballynac Elligon, Kerry	160	0	0	234	0	0
"	Ballymacbush, Cavan	25	0	0	35	1	0
July 20	Ballynagh, Cavan	60	0	0	87	10	0
"	Ballynagh, Cavan	17	0	0	17	6	6
"	Castleown Arms, Tipperary	150	0	0	1,277	0	0
"	Killarney, Kerry	70	0	0	107	0	24
"	Templechamha, Wexford	31	0	0	45	10	0
"	Castle Ellis, Wexford	35	0	0	50	10	0
July 21	Ballinskil, Queen's County						

A STATEMENT of Sums issued, &c.—continued.

Date.	Relief Commission.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846							
July 21	Madresney, Tipperary	40	0	0	58	15	0
"	Ballygibbon, &c., Tipperary	19	0	0	12	0	0
"	Yeoghil Arm, &c., Tipperary	20	0	0	30	0	0
"	Cahersiveen, Kerry	150	0	0	225	0	0
"	Grenagh, Cork	85	0	0	122	1	6
"	Kilmore, Kilkenny	80	0	0	118	14	6
"	Dunmore, Galway	20	0	0	28	1	0
July 22	Ballingully, Limerick	50	0	0	74	18	3
"	Wallstown, Cork	20	0	0	27	0	0
"	Anderson, Tipperary	12	0	0	14	0	0
"	Kilbeggar, Wexford	9	0	0	13	18	6
"	Kilmore, Tipperary	25	0	0	37	18	0
"	Frenchpark, Roscommon	60	0	0	99	5	0
"	Tashier, Longford	105	0	0	155	2	6
July 23	Foches, Mayo	15	0	0	21	17	6
"	Muncyglill, King's County	20	0	0	20	10	0
"	Dunkerrin, Leitrim	70	0	0	102	14	6
"	Caher, Tipperary	40	0	0	46	16	6
July 24	Banagher, King's County	10	0	0	15	0	0
"	Galway	120	0	0	151	7	6
"	Arboretown, Wexford	40	0	0	55	11	2
"	Kildalkey, Meath	60	0	0	88	0	0
"	Thurles, Tipperary	110	0	0	161	3	2
"	Faery, Roscommon	20	0	0	25	17	6
"	Dunkacoly, Donegal	55	0	0	77	3	0
"	Dungourney, &c., Cork	25	0	0	29	17	6
"	Doonahmore, Cork	40	0	0	52	7	6
"	Killbegs, Donegal	45	0	0	66	0	0
"	Kilbrin, Cork	25	0	0	36	9	0
July 25	Edermine, Wexford	30	0	0	42	0	0
"	Ennis, Clare	100	0	0	158	0	0
"	Kilgoblin, Kerry	60	0	0	82	12	6
"	Dunlavin, Wicklow	100	0	0	125	0	0
"	Kinsara	24	0	0	24	12	0
"	Collan, Kilkenny	80	0	0	112	9	0
July 27	Milown Malley, Clare	35	0	0	47	0	6
"	Taghmon, Wexford	60	0	0	85	4	0
"	Cappawate, Tipperary	35	0	0	50	10	0
"	Inchiquin, Cork	20	0	0	24	0	0
"	Kilrush, Wexford	28	0	0	38	19	6
"	Pogney, Longford	50	0	0	69	0	0
"	Meathill, Kilkenny	15	0	0	13	11	0
"	Carsington, Leitrim	15	0	0	15	0	0
"	Newport, Tipperary	40	0	0	51	15	0
July 28	Newmarket, Clare	40	0	0	45	1	0
"	Ballynamona, Cork	26	0	0	32	0	0
"	Ballymestard, Galway	11	0	0	11	10	0
"	Ianistige, Kilkenny	140	0	0	201	19	0
"	Frankford, King's County	30	0	0	37	0	10½
"	Dungarvan, Waterford	125	0	0	183	0	0
"	Crosselough, Ballyjames Duff, Carra [	35	0	0	45	1	0
"	Ballyjames Duff, Carra	85	0	0	129	0	0
July 29	Crosselough, near Mount Nugent, Carra	13	0	0	15	10	0
"	Clonmore District, Cork	24	0	0	33	15	0
"	Castlemartyr, Cork	17	0	0	23	19	6
"	Ballymot, Galway	10	0	0	10	0	0
"	Frankford, Kilkenny	25	0	0	35	10	0
"	Kilashy, Limerick	35	0	0	42	0	6
"	Tully, Longford	18	0	0	20	4	7
"	Kilmain, Mayo	30	0	0	36	5	6
"	Timra's, Sligo	170	0	0	263	2	6
"	Kilfenest, Tipperary	160	0	0	240	13	6
"	Ballingary	120	0	0	161	5	6
"	Carriokbeg, Waterford	9	0	0	9	15	0
July 30	Tullyhanna, Carra	15	0	0	21	10	0
"	Carrigahanna, Cork	15	0	0	23	2	0
"	Breeda, Kerry	16	0	0	24	0	0
"	Kilcalman, Limerick	45	0	0	66	15	0
"	Nether, Meath	30	0	0	35	0	0
"	Ballina, Mayo	55	0	0	79	0	0
"	Corran, Sligo	45	0	0	64	0	0
"	Borris O' Kane, Tipperary	11	0	0	11	10	0
	Total	£	65,914	10 0	£	80,008	1 2½

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

July 31, 1846.

THE Deptford oatmeal does not please the Irish taste: it is ground too fine, and it is too highly kiln-dried, which gives it a parched, burnt flavour, and smell.

In Galway, the Committee preferred the Irish-ground oatmeal, and bought it in preference, at a small increase of price.

After sending you the 10,000*l.* to-day, my balance this evening will be 8800*l.* in my favour, so that I shall go on remitting next week.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 31, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that in obedience to their instructions communicated in your letter No. 222 of the 18th instant, I have this day paid into the Bank of Ireland, to be transferred to the credit of the account of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General at the Bank of England, the sum of 10,000*l.*

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 1, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of an accepted tender for the sale of all the empty barrels and sacks remaining in store at Dundalk.

ENCLOSURE.

JOHN ROBINSON to A. WALLER, Esq.

Dundalk, July 28, 1846.

UNDERSTANDING that you have a large quantity of empty American meal barrels to dispose of, I hereby offer you sixpence per barrel for any number you may have; this is exactly the price of such in Liverpool.

Should you also have a few sacks, such as I have seen, I should be willing to take them at 1*s.* 8*d.* each.

P.S. I engage further to remove the barrels at once.

I hereby accept this offer.

(Signed)

ALFRED WALLER.

Dundalk, July 29, 1846.

Recommended,

R. J. ROUTH, C. G.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships desire to be informed what steps were taken to make the intention of disposing of these articles publicly known in order that every person might have an opportunity of tendering for their purchase.

SIR R. ROUTH to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 5, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter from Commissary-General Hewetson, reporting that he had given notice for the surrender, according to agreement, of the Lee Mills and Lee Mills Granaries, and further notifying certain reductions made on his establishment consequent thereon.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to SIR R. ROUTH.

Lee Mill Depot, Cork, August 3, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to report I have given notice, dated the 31st ultimo, to Messrs. Beaumish and Crawford, that the Lee Mills and Lee Mills Granaries will be surrendered,

according to the terms of their agreement, at the expiration of two months from that date. I have further to add, that within the last month I have discharged the following persons from my establishments, viz. S. Moore, assistant miller, on the 30th June; B. T. Hill, packer at Howbowline, on the 11th July; packers' gang of 12 labourers, same date; also within the month, 2 landing men, and 19 kiln-men and labourers from Lee Mill and Granaries.

I shall continue to make further reductions, as the service permits.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 5, 1846.

THE digging of the early crop of potatoes is become very general, and this diminishes the demand on our magazines, at least a fortnight before the usual time. In the meanwhile, the importations of Indian corn meal are reducing the price of that article; both circumstances are in operation to produce this result, together with the harvest in view. The early potatoes are of a tolerably good size, but much of them more or less diseased, and the farmers are hurrying them to market, to effect a sale before the disease makes a further progress.

In this state of things we cannot maintain our price at 10*l.*, when the dealers are selling at 9*l.*, and some 8*l.* 10*s.* We cannot ask more than the current value. Our price will, therefore, be reduced to 9*l.*, all of which will be reported officially. I expect to see potatoes very cheap for the next two or three months.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 5, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the undermentioned reductions in this department, consequent on the breaking up of the Dundalk dépôt and sub-dépôts:—

Mr. R. J. Manifold, temporary clerk, at 5*s.* per day, from to-morrow, the 6th instant.

Constable Milling, Dundalk, from the 31st ultimo.

Constable McCarron, Armagh, from the 29th ultimo.

Constable Berryman, Monaghan, from the 29th ultimo.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN,

Dublin Castle, August 5, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Mr. Waller, having completed his duties at Dundalk, proceeds this day to London to report himself to the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

In consequence of the great facility of importation, and the spirit of commercial enterprise which exists on the east side of Ireland from Dublin north, the duties of Dundalk have not been so heavy as I anticipated; but the advantage of a dépôt in that locality is not, therefore, to be depreciated. Its presence there was a check upon any immoderate rise in the markets, and it was a source of confidence to all the neighbouring counties. Neither has Mr. Waller been exempted from his share of labour; and I am happy to inform you that his zealous attention to his duty, and his assiduity to acquire the necessary experience for its discharge, have been unceasing.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 5, 1846.

ADVERTING to my letter, No. 288, dated 24th July, I have now the honour to lay before you, for the approval of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a schedule and vouchers for sundry gratuitous issues made at the constabulary dépôt at Outerarde, under the orders of Major Wainwright.

This officer, having lately joined, had directed the issues under a misapprehension of the nature of our duties, and of the instructions which governed them.

The locality in question of Outerarde, though fully capable of doing so, had made no subscription, nor any other effort in its own behalf, nor was there any committee established.

By these gratuitous issues from our depôts the tendency to mendicity was countenanced, and the exertion of the inhabitants discouraged, and the principle that the Government only acted as an auxiliary to individual efforts lost sight of.

These were the grounds on which I found fault with this transaction; but I beg, at the same time, to submit to you, that this officer being called suddenly to act, before he had time to inform himself of these details, from a first feeling of commiseration was led into error, and I respectfully solicit their Lordships, under the circumstances, to allow these issues; but I have thought it right to bring the subject specially before you, that the principle itself might not be involved.

THEASURY MINUTE on the above.

August 7, 1846.

Write to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships will not, under all the circumstances of the case, insist upon Major Wainwright making good the value of the meal improperly issued by him; but they are of opinion that, although Major Wainwright had only recently been employed on this service, he ought to have informed himself on so essential a point in his instructions as that the assistance of the Government was to be given in support of exertions previously made by the leading persons in each locality, and that food was, in no case, to be issued gratuitously to persons who were able to work.

Captain PERCEVAL to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Westport, August 6, 1846.

THE demands upon our stores have very much diminished within the last week, and there are only one or two parts which continue to require supplies—the Belmullet district and Balimote. The reason of the diminished demand is that the people wish to save what potatoes they can before they all go, and consequently are digging, where, under better circumstances, they would leave the crop still to grow.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 7, 1846.

IN acknowledging your letter of the 4th instant, No. 236, in which you signify to me the orders of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to report on the steps taken to make known the intention to dispose of the empty barrels and sacks at Dundalk, I have the honour to acquaint you that the highest price obtained for these barrels is the rate of 6d. each, which was offered on this occasion, and is their highest merchantable value, and the price received for sacks is their prime cost when new; and on these grounds I did not think that the interests of the public in this case required any further publicity, which might probably have resulted in a more disadvantageous sale.

Mr. Waller, being in England, will be able to afford such further explanation as may seem desirable.

Commissary-General HEWETSON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Cork, August 9, 1846, 5 p.m.

ANOTHER week has elapsed. My issues to committees have fallen off one-half, and I expect will, this next week, be considerably less; Mr. Coffin also writes, that the issues from his depôt last week were not more than was usually demanded for one day. He has, consequently, as he will have a large surplus on hand, requested me to discontinue my shipment. I have upwards of 7000 sacks now in the depôt, and after supplying the Coast Guard stations to the extent of the requisitions, and my issues to Committees to the 15th instant, about 5000 sacks of meal, or 625 tons, will remain, I suppose, for future use. The trade here have no demand upon them latterly for Indian meal. I tell them to take good care of their stocks, in well-ventilated store-rooms, calculating upon all they have, and a great deal more, being required at a later period. I have nothing new to add since my last on the potato crop. All parties are looking anxiously for the time when a proper judgment

can be formed upon the late and main crop. Great fears are entertained, and the people are inclined to look to the dark side.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, August 10, 1846.

WE are waiting for to-day to send you the last of the subscription lists; some of them very singular. I shall leave Mr. Cummins in charge at Clonmel after the 15th, and send Mr. Lister to the Coast Guard stations on the coast of Mayo and Connemara to close our accounts, collect receipts and payments, and bring supplies not now in demand into a central position. Mr. Dobree, in the mean while, will bring these to a conclusion here, while Mr. Lister does the more active duty there. Whatever we may do hereafter, it is an important step to wind up now; and we must collect our scattered threads together, and bring all to as speedy conclusion as possible.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 10, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the weekly return of the Commissariat depôts in Ireland, and also a statement of the amount of donations and of the sums subscribed up to the 8th instant.

ENCLOSURE I.

WEEKLY STATE OF PROVISIONS in the several Depôts in Ireland, on the Evening of Saturday, the 8th of August, 1846.

Depôts.	Oats.	Indian Corn Meal.			Indian Corn.
		Tons.	Bushels.	Pounds.	Bushels.
Cork and Dependancies	31 ² ₁₀₀	..	7,599	2,027,664	2,028
Waterford . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..
Clonmel	58 ² ₁₀₀	..	184	51,560	..
Carrick-on-Suir	6 ² ₁₀₀	..	38	10,605	..
Durgeson	6 ² ₁₀₀	..	..	..	..
Limerick . . . . .	..	8,566	726	896,168	..
Bonagh . . . . .	..	..	574	160,913	..
Chace Castle . . . . .	..	9	775	218,400	..
Kilrush . . . . .	..	..	363	154,840	..
Galway and Dependancies	44 ² ₁₀₀	1,875	689	567,011	5,996
Westport	21 ² ₁₀₀	1,013	546	350,663	..
Killaloe . . . . .	..	150	..	29,491	..
Sligo and Dependancies	118 ² ₁₀₀	950	37	106,555	27
Dublin	135 ² ₁₀₀	..	433	120,890	..
Tullamore . . . . .	..	..	188	52,654	..
Longford	6 ² ₁₀₀	..	137	88,486	..
Strakestown . . . . .	..	..	62	17,472	..
Roscommon . . . . .	..	1	33	9,453	..
Castlerea . . . . .	..	6	64	18,998	..
Carrick-on-Shannon . . . . .	..	5	50	15,218	..
Athy and Dependancies . . . . .	..	..	695	194,766	..
Total	450 ² ₁₀₀	7,574	13,982	5,131,766	7,961

Shipments from Cork during the Week—None.

104½ Tons issued to Committees.

Dublin Castle, August 10, 1846.

R. J. ROUTH, C. G.

ENCLOSURE 2.

A STATEMENT of SUMS issued by order of his Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, as Donations in Aid of Subscription raised by Relief Committee for the Purchase of Food in Ireland.

Date.	Relief Committee.	Tons of Indian Corn Meal.	Donations.			Subscriptions.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846.	Amount brought forward . . . . .	..	66,032	10	0	98,176	13	8½
Aug. 1.	Corran District, Sligo . . . . .	..	15	0	0	18	0	0
..	Greig District, Kilkenny . . . . .	..	75	0	0	109	10	0
..	Naven District, Meath . . . . .	..	140	0	0	225	3	4
..	Derryishinch, &c. District, Kilkenny . . . . .	..	23	0	0	34	0	11½
..	Ballina District, Mayo . . . . .	..	14	0	0	20	0	0
..	Whitechurch District, Cork . . . . .	..	58	0	0	86	15	6
Aug. 3.	Killemmet District, Mayo . . . . .	..	30	0	0	46	2	6
..	Town District, Galway . . . . .	..	16	0	0	23	16	0
..	Castle District, Longford . . . . .	..	48	0	0	72	15	4
..	Gallen and Castle District, Mayo . . . . .	..	100	0	0	150	0	0
..	Moycarke District, Tipperary . . . . .	..	25	0	0	36	0	0
..	Cloghodon District, Tipperary . . . . .	..	10	0	0	10	1	6
..	Rushra District, Wexford . . . . .	..	72	0	0	108	3	4
Aug. 4.	Dungarvan, &c. District, Kilkenny . . . . .	..	125	0	0	185	2	6
..	Milford Hamilton District, Donegal . . . . .	..	30	0	0	34	5	0
..	Kilcooly, Bealick, &c. District, Tipperary . . . . .	..	100	0	0	137	11	0
..	Ennis District, Clare . . . . .	..	25	0	0	30	0	0
..	Doon District, Limerick . . . . .	..	100	0	0	139	17	6
..	Knock, Parish of Kilmurry, District, Clare . . . . .	..	14	0	0	14	6	6
Aug. 5.	Kilkeel and Gorman District, Galway . . . . .	..	3	0	0	3	0	0
..	Bagnalstown District, Carlow . . . . .	..	45	0	0	68	15	6
..	Ballymacrost District, Down . . . . .	..	25	0	0	37	16	0
..	Clonsilla District, Clare . . . . .	..	20	0	0	22	7	0
Aug. 6.	Lettismacward District, Donegal . . . . .	..	20	0	0	30	0	0
..	Clonsilla District, Tipperary . . . . .	..	200	0	0	300	0	0
..	Newtownsharry District, Wexford . . . . .	..	21	0	0	31	7	6
..	Kilkenny West District, Westmeath . . . . .	..	50	0	0	63	10	0
..	Kilvine District, Mayo . . . . .	..	5	0	0	5	0	0
Aug. 7.	Crookstown District, Carra . . . . .	..	5	0	0	10	3	6
..	Carrikkbeg District, Waterford . . . . .	..	5	0	0	5	0	0
..	Kilgiffin District, Roscommon . . . . .	..	5	0	0	5	0	0
..	Cashelstown District, Limerick	2	..	..	..	18	19	6
..	New Polla District, Limerick	2	..	..	..	24	4	9
..	Crookstown District, Meath . . . . .	..	18	0	0	24	0	0
..	Swinsford District, Mayo	3	..	..	..	33	0	0
..	Tynawly District, Mayo	1½	..	..	..	21	0	0
..	Rathowen District, Westmeath	2	..	..	..	26	0	0
..	Ballynedy District, Limerick . . . . .	..	120	0	0	169	2	0
..	Clenkeen District, Galway . . . . .	..	5	0	0	6	10	0
..	Clen District, Wexford . . . . .	..	30	0	0	43	3	4½
		10½	67,632	10	0	100,627	3	9½
	Add for 10½ tons India Meal . . . . .	..	106	0	0	..	..	..
		..	67,737	10	0	100,627	3	9½

Dublin, August 10, 1846.

R. J. ROYCE, C. G.

THERE cannot be a doubt that *our present operations* ought to cease with the harvest labour and the new crop.

It has been proved by experience, that the *immediate* effect of the prevalence of the potato disease is to force large supplies prematurely into the market, and that there is no period when relief is so little required as at the commencement of such a season.

During the season which has just elapsed, we firmly refused to open our depôts while the disease was making progress, and forcing the crop into the market, and reserved our supplies until they were imperatively called for in consequence of the actual exhaustion of the crop in April, May, June, and July; the early issues being to a very moderate extent, and increasing as the year advanced. It was solely owing to this prudent reserve, that we were able to

supply the void caused by the partial destruction of the crop over such a great extent of country, and if, with the prospects now before us, we were to begin our issues in August, before the new crop is well out of the ground, I do not hesitate to say that it would be utterly impossible for us to meet the demands upon us throughout the ensuing year, in all the parts of Ireland in which the potato crop may fail; and the consequences would be likely to be extremely disastrous.

I entertain, no doubt, from the accompanying Report from Sir J. Dombain, and other information which I have received, that the potato disease has re-appeared in the counties of Cork, Kerry, and other parts of Ireland; but I repeat that the first result of the disease has invariably been found to be a well-supplied market, and that what we have to provide against is *not the disease, but the scarcity which is likely to be ultimately occasioned by it.*

Treasury, August 4, 1846.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

MR. TREVELYAN to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE.

Treasury, August 11, 1846.

THE authority given for the execution of works under the first Act of this Session, was necessarily conditional on the works being required for the relief of urgent distress, and in issuing tickets beforehand for the full amount of the works at Galway, the Local Committee exceeded its powers, and adopted a course which it is impossible for the Government to support them in.

If our relief expenditure is not to be suspended during the harvest work, and the period of artificial and unfortunate abundance, caused by the apprehensions entertained for the new crop of potatoes, and we are to go on complying with all the demands that may be made upon us for assistance till this time next year, neither all the Government establishments, nor the Exchequer itself, will be equal to the occasion, and calamities which it is painful to think of, may be the result of this improvident anticipation of the means of relief.

The only chance of our being able to carry the people safe through the coming year, is that we should be allowed to reserve our means, as we did during the past year, until the means in the possession of the people are exhausted.

It is very important that a proper distinction should be drawn between the potato disease, and the scarcity occasioned by it. The first effect of the disease is not scarcity, but plenty, owing to people's anxiety to dispose of their potatoes before they become useless, and it is essentially necessary that we should not consume, during the period of plenty, the provision which has been made against the period of scarcity.

I return herewith the Galway Memorial, as well as the note from Mr. Powell, of Castle Connell, to which the same remarks apply; and the only further observation I have to make, is that the Chairman of the Board of Works informs me in a letter I have received from him this morning, that he was on the point of leaving Dublin for Galway, where he will take every necessary and proper step in the matter.

Balance Sheet of the Commissariat Expenditure and Receipts for Services in Ireland, in relieving the Distress occasioned by the failure of the Potato Crop.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To 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	45,928	0	1
" cost of Oatmeal purchased in Ireland by Commissariat Department	6,544	0	0
" cost of Oatmeal supplied by Admiralty	5,517	5	3
" expenses of kiln-drying and grinding Indian Corn, to 30th June	5,867	15	1
" expenses of labour, cartage, boat-hire, &c., to 30th June	2,578	13	0
" expenses of freight from port to port, and by canals, to 30th June	3,293	15	4
" Sums paid for rent of magazines, to 30th June	305	0	0
" cost of sacks and other expenses incurred by Ordnance Department	6,932	10	2
" estimate of further amount required for grinding, labour, and freight	3,569	0	0
" estimate of further amount required for rent of magazines	1,709	0	0
	£185,432	7	7
<i>Cr.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
By amount of sales of Indian Corn, Meal, and Oatmeal, to 15th July	70,171	6	5
" estimated amount of further sales of Indian Corn, Meal, and Oatmeal, to 15th August	60,000	0	0
" amount recovered from underwriters as net avails of "Arch," lost	4,684	11	0
" amount recovered from underwriters for general average, per "Harriet Rockwell"	95	4	9
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
	£185,432	7	7

MEM. OF PAYMENTS made to Messrs. BARNES BROTHERS and 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.

		<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Per Adirondack	Cargo	6,985	18	4	8,225	2	9
	Freight and charges	1,843	4	5			
" Atlas	Cargo	3,364	12	2	10,651	4	0
	Freight, &c.	2,662	16	6			
	Ditto underclaimed		3	15			
" Rainbow	Cargo	5,607	7	11	4,994	9	6
	Freight, &c.	987	1	9			
" Winnipeg	Cargo	4,402	13	7	5,629	11	5
	Freight, &c.	1,126	17	10			
" Eldon	Cargo	6,403	8	10	7,960	13	9
	Freight, &c.	1,565	4	11			
" Harriet Rockwell	Cargo	4,455	3	6	5,973	18	0
	Freight, &c.	1,391	2	5			
	Damage and general average	127	12	1			
" Arch	Cargo				4,732	11	9
	(Lost)						
" Ohio	Cargo	3,943	15	4	4,948	2	8
	Freight, &c.	1,024	7	4			
" Trident	Cargo	3,887	11	6	4,774	5	9
	Freight, &c.	966	14	5			
" Liberty	Cargo	7,258	5	3	8,094	6	7
	Freight, &c.	1,488	1	4			
" Edinburgh	Cargo	3,476	6	0	4,350	8	4
	Freight, &c.	874	2	4			
" Empire	Cargo	12,181	7	9	14,111	3	9
	Freight, &c.	1,976	16	0			
" Cornelia	Cargo	11,758	6	8	13,974	2	5
	Freight and Freight	2,600	0	0			
	Balance of ditto	215	16	9			
" Almada	Cargo	4,705	17	7	5,824	7	6
	Freight, &c.	1,088	9	11			
Total from United States		£105,256	8	8			

For Purchases made in the United Kingdom.

		£.	s.	d.
Oatmeal	{ Ballinacloe	1,468	3	5
	{ Roscommon			
	{ Duxton			
	{ John and Henry	1,174	5	9
	{ Harmony	1,235	5	10
	{ Concord	1,154	17	2
	{ Quiver	1,267	11	2
	{ Lady Rowley	1,190	9	0
	{ Providencia	1,304	10	9
	{ Superior	795	7	8
	{ Aaron Lane	1,098	1	3
	{ Swan	1,114	19	1
	{ White Moose and Sarah	678	1	1
Indian Corn	{ Union and Maria	1,083	14	4
	{ Pacima	1,705	2	10
	{ Antigua	1,483	5	0
	{ Maria	1,586	1	1
	{ Beithia	2,326	10	0
	{ Jack-o'-Lantern	700	7	6
	{ Joss	888	4	6
	{ Venezuela	621	15	6
	{ Tam Banks	634	1	9
	{ Athena	1,708	3	8
	{ Aurora	1,694	13	7
	{ Active	1,243	8	0
	{ Rebecca	1,199	6	3
Indian Meal	{ Eleanor and Jane	681	0	9
	{ Three Sisters	546	19	10
Indian Corn	Marchioness Bradbourne	2,784	15	1
Indian Meal	Purchased at Cork	2,566	7	6
Indian Corn	Ditto per Chate and Bona Doms	3,035	19	9
Indian Meal	{ Purchased at Cork	1,283	8	9
	{ Volous	360	18	6
	{ Purchased at Cork	3,208	5	6
	{ Antonietta	1,147	19	1

Purchases made in the United Kingdom 45,923 0 1

Total £151,179 6 9

BOARD OF WORKS.

Anno Nono Victoriae Reginae.

CAP. I.—AN ACT for the farther Amendment of the ACTS for the EXTENSION and PROMOTION of PUBLIC WORKS in IRELAND.—5th March, 1846.

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the first year of Her present Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to amend the Acts for the Extension and Promotion of Public Works in Ireland," reciting an Act of the first and second years of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Extension and Promotion of Public Works in Ireland," the provisions whereof were amended and extended by an Act passed in the then last Session of Parliament, and that the Commissioners acting under and in execution thereof were authorized to make advances by way of loan to a certain amount in the said Acts limited, in aid of the execution of public works in Ireland, and were also authorized to make advances for the like purpose by way of grant in aid of the construction of certain works to an amount not exceeding in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand pounds, and that it was expedient, with a view to the farther promotion of public works in Ireland, and the employment of the labouring population, that the said Commissioners should be enabled to make advances to an additional amount by way of grant, and that provision should be made for making advances for the execution of public works under certain circumstances, partly by way of loan and partly by way of grant; that is to say, by loan to the extent of one moiety of such advances, and by grant to the extent of the other moiety thereof; and by the said first-recited Act it is enacted, that it should and might be lawful to and for the Commissioners for the execution of the said recited Acts, under the like conditions and regulations, and for the purposes of the said therein-recited Acts and the said first-recited Act, to make additional advances by way of grant to an amount not exceeding in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand pounds, and for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three or more of them, to cause to be issued, from time to time, as they might find necessary, out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland arising in Ireland (in addition to the sum of Fifty thousand pounds therein recited, to which the issues for the purposes of the grant to be made under the therein-recited Acts were limited), any further sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand pounds, to be applied to the purposes of the said recited Acts and the said first-recited Act: And whereas by another Act passed in the first and second years of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to authorize a further issue of Exchequer Bills for Public Works and Fisheries, and Employment of the Poor; and to amend the Acts relating thereto," it is enacted, that it should be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to appropriate out of the sum of Five hundred thousand pounds in Exchequer Bills authorized to be advanced under the authority of the said Act any sum or sums in Exchequer Bills not exceeding Fifty thousand pounds in the whole, for the promotion and extension of public works in Ireland, to be applied by the Commissioners appointed under the authority of an Act of the first and second years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Extension and Promotion of Public Works in Ireland," to the purposes and under the provisions of the said Act: And whereas of the said sum of Fifty thousand pounds so made applicable under the said last-mentioned Act the sum of Four thousand pounds was applied to grants, the remaining Forty-six thousand pounds having been issued by way of loan: And whereas by another Act passed in the sixth and seventh years of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to amend the Acts for carrying on Public Works in Ireland," after reciting as therein recited, it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners

7 W. 4, and 1 Vict., c. 31.

1 & 2 W. 4, c. 33.

1 & 2 Vict., c. 33.
§ 14.

1 & 2 W. 4, c. 33.

6 & 7 Vict., c. 44,
§ 17.

of Her Majesty's Treasury to order that out of such monies as at or after the passing of said Act may be in the Exchequer, or as may be thereafter paid into the Bank of England to the credit of Her Majesty's Exchequer in repayment of loans made for public works in Ireland, any sum or sums of money not exceeding the sum of Twenty-one thousand pounds may be set apart and appropriated for grants by the said Commissioners of Public Works, with the approval of the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in such and the same manner as the said sum of Twenty-one thousand pounds might have been used and applied for grants if the same had not been, as therein mentioned, inadvertently applied for the purposes of loans: And whereas of the said several sums so authorized to be advanced under the said recited Acts a sum of One hundred and eighteen thousand and ninety-three pounds nineteen shillings and eight-pence has been advanced and paid, and applied for the purposes of the said Acts, in the way of grant, leaving a sum of Six thousand nine hundred and six pounds and four-pence still unapplied and available for such purposes; and it is expedient to increase the sum so available, and to authorize the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to issue a further sum from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of the said Acts and this Act, or any of them; and it is also expedient to amend the said recited Act of the first year of Her present Majesty, and extend its provisions to other cases: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland acting in execution of the said recited Acts, under the like conditions and regulations (save as hereinafter provided), and for the purposes of the said recited Acts and this Act, to make additional advances by way of grant to an amount not exceeding in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand pounds, and for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or any three or more of them, to cause to be issued from time to time, as they may find necessary, out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in addition to the said several sums heretofore mentioned, any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the said sum of Fifty thousand pounds, to be applied for the several purposes of the said Acts and this Act, or any of them, in relation to grants.

II. And be it enacted, That all and every the provisions, regulations, powers, privileges, advantages, forfeitures, and disabilities, contained or expressed in the said recited Acts, or any Act amending the same, in respect of the grants authorized to be made thereunder, shall (save as hereinafter provided) be applied and extended to the grants to be made under authority of this Act as fully and effectually, to all intents and purposes, as if the same were herein repeated and re-enacted.

III. And whereas by the said recited Act of the first year of Her present Majesty it is, amongst other things, enacted, that if any three or more justices of the peace, not being stipendiary magistrates, in and for any county, county of a city, or county of a town in Ireland, shall think it expedient to make application for the construction of any public work on the terms and under the regulations thereafter contained for the repayment of a moiety of the expense of executing such work, it shall and may be lawful for them, by notice under their hands to be posted on the places appointed for posting notices of applications to presentment sessions in the harony, or half barony or place, in which such work is proposed to be executed, to convene a special meeting of the justices, and cess-payers associated with such justices, at the last special or presentment sessions held in such harony, or half harony or place, for the purposes of an Act passed in the then last Session of Parliament, intituled "An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to the Presentment of Public Money by Grand Juries in Ireland;" and such meeting shall be held at the place appointed for the holding of such special or presentment sessions, at such time as shall be specified in such notice, not being sooner than seven days from the time of posting such notice; and the senior justice present at such meeting shall preside thereat, and shall have, in addition to his vote, a casting voice in case of an equality of voices; and, if a majority of such justices and cess-payers assembled at such special sessions shall so think fit, the chair-

The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland may make additional Grants to the extent of £6,000, for the purposes of the recited Acts and this Act.

Provisions of former Acts to apply to Grants under this Act.

Two Justices and three Cess-payers associated with them at the last Special or Presentment Sessions may convene a Meeting of Justices and Cess-payers for making an Application to the Lord Lieutenant for the execution of any Public Works under 7 W. 4, and 1 Vict. c. 31, § 3.

man shall apply by memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors of Ireland, on behalf of the justices and cess-payers assembled at such sessions, praying that the work described in such memorial may be executed, and that a sum, not exceeding the amount in such memorial mentioned, may be advanced for that purpose, a moiety thereof to be repaid by grand jury presentment as thereafter mentioned: And whereas, by reason of a deficiency of magistrates residing in certain districts, it is difficult to obtain the concurrence of three justices of the peace in convening any such special meeting as aforesaid, and it is therefore expedient to amend the said provision; be it therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for any two justices of the peace (not being stipendiary magistrates), in and for any county, county of a city, or county of a town in Ireland, and any three cess-payers associated with the justices at the then last special or presentment sessions as aforesaid, held in and for the barony, half barony or place, wherein any public work is proposed to be executed under the provisions of the said first-recited Act and this Act (as far as the same are applicable), by notice under their hands to be posted as in the said last-recited provision directed, to convene any such special meeting of the justices and cess-payers for such purposes, and subject to such regulations, as in the said last-recited provision mentioned; and every such special meeting so convened shall be as valid and effectual for all and every the purposes of the said first-recited Act as if such meeting had been convened in such manner as in the said first-recited Act prescribed; and the several provisions of the said first-recited Act (subject to the variations thereof contained in this Act), shall extend and be applied to any such special meeting, and to the proceedings thereat, the application for the execution of the works, the advance of monies, the repayment on account of the same, and to the several other matters and things relating to any such works applied for at such meeting.

IV. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any such special meeting as aforesaid, convened in the manner in the said first-recited Act or this Act prescribed, to make an application in like manner as aforesaid to the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, for an advance as aforesaid, for the alteration, extension, or improvement of any then existing public work, as fully and effectually as for the construction as aforesaid of any public work; and the provisions of the said first-recited Act shall extend and be applied to any such alteration, extension, or improvement of any existing public work as fully and effectually as to the construction of any public work.

V. And be it enacted, That whenever any such public work shall have been constructed, altered, extended, or improved, under the provisions of the said recited Acts or this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners of Public Works from time to time to take such proceedings, and exercise such powers and authorities for or relating to the subsequent repairs and maintenance of any such public work aforesaid, and such subsequent repairs and works of maintenance shall and may be executed, and the expense thereof shall and may be provided for, raised, and repaid, in such manner, and subject to such provisions and regulations, as by the said recited Act of the first and second years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, or any Act or Acts amending the same, are directed and provided in relation to the repair or maintenance of any road or bridge in aid of the construction whereof grants may be made, or have been made, by the said Commissioners of Public Works.

VI. And whereas by the said recited Act of the first and second years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, it is, amongst other things, enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners for the execution of the said recited Act to make advances in aid of the drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other improvement of land, on the credit of mortgages, assignments, or other assurances of the estate and interest, freehold or leasehold, in such land which is to be the subject of such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement: Provided always, that it shall be made out to the satisfaction of such Commissioners, by competent evidence, accompanied by the certificate of a skilful engineer or surveyor approved of by the said Commissioners, that such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement, when completed, will increase the value

Such Special Meeting may apply for Advances for the Repair or Extension of any existing Public Works.

Subsequent Repairs of such Public Works to be provided for as under the recited Acts.

Advances under Public Works Act on Loan for Improvements of Lands may be made by Board of Public Works, repayable within 20 Years, at such Rate of Interest as in cases of other Loans.

of such land in the proportion of at least ten per centum on the sum proposed to be expended thereon; and that a contract, with two good and sufficient sureties, to be approved of by the said Commissioners, shall be previously made and entered into for the full and complete execution of such drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other improvement, at and for a sum not exceeding the amount of the advance sought therefor, within a period to be fixed by the said Commissioners, not exceeding seven years from the date of such advance; and that in all such cases the whole amount of such advance shall be made repayable within three years next after the period so fixed for the completion of such drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other improvement, with interest thereon in the meanwhile at a rate not less than Five pounds per centum per annum, payable half-yearly, as the said Commissioners shall fix and appoint: And whereas the provisions of the last-recited Act as to loans are in part amended by an Act of the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William the Fourth, for the amendment of the said last-recited Act; but it is expedient that further encouragement should be given for the improvement of lands by enabling parties to obtain such advances on more favourable terms, and that for such purpose the aforesaid provision should be further amended; be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, if they shall so think fit, subject to such restrictions and conditions as are hereinafter provided, to make any loan or advance as aforesaid for or in aid of the drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other permanent improvement of land, upon application duly made conformably to the provisions of the said recited Act of the first and second years of the reign of King William the Fourth, and any other Acts amending the same, and this Act, in relation thereto, and which may be approved of by the said Commissioners, and by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three or more of them, upon the terms and conditions that the whole amount of such loan or advance shall be made repayable within such time or times, not exceeding twenty years after the period so fixed as aforesaid for the completion of such drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other permanent improvement, at such rate of interest in the meanwhile, payable half-yearly, as by the said last-recited Act, or any Acts amending the same, is provided with respect to any other advances by way of loan thereunder, anything in the said last-recited Act, or the other Acts amending the same, requiring a different period of payment, or a higher or other rate of interest on any loan or advance for any such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other permanent improvement, to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that any such loan or advance, and any charge, mortgage, assignment, or other assurance for securing the repayment thereof, shall be subject to the several provisions, regulations, and enactments in the said last-recited Act, and the other Acts amending the same, contained in relation to any loan or advance or security thereunder, so far as the same are applicable, and shall not be varied by this Act; and any such charge, mortgage, assignment, or other assurance for securing the repayment of any such last-mentioned loans under this Act shall take priority of all charges and incumbrances whatsoever and whosoever made: And provided further, that no such charge, mortgage, or other assurance to be made as last aforesaid shall have such priority as aforesaid in any case where such loan or loans shall be made, pursuant to the provisions aforesaid, to or for the use of any person or persons under any legal disability or incapacity, or being tenants for life, or having only particular or limited estates or interests in the lands whereon the same are to be charged, or whose estates therein shall be subject to any incumbrances whatever, unless previous to the making such loan or advance, the person or persons to whom or on whose behalf the same shall be made shall have obtained the report of one of the masters of the High Court of Chancery in Ireland, authorizing such advance to be made, on a petition to be presented to the said Court pursuant to the provisions of a certain Act passed in the eighth and ninth years of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled, "An Act to alter and amend an Act passed in the Third and Fourth Years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled 'An Act to enable the Owners of Settled Estates to defray the Expences of Draining the same by way of Mortgage,'" and such report shall have been duly filed and absolutely confirmed according to the provisions of the same Act, and which provisions

shall be applicable to advances to be made under this Act in the same manner as if the same were here repeated.

VII. And whereas by reason of such advances in aid of permanent improvements of lands it may be expected that great benefit will accrue to the proprietors thereof, and that the value thereof will be considerably increased; and it is expedient, with the sanction of the High Court of Chancery, to be obtained on such petition as aforesaid in manner aforesaid, to enable tenants for life, and others having only particular estates, and persons under legal disability or incapacity, or persons whose lands are incumbered, to charge on such lands monies so to be advanced for the purposes of such improvements; be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any corporation, lay or ecclesiastical, sole or aggregate, and for the husbands, trustees, committees, or attorneys of or for the owners or proprietors of, or for any company or companies, or the directors thereof for the time being, interested in any part or parts of any such lands in or for or in aid of the drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other permanent improvement of which any such loan or advance shall be agreed to be made by the said Commissioners of Public Works, in pursuance of the said last recited Act, or the other Acts amending the same, and this Act, being under coverture, minors, lunatics, or beyond the seas, or otherwise incapable of acting for themselves, and to and for every of them for the time being, and to and for the owners and proprietors of all such lands, being tenants in tail or for life, or tenants in tail after possibility of issue extinct, or tenants by the courtesy or in dower, and for persons whose estates are incumbered as hereinafter mentioned, and to and for every of them respectively for the time being, by and with the sanction and approbation of the High Court of Chancery, to be obtained in manner aforesaid, by indenture or indentures under their respective hands and seals, from time to time, and to which indenture or indentures one of the said Commissioners shall be an executing party, and before obtaining any advance on account of such loan from the said Commissioners, subject to such restrictions and conditions as are hereinafter provided, to charge the said lands with any sum or sums of money which the said Commissioners shall advance in or for or in aid of any such drainage, embankment, reclaiming, or other permanent improvement thereof as aforesaid; and for securing the repayment by instalments of such sum or sums of money which the said Commissioners shall so advance, with interest from the date of the advance thereof, with the approbation of the Court of Chancery, to be obtained in manner aforesaid, to grant, mortgage, lease, or demise or otherwise subject the said lands unto the said Commissioners of Public Works, or to the Secretary of the said Commissioners, in trust for them, either in fee or for any term of years, so as every such grant, mortgage, lease, or demise be made with a proviso or condition to cease and be void, or under an express trust to be surrendered, in case and so soon as the sum or sums of money thereby to be secured, with the interest for the same, shall be fully paid and satisfied at the time or times to be appointed in that behalf, and also with a covenant to pay the instalments as they shall become due, and to pay and keep down the interest in the meanwhile; and in the case of every such grant, mortgage, lease, or demise, such person or persons or bodies as aforesaid, as the case may be, and every succeeding tenant for life, or other person or persons having only a limited interest in the lands charged, shall be bound to pay the instalments of principal and the interest which shall become from time to time due and payable during the continuance of his, her, or their title in or to the said lands; but nevertheless, on the termination of such title, by death or otherwise, the estate in remainder or reversion in such lands, or the inheritance thereof, shall remain chargeable with all instalments, and interest and arrears thereof, then due or thereafter to become due; and every such charge, grant, mortgage, lease, or demise as aforesaid shall be good, valid, and effectual in the law for the purposes hereby intended, and shall take priority of all charges and incumbrances whatsoever and whensoever made: Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any person or persons liable to repay any loans and interest by instalments under any of the provisions aforesaid to repay the same in one sum, or in a shorter time than that in which the same shall be made repayable under the provisions aforesaid.

Persons under legal disability may charge the lands improved to secure repayment of such Loans for improvements.

VIII. And be it enacted, That every loan or advance to be made by the said Commissioners of Public Works for any such last-mentioned works or im-

Advances to be made by instalments not exceed-

ing One-fifth of the entire sum to be advanced.

provements as aforesaid under the provisions hereof shall be made by instalments not exceeding at any one time one-fifth of the entire sum agreed to be advanced; and that no second or subsequent instalment of any such loan shall be advanced until it shall have been proved to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners that the preceding instalment has been properly expended on such works or improvement pursuant to the application for such work approved by the said Commissioners; Provided always, that no one instalment shall in any case exceed Three hundred pounds.

Incorporated Companies for Improvement of Land in Ireland empowered to borrow Money from the Commissioners.

IX. And whereas societies or companies incorporated by an Act of Parliament or established by charter in Ireland or in England, for the improvement of land in Ireland, or for reclaiming land in Ireland, may be desirous of applying for advances of money under the provisions of this Act and the Acts herein recited, but doubts may arise whether such societies are within the provisions of the Acts herein recited, and whether they are authorized to borrow money, by reason of the absence of special authority in their Acts or charters of incorporation, or by reason of the powers to borrow therein contained not having arisen or being inapplicable to the securities which must be taken under the said recited Acts and this Act; be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees or directors of any such society or company incorporated by Act of Parliament or by Royal charter for the improvement of land in Ireland, or for reclaiming land in Ireland, to convene a special general meeting of the shareholders, with such notice as may be required by the respective Act or charter of incorporation, and specifying in such notice the object of such meeting, and to submit to such meeting a proposition for borrowing money under the provisions of this Act; and if the majority of the shareholders present at such meeting shall authorize the directors to borrow a sum of money under the provisions of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners of Public Works, if they shall think fit, upon the application of the trustees or directors of such society or company, to advance any sum of money not exceeding the sum by such resolution of the special meeting authorized, upon the security hereinafter mentioned: and such trustees or directors shall and may mortgage, assign, or charge all or any part of the property of such society or company, or all or any of the interests of such society or company in the leases of lands which they may have taken for the purpose of improvement, or the monies to arise from the sale, letting, or disposal of such lands, or any of them, for securing the repayment, according to the provisions of this Act, of the money so advanced, with interest, although such society or company may not have power, independently of this Act, to borrow money, or may have special powers of borrowing which shall not have arisen; and the securities made under the provisions of this Act shall, so far as respects the property therein comprised, have priority over all mortgages or charges subsequent in date and registry, any provisions in the Acts or charters of incorporation of such societies or companies notwithstanding.

Commissioners may receive Applications for Loans in certain Cases, without the Bond required by 1 & 2 W. 4, c. 33, and 6 & 7 W. 4, c. 108.

X. And whereas, under the said recited Acts of the first and second, and sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William the Fourth, all persons, save as therein excepted, to whom advances may be made for the use of any person or persons, body or bodies politic or corporate, or Company or Companies in Ireland, or for any other purpose under the provisions of said Acts, are required, besides the securities in each case respectively therein directed to be taken before any advance shall be made in respect of any loan under the provisions of the said Acts or of either of them, to make and enter into, or cause some sufficient persons or person to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners, to make and enter into a bond or obligation in writing to the secretary for the time being of the said Commissioners, together with a warrant of attorney for confessing judgment thereon, binding the obligors or obligor therein named, their, his, or her heirs, executors, or administrators in such penalty as the said Commissioners should direct, conditioned to be void, as in the said Acts mentioned; and whereas it may be convenient that such bond and warrant of attorney should be dispensed with in the case of bodies politic or corporate, or incorporated societies or Companies; be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, when they shall think fit, to receive applications for and make any loan or advance, under the provisions of the said recited Acts or this Act, to or for the use or in aid of any body or bodies politic or corporate, or incorporated society or Company, without requiring such bond

or warrant of attorney to be made or entered into as aforesaid; and the said Commissioners may, if they shall think fit, in lieu thereof require such security under the seal of any such body politic or corporate, or incorporated society or Company, for the due application of the money advanced, as they shall think fit; and the said Commissioners shall amend the regulations established by them under the said Acts accordingly.

XI. And be it enacted, That if default shall be made in the due application of any instalment of any loan or advance made for the purpose of any such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement, or in case the party or person to whom any such loan or advance may have been so agreed to be made, or if the person or persons entitled for the time being to the rents and profits of the lands which may be the subject of such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement, shall omit or neglect to proceed with the completion of such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners to proceed for the recovery of any such instalment, loan, or advance, or any part thereof, with the interest due thereon, and to stop all further advances or loan in respect of such work, or it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any person authorized by them for that purpose, if they shall so think fit, to enter upon such lands, and proceed to complete the drainage, embankment, reclamation or other improvement of such lands according to the original plan and specification which may have been agreed upon for the same, and out of the residue of the monies so agreed to be advanced by and then remaining in the hands of the said Commissioners to complete and finish such drainage, embankment, reclamation, or other improvement; and all monies so advanced and paid as last aforesaid by the said Commissioners shall be deemed and taken as part of the money agreed to be advanced by the said Commissioners, and secured and charged on such lands as aforesaid, and shall be repaid to the said Commissioners out of such lands, and out of the monies to be raised from such lands by means of such charge, grant, lease, mortgage, or demise, or other assurance as aforesaid.

XII. And be it enacted, That in the construction of this Act (except where the nature of the provision or the context of the Act shall exclude such construction) the word "Land" shall extend to all arable, pasture, or otherwise profitable, and to all waste uncultivated land, whether bog land or land covered with water, and shall also extend to messuages, tenements, and other hereditaments, corporeal or incorporeal, and any estate or interest therein, and any undivided part thereof; and the expression "Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury" or "Commissioners of the Treasury" shall mean the said last-mentioned Commissioners or any three or more of them; and the expression "the said Commissioners" shall mean the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland or any two or more of them (except where otherwise provided); and the words "Person or persons" shall extend to all bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, and also all bishops, parsons, and other ecclesiastical persons, as to lands held by them in those respective characters, and to any number of persons associated together as a Company or partnership; and the word "County" shall extend and be applied to all counties, counties of cities, and counties of towns; and the expression "High Court of Chancery or Chancery" shall extend to and include the equity side of the Court of Exchequer; and the word "Master" shall extend to and include the Remembrancer; and every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things as well as one person or thing; and every word importing the plural number shall extend and be applied to one person or thing as well as several persons or things; and every word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to a female as well as a male.

XIII. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present session of Parliament.

In case of misapplication of or neglect to apply any such Loan to the purpose agreed upon, the Commissioners may recover the advances made, or may complete the Works.

Definition of terms in this Act.

Act may be amended, &c., this Session.

'Anno Nono Victoris Regis.

CAP. II.—An Act to authorize GRAND JURIES in IRELAND, at the Spring Assizes of the present Year, to appoint Extraordinary Presentment Sessions; to empower such Sessions to make Presentment for County Works, and to provide Funds for the Execution of such Works; and also to provide for the more prompt Payment of Contractors for Works under Grand Jury Presentments in Ireland.—(5th March, 1846.)

WHEREAS by reason of an extensive failure of the potato crop of the last season in Ireland, it is expedient to facilitate and encourage the employment of the poor in public works during the approaching summer; Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for the several grand juries assembled for the despatch of fiscal business at the spring assizes of this year in every county, county of a city, or county of a town in Ireland, the county of the city of Dublin excepted, if they shall respectively think fit, to appoint by presentment certain places within their respective counties (videlicet, one in and for each barony or half barony, to be called the Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions, and one for each county of a city or county of a town, or in and for such barony or baronies, half barony or half baronies only, as they shall think fit,) where, and certain times, the first thereof not being later than thirty days from the day of the opening of the commission at such spring assizes, when extraordinary presentment sessions shall be holden for the purposes of this Act; and the said several grand juries, save in a county of a city or county of a town, shall by such presentment also appoint an extraordinary presentment sessions for the county to be holden either in the county court house or such other court house or place as such grand juries may deem most convenient, which sessions shall be called the extraordinary county presentment sessions, and shall be appointed to be held as soon as conveniently may be after the last of such extraordinary baronial presentment sessions as aforesaid; and every such presentment shall appoint the hours of the day between which such sessions shall be respectively holden, and public notice thereof shall be forthwith given and posted at the usual places for posting public notices; and it shall be lawful for every such grand jury at such spring assizes to direct by presentment what number of copies of the schedules of applications to be made at each such extraordinary presentment sessions shall be printed and distributed by the secretary of the grand jury.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for every justice of the peace in and for any county, county of a city, county of a town, or city and county in Ireland, not being a stipendiary magistrate, to attend, and all such justices are hereby required to assemble, and with the cess-payers associated with them respectively, as hereinafter appointed, to hold such extraordinary baronial and county presentment sessions respectively for the purposes of this Act in such place or places, and at such time or times, within any and every such county, county of a city, or county of a town, as the grand jury of the same at such spring assizes shall have appointed for the holding of such extraordinary sessions.

III. And be it enacted, That the justices or justice present at every such extraordinary baronial presentment sessions, together with the number of cess-payers which shall have been appointed by the grand jury at such spring assizes to be associated with the justices at the ordinary presentment sessions to be holden next after such spring assizes for the purposes of an Act passed in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the presentment of public money by grand juries in Ireland," for the barony or half barony, county of a city or county of a town, in which such extraordinary baronial presentment sessions shall be holden, shall constitute such last-mentioned sessions; and that all and every the provisions contained in the said recited Act of the sixth and seventh years of the reign of the said king William the Fourth relative to the selection of a chairman and of the cess-payers to be associated with such justices or justice at presentment sessions, and to their respective powers, duties, and authorities, shall, as far as the same are applicable, extend to all extraordinary baronial presentment sessions to be held under this Act, and to the proceedings to be had therat; and that all and every the provisions contained in the said recited Act relating to the declarations

Grand Juries in Ireland may, at the Spring Assizes of this Year, appoint Places and Times for holding Extraordinary Presentment Sessions for the Purposes of this Act.

All Justices required to attend and, with the Cess-payers associated with them, to hold such Sessions for the Purposes of this Act at the Times and Places appointed by the Grand Jury.

How Sessions are to be constituted.

Provisions of 6 & 7 W. 4, c. 118, relative to Special Presentment Sessions to extend to Sessions held under this Act.

to be made by the justices and cess-payers respectively who shall act at any presentment sessions, and relating to notices or to applications for works, whether by the county surveyor or other person or persons, and to the lodgment of such applications, and to the manner in which every such application shall be made, dealt with, and decided upon, and to the duties of the secretary of the grand jury with respect to the same, and also relating to specifications of proposed works, and to applotments by the county treasurer of the several sums required by such applications, and also relating to the powers, duties, and authorities of the secretaries of grand juries, county surveyors, clerks of the crown, and clerks of the peace, and all other officers respectively, shall, as amended by an Act passed in the seventh year of the reign of his said late majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act to amend an Act passed in the seventh year of the reign of his present majesty, for consolidating and amending the laws relating to the presentment of public money by grand juries in Ireland," as far as the same are applicable or may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act, and not inconsistent with such provisions, extend to all proceedings respectively to be had under the provisions of this Act in as full and ample a manner to all intents and purposes as if the same were herein repeated and enacted, unless where other provisions are hereby substituted; and further that the said justices or justice and cess-payers shall sit *de die in diem* until all the business which may come before them shall be concluded; provided that in any such declaration to be made by any such justice or cess-payer the title of this Act shall be inserted together with the title of the said Act of the sixth and seventh years of King William the Fourth.

IV. And be it enacted, That the justices and cess-payers associated at each extraordinary baronial presentment sessions shall select one of the said cess-payers for every barony for which such sessions are appointed, to be associated with the justices of the county as a member of the extraordinary county presentment sessions; and the secretary of the grand jury shall make out a list of the persons so chosen at each such baronial sessions, and shall forthwith notify the same and the day appointed for such county sessions to them, and shall read out the same list previous to the appointment of the chairman for the extraordinary county presentment sessions; and the person so chosen shall, together with the justices as aforesaid, form the extraordinary county presentment sessions; and every such justice or cess-payer shall make a like declaration respectively, as in the case of extraordinary baronial presentment sessions is provided.

V. And be it enacted, That all applications for works, the expense whereof it may be proposed as aforesaid to levy off any barony, shall be made at such baronial presentment sessions as shall be holden for such barony, and that such applications shall be for any one or other of the following matters, and no others; (that is to say,) the lowering a hill or filling a hollow, or both, on any public road, and the making a road thereon with stones and gravel, the building, rebuilding, repairing, enlarging any bridge, the cost of which shall not exceed fifty pounds, or any pipe, arch, or gullet, built of stones or brick or wood under or on any such road, or filling or graveling over any such bridge, arch, pipe, or gullet, or for building or repairing any wall or part of a wall necessary to the support of, or to prevent any steep bank of earth from falling upon, any such road, or in erecting any fence, railing, or wall for the protection of travellers from dangerous precipices or holes lying on the side of any public road, the widening of any public road to a breadth not more than forty feet, the graveling, macadamizing, paving, fencing, repairing, or otherwise improving any part of any public road, filling up grips or trenches on any public road, making sufficient fences instead thereof, the filling dikes or holes on the sides of any public road, or for making, widening, or deepening, drains on the side of any such road, and carrying off the water therefrom, the making, or repairing of the footpaths along the side of any county road, and the making or repairing of any sewer or channel along the side of any part of a public road lying within any town or village.

VI. And be it enacted, That at each extraordinary baronial presentment sessions to be holden as herein-before provided, the justices and cess-payers associated in the business of such sessions shall take into consideration all such applications as may be laid before them in manner aforesaid, and examine into the posting or serving of the notices of all such applications, when a notice shall be necessary, and into the merits of such applications, and the conformity thereof with the provisions of the said recited Acts and this Act; and the said justices and cess-payers shall after such examination decide by majority of voices upon every such application,

7 W. 4, & 1 Vict.
c. 2.

One Cess-payer shall be selected at each Extraordinary Baronial Sessions, and shall, with the Justices, constitute the Extraordinary County Presentment Sessions.

Applications for Presentments on any Barony to be made at the Baronial Sessions. Matters for Application.

Applications shall be considered and decided on at such Baronial Sessions, who shall then adjourn to some Day after the Day of the Extraordinary County Sessions.

If proposed Work approved, the County Surveyor to prepare a Form of Tender for the Execution thereof, with Specifications, &c., and deliver the same to the Secretary of the Grand Jury.

and whether the same ought to be adopted or rejected, and whether wholly or in part, or conditionally, in the event of the expense thereof not exceeding a certain specified sum, and what modification thereof, if any, may be proper; and if such justices and cess-payers shall approve of any proposed work, either wholly or in part, or conditionally, or of any modification thereof, they shall, where necessary, save in the case of applications herein-after otherwise provided for, direct the county surveyor to prepare a proper form of tender for the execution of the same, together with such specifications, maps, plans, sections, or elevations as may be necessary, expressing the nature and extent of such works, and, if the sessions shall so direct, the quantity per perch, and the description of the materials proper to be employed in performing and executing the same, and the term within which such work ought to be completed, and such other particulars as said justices and cess-payers shall think fit; and such chairman shall endorse all applications accordingly which shall be adopted and approved, and sign his name thereto, and deliver all such applications so endorsed to the secretary of the grand jury; and such surveyor shall deliver such form of tender, specifications, maps, plans, sections, or elevations in respect of the work to which each application shall relate as soon thereafter as the same can be conveniently prepared to the secretary of the grand jury; and the said justices and cess-payers shall adjourn such sessions until some day not sooner than fourteen days after the day fixed for the extraordinary county presentment sessions.

Secretary of the Grand Jury to have Schedules of approved Applications printed and distributed, and lay the same before the Extraordinary County Sessions;

VII. And be it enacted, That so soon as may be possible after the extraordinary baronial presentment Sessions shall have been holden at all the places and times appointed therefor in any such county, the secretary of the Grand Jury shall prepare and make Schedules of the contents of all applications approved of wholly or in part, and which may have been delivered to him for such purpose by the chairman at each such sessions; *videlicet*, one Schedule for each barony of all such applications for works proposed to be levied upon each such barony, arranging all such applications in alphabetical order, and noting on the face of each Schedule the particulars of the decision of the Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions on each application; and such secretary shall forthwith cause copies of such Schedules to be printed and distributed in such manner as shall have been authorized and directed by such Grand Jury Presentment as herein provided; and the said secretary shall on the day when the Extraordinary County Presentment Sessions shall be assembled as herein directed deliver one copy of the said printed Schedules, together with the several printed applications, with any specifications, maps, plans, sections, or elevations of the works to which such application shall relate, which shall have been prepared by the county surveyor, annexed thereto, to the chairman of such sessions; and the said secretary shall keep another copy of the said Schedules in his office for the inspection of the public during three complete days at least immediately before the day when such sessions shall be first assembled.

and also keep a Copy of his Office for Inspection.

Such Extraordinary County Sessions shall consider Applications, and make or refuse Presentment thereupon, fixing Amount and Time for Execution of Works.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the justices and cess-payers at such Extraordinary County Presentment Sessions shall at the time appointed proceed to transact all business relating to public works and contracts within the county, and to consider and decide upon all applications which shall be made for works, as herein-before provided, in the order in which the same shall be entered in the Schedule to be prepared as aforesaid, where they may deem it necessary, lessening the amount or altering the time for executing each work, and examining all maps, plans, estimates, and specifications relating to each application; and the said county sessions shall be attended by the secretary of the Grand Jury, and by the county surveyor or surveyors, and shall hear and receive and direct to be read aloud in open court, the several reports and certificates of such surveyor or surveyors, and shall have power and authority at their discretion to receive and obtain all legal and pertinent evidence which shall be tendered to them for or against the making any presentment, or in anywise relating thereto, or concerning any public work authorized to be executed under this Act, or any contract for or in respect of any of the matters aforesaid; and such Extraordinary County Presentment Sessions are hereby authorized and empowered, if they shall think fit, to make presentments for all or any of the works, and the expense thereof, hereby authorized to be applied for, and for which an application shall have been made and approved, either wholly or in part, at the Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions as herein-before provided, and specifying in all such presentments the maximum amount which shall be raised for the execution of any such work, and

the barony off which such amount is to be raised, and the said County Presentment Sessions shall sit *de die in diem* until all the business which may come before them of the nature hereby described be despatched; and every such presentment so made by such county sessions shall be as valid and effectual for the purposes of this Act as if the same had been duly presented by the Grand Jury, and ratified by the Court at any Assizes.

IX. And be it enacted, That the secretary of the Grand Jury shall immediately after the conclusion of such County Presentment Sessions, upon being furnished by the county surveyor with the specification or form of tender for the execution of any such work as aforesaid, and the maps, plans, sections, and elevations belonging thereto notify by public advertisement or otherwise, in the usual manner as such county sessions shall have directed, his readiness to receive sealed tenders and proposals for the execution of such work during such period as shall have been appointed for the reception of the same, and the time to which the Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions respectively has adjourned for the opening of such tenders and proposals, and that forms thereof may be obtained at his office or elsewhere; and such secretary shall accordingly cause to be printed and prepared a sufficient number of forms of such tenders and proposals, and furnish to any person who shall demand the same, a copy thereof, receiving therefor the reasonable cost of preparing the same, not exceeding the sum of three-pence, and also take such other means as such County Presentment Sessions shall direct for placing such forms within reach of persons who may have occasion to use them; and each of such tenders and proposals shall be returned to him sealed, or in an envelope, and shall contain a statement of the lowest sum for which the party making such proposal is willing to contract for the performance of the work or works specified and described in such notification, and shall be subscribed with the name, description, and residence of the party so desirous to enter into such contract, and also the names, descriptions and residences of not less than two sufficient persons willing to be bound jointly and severally with him for the due and faithful performance of the said contract, within the time and in the manner thereby prescribed, in a penal sum double the amount of the said sum mentioned in such tenders and proposals if the said sum shall not exceed one thousand pounds, but if such sum shall exceed one thousand pounds, then in a penal sum exceeding the sum mentioned in such tenders and proposals by one thousand pounds in addition thereto; and all maps, plans, sections, and specifications relating to any such work prepared by the county surveyor shall be open to public inspection in the office of such secretary without fee or reward.

X. And be it enacted, That at the Meeting of each such adjourned extraordinary baronial presentment sessions as aforesaid the secretary of the grand jury shall in open court produce, duly numbered and arranged, and with the seals unbroken, all the tenders and proposals which may have been delivered to him, and shall open consecutively all those relating to the same public work; and so soon as the lowest proposal made for the performance of each such work shall be ascertained, the party making such proposal and his surety shall be called, and if the said party and his sureties shall appear, and shall satisfy the justices and cess-payers at such baronial sessions, upon oath or otherwise, of the sufficiency and ability of each and every of them to answer and make good the penalty herein-before specified for the nonperformance of such contract, and that such proposal has not been made for any unfair or fraudulent purpose, and shall thereupon enter into security for the due performance of such contract, conditioned in such penalty as aforesaid, in the manner and subject to the provisions in the said recited Act of the sixth and seventh years of King William the Fourth directed and contained, such proposal shall be accepted, and the party making the same shall be declared entitled to execute the work to which such proposal may refer, unless there shall appear some reason for rejecting it; but if the party making such proposal, and his sureties, shall not appear when called, or shall fail to satisfy the justices and cess-payers at such sessions in any of the particulars aforesaid, or shall decline to enter into such security as aforesaid, or if such Presentment Sessions shall see cause to reject it, then and in such case the proposal of the party making default as aforesaid shall be deemed null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and the next lowest proposal shall be ascertained and dealt with in the same manner, and so on till the said security shall be entered into, and the contract duly completed: Provided always, that if no proposal shall be made in respect of any work within the time limited for receiving such proposals, or if no proposal or tender shall be approved

Secretary of the Grand Jury to advertise his readiness to receive Tenders and Proposals for the Execution of such Works, and that Forms of such Tenders may be had at his Office.

Tenders to be delivered in sealed, or in Envelopes.

At the adjourned Extraordinary Baronial Sessions the Tenders shall be opened and dealt with.

If no Tender or Proposal approved of by Sessions, Work may be given in charge to County Surveyor.

of by such Presentment Sessions, it shall and may be lawful for the said Presentment Sessions, if they think proper, to give such work in charge to the county surveyor, with power to expend a sum not exceeding the maximum fixed as aforesaid; and such county surveyor shall cause such work to be executed, and shall account for the execution thereof to the Grand Jury at the following assizes.

Form of Security.

XI. And be it enacted, That such security so to be entered into by contractors under this Act, and their sureties, shall be a recognizance to Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, and of like force, validity, and effect as other recognizances made to the Queen's Majesty; and at such adjourned Baronial Presentment Sessions any justices present, or the chairman, are and is hereby authorized to take such recognizance, and the secretary of the Grand Jury shall prepare the same, and come provided therewith, so as to prevent delay; and the expense of preparing the same, not exceeding sixpence, shall be defrayed by the party or parties entering thereinto; and such recognizance shall be preserved in custody of such secretary until the condition of such recognizance shall have been fulfilled, and shall then be delivered up to the contractor or contractors therein named, or to any person by him or them duly authorized, to be cancelled.

Secretary of the Grand Jury shall keep a Book with Particulars of Contracts, and shall prepare Schedules, &c.

XII. And be it enacted, That the secretary of the Grand Jury shall have charge of all such contracts as aforesaid, and shall provide and keep a book in which he shall insert an abstract of all such contracts, setting out the names of the several contractors, and the particulars of each contract; and all contracts so entered in such book shall be numbered; and every such book shall have an alphabetical index referring to the number of each contract; and such secretary of the Grand Jury shall, as soon as may be afterwards, prepare schedules of all applications so contracted for, approved of and presented for as aforesaid, and cause the same to be printed and distributed in the same manner as he is by the said recited Act of the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William the Fourth required to do with respect to applications approved of at Presentment Sessions, and shall immediately thereafter deliver all such applications so presented for to the clerk of the crown for the county, county of the city, or county of the town to which they shall relate, who shall preserve the same, and within seven days after such delivery deliver to the treasurer of such county, county of a city, or county of a town, without fee or reward, a copy thereof, attested upon oath, and signed by himself; and, such treasurer shall return the same to the foreman of the Grand Jury at the time when they shall be first impanelled at the ensuing summer assizes; and all and every the powers, authorities, or provisions given or contained in the said recited Acts in relation to works or the execution of the same, and the raising and levying the expense of the same, shall, as far as the same are applicable, and not inconsistent with this Act, extend and be applied in relation to the works to be executed under this Act, or to the raising or levying money for the payment of the expense of the same; and the several forms in the schedule to the said first-recited Act contained shall be used and applied, or altered and made applicable, as occasion may require, in or in relation to the several proceedings under this Act.

Powers of former Acts applied.

Forms.

Treasury may make Advances by way of Loan in respect of Works approved of.

XIII. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners of Her Majesty's treasury, on application to them in that behalf, to make advances, not exceeding in the whole the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, by way of loan, at such rate of interest, not exceeding the rate of five pounds per centum per annum, as they shall think fit, out of the growing produce of the consolidated fund of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, arising in Ireland, to defray the expense of any public work or works, the execution of which shall have been approved of and presented under the provisions herein in that behalf contained, or of any work presented for by a grand jury under the provisions of any Acts relating to the presentment of public money by grand juries in Ireland, save any gaol, court-house, hospital, infirmary, or bridge, the cost of which bridge shall exceed fifty pounds; and that when and so soon as any application for such works as aforesaid shall have been duly certified to the said Commissioners of the treasury by the acting clerk of the crown to have been duly approved of, and presented according to the provisions of any of the said last-mentioned Acts or of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners from time to time to make, upon the credit of such application so approved of and presented as aforesaid, any advances they may think fit; and that any such money advanced under the authority of this Act shall be delivered or paid by such officer or person and in such manner as the said Commissioners shall think fit, and

Monies advanced to be paid to the Treasurer of the County, &c., who shall

by such instalments as may be necessary, to the treasurer of the county, county of a city, or county of a town in which the works in respect of which such advances shall be made shall have been or are intended to be executed, and shall be accounted for by him in like manner as any other monies by him received for the use of such county, county of a city, or county of a town, and all securities given or to be given by him or on his behalf shall extend to such money; and every such treasurer shall also from time to time, and at all times when thereunto required by the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, furnish to the said Commissioners as they may direct, an account of all his disbursements and receipts in respect of such advances.

account for the same.

XIV. And be it enacted, That the treasurer of each county, county of a city, or county of a town, shall deliver to the chairman of such extraordinary county presentment sessions, or extraordinary presentment sessions, on the assembling thereof, a list, signed by himself, of all presentments made at the then last assizes for such county, county of a city, or county of a town, and of all queries remaining undischarged in respect of grand jury presentments for such county, county of a city, or county of a town, and the amount of the county funds then in his hands, or invested in exchequer bills for or on behalf of the said county; and the secretary of each grand jury shall deliver to such chairman a list, signed by himself, of all contracts theretofore entered into by such grand jury, on foot of which any sums shall appear to be due, setting out the names of the several contractors, the particulars of each contract, and in the case of roads the places whence and to which each road contracted for leads, and where each road under charge of a contractor commences and ends, or the names of the occupiers of the adjoining lands, and the number of perches of road included in such contract, and the rate per perch and the whole annual sum which each contractor is to be paid, and the period for which each contract is made.

Treasurer of the County to furnish a List of all Presentments, and of all undischarged Queries.

Secretary of the Grand Jury to furnish a List of all Contracts, and the Particulars thereof.

XV. And be it enacted, That in cases where the cost of executing any public work shall exceed twenty pounds it shall and may be lawful for the justices, or justice and cess-payers, at any such extraordinary county presentment sessions, or, in the case of a county of a city or county of a town, at the meeting of the extraordinary presentment sessions, to authorize the treasurer of the county, county of the city, or county of a town, out of any funds applicable to the purpose, to advance from time to time during the execution of the work to the county surveyor to whom any work shall be given in charge as aforesaid, or to the contractor for any such county work applied for and presented under this Act, or presented under any other Act for the regulation of grand jury presentments in Ireland, upon his application, any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole three-fourths of the cost of such work; provided that no such advances shall be made by such treasurer unless such application shall be accompanied by a certificate attached thereto, and signed by the county surveyor, that more than the sum applied for by such contractor, in addition to any previous advances made to him for such work, has been fairly and honestly expended upon it conformably to the contract.

Advances may be made to Contractors in certain cases, not exceeding Three Fourths of the Cost of the Work.

XVI. And be it enacted, That any person who may have contracted for the execution of any work under this Act, or under the said recited Act of the sixth and seventh years of King William the Fourth, or any Act amending the same, save in the case of any gaol, court-house, hospital, infirmary, or any bridge, the cost of which bridge shall exceed fifty pounds, may, on the completion of the work for which he may have contracted, if completed within the present year, give notice thereof by post, addressed to the county surveyor at his office, who shall, either by himself or his assistants, within fifteen days from the receipt of such notice, examine the work so represented to be completed, and in case he shall be fully satisfied of the due execution of such work, but not otherwise, shall grant his certificate of approval thereof to such contractor, which certificate shall set forth the amount to be paid, and the description or number of the contract on account of which payment is to be made.

Contractors to procure Certificate from County Surveyor of the Completion of the Work.

XVII. And be it enacted, That the treasurer of such county shall thereupon, upon the production to him of such certificate, give to the person entitled to such payment a draft for the amount thereof, which draft shall contain a specification of the purposes for which the same shall have been drawn, and of the person to whom it is payable, and when so signed it shall be the authority for the bankers in whose bank the county funds may be deposited to pay the amount thereof, any thing in an Act of the first and second years of Her present Majesty's reign, intituled, An Act

On Production of such Certificate to the County Treasurer he shall give a Draft for the Amount thereof.
1 & 2 Vict. c. 32.

to amend an Act of the last session of Parliament, for providing more effectual means to make treasurers of counties and counties of cities in Ireland account for public monies, and to secure the same, to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding; and such draft shall be as valid to all intents and purposes as any draft for the payment of any money given under the said last-mentioned Act; provided that after the expiration of this year the contractors for any such works shall make application for and receive payment, subject to the provisions and regulations of the Acts relating to the presentment of public monies by grand juries in Ireland.

Presentment for
Printing, &c.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That the treasurer of every county, county of a city, or county of a town in which this Act shall come into operation shall include in his account, to be furnished to the respective Grand Jury at the next Summer Assizes, the cost of all copying, printing, and other proceedings of a like nature required under the provisions of this Act, who shall, at such next Summer Assizes, and they are hereby required to present, to be levied off the county at large, such sum as shall be necessary to defray the same, and shall also present, to be levied off the county at large, to be paid to the secretary of the Grand Jury, and to the county surveyor or his assistants, such sums of money as shall be actually incurred by them respectively for their expenses out of pocket in or in respect of their respective attendances at any such extraordinary presentment sessions as herein provided.

Advances from
Treasury to be re-
paid by compulsory
Presentment.

XIX. And be it enacted, That the monies so from time to time to be advanced, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, by the commissioners of Her Majesty's treasury, for the execution of any such public works in any county, county of a city, or county of a town, or city and county, shall be repaid by grand jury presentments at such time or times and in such manner and with such interest (not exceeding the rate aforesaid) as the said commissioners of the treasury shall appoint and direct; and the said commissioners shall from time to time cause to be certified to the secretary of the grand jury of each such county, county of a city, and county of a town the money so to be repaid; and each such secretary shall lay such certificate before the grand jury of such county, county of a city, or county of a town at the next assizes or presenting term after he shall receive the same; and it shall be lawful for every such grand jury and they are hereby required to present the sum mentioned in every such certificate to be raised either off the county at large or off the respective baronies or half baronies in respect whereof the works for which any such monies shall be so advanced by the said commissioners shall have been presented by the extraordinary county presentment sessions as hereinbefore directed, or off the county of the city or county of the town, as the case may be; and the treasurer of such county, county of a city, or county of a town shall pay the sum so presented when and as by him received to such bank or person, and to such account or in such manner, as the said Commissioners of the treasury shall direct: provided always, that if the grand jury of any county, county of a city, or county of a town shall fail to present the sum or any part thereof contained in any such certificate, the treasurer of such county, county of a city, or county of a town shall and he is hereby required to insert such sum or such omitted part thereof in his warrant for raising the monies presented at the same assize as if such sum had been duly presented by such grand jury to be raised off the county at large, or county of a city, or county of a town, as the case may be, and the same shall be raised and levied off such county, county of a city, or county of a town, accordingly as if the same had been so presented, and the said treasurer shall pay over the amount when by him received as hereinbefore provided in the case of such money being presented; and all the provisions of the said recited Act of the Sixth and Seventy Years of His late Majesty King William the Fourth with reference to the raising, apportionment, collection, levy, or recovery of grand jury cess shall, as far as the same are applicable, apply to all such sums of money so inserted in such warrant: provided also, that in all cases in which any of such monies shall have been advanced by the said commissioners for or on account of any works for which presentment shall have been theretofore made by a grand jury, the treasurer of the respective county, county of a city, or county of a town, shall from time to time pay to such bank or person as the said commissioners shall direct all such sums as shall from time to time be received by him from the baronial or other collectors by virtue of the presentment on account of which such money shall have been advanced, until the whole sum so advanced shall be repaid.

In case the Grand
Jury fail to present.

Treasurer to pay
into Bank all Ad-
vances received
from Collectors.

Contractors shall
pay Labourers in
Money and not in

XX. And be it enacted, That every contractor for the execution of any county work shall pay his labourers or artificers in money, and at intervals of not more

than fourteen days; and if any contractor shall directly or indirectly attempt to persuade or induce any labourer in the employment of such contractor to take goods in lieu of such wages, or to expend his wages in any particular shop, or for any particular purpose, he shall be liable to be summoned before the justices assembled at any petty sessions, on complaint of the party aggrieved, or any other person, and such justices are hereby authorized to hear such complaint, and adjudicate thereon; and if such contractor shall be convicted thereof he shall forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding five pounds as to such justices shall seem fit; and if any contractor shall neglect to pay any labourer in his employment, at intervals of not more than fourteen days, all wages that may be due to him, save and except the wages of one whole week, he shall be liable to be summoned before the justices assembled at any petty sessions, on complaint of the party aggrieved, for recovery of any wages or money payable to any person employed by him in the execution of such works, so as the sum demanded shall not exceed six pounds, and such justices assembled as aforesaid are hereby authorized and required to hear such complaint, and adjudicate thereon, and it shall be no defense to such complaint that such contractor has not himself received any payment on foot of his contract, and the decision of such justices shall be final; and the sum adjudged to be due shall be levied by warrant of distress, under hand and seal of any two such justices, off the goods and chattels of such contractor.

XXI. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for each grand jury at each spring assizes to exercise the powers given to them by this Act after and notwithstanding that Her Majesty's commission at such assizes shall have been opened, anything in the said Act passed in the Sixth and Seventh Years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, or any Act or Acts notwithstanding.

XXII. And be it enacted, That in any and every case in which it shall happen that the spring assizes in and for any such county, county of a city, or county of a town shall have been concluded, or that the grand jury at such assizes respectively shall have been discharged, before the passing of this Act, or before any such grand jury shall have received sufficient notice of the passing of the same, it shall and may be lawful for the sheriff of such county, county of a city, or county of a town, and such sheriff is hereby authorized and required, in case he shall receive a direction by warrant, to be issued from time to time as may be necessary, under the hand of the Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland so to do, to summon the several and respective persons who shall have served as grand jurors upon the grand jury at such spring assizes of the present year for such county, county of a city, or county of a town to re-assemble and attend for the purposes of this Act at the usual place of holding assizes upon a day by such sheriff to be fixed, not later than ten days from the day on which such sheriff shall have received such warrant as aforesaid; and such persons so summoned are hereby required to come and appear agreeably to the exigency of such summons, under the like penalties and subject to the like forfeiture of issues as persons heretofore summoned to appear and serve on grand juries at any assizes in Ireland; and on the day and at the place appointed for such attendance such sheriff shall attend and proceed to call such grand jurors, and the clerk of the Crown or his deputy shall attend at such time and place, and take a list of all such grand jurors so attending; but in case twelve such grand jurors should not be so in attendance it shall be lawful for such sheriff to call and summon to be associated with such grand jurors attending such number of other persons whose attendance can be procured, and whose names shall have been on the grand jury panel for such spring assizes, as will be sufficient with such first-named grand jurors attending to make up a number not less than twelve and not exceeding twenty-three; and such grand jurors so attending, not being less than twelve in number, or, as the case may be, such grand jurors so attending together with such other persons associated with them, shall have all the powers and authorities hereby given to the respective grand juries at the spring assizes of this year for appointing any such Extraordinary Presentment Sessions as herein provided; and it shall be lawful for them, if they shall respectively so think fit, twelve of them at the least assenting, by a Presentment, to appoint such Extraordinary Presentment Sessions respectively, and the times and places for holding the same, and the several matters relating to the same, as herein-before provided; and any such Extraordinary Presentment Sessions so appointed shall be as valid, and have all such powers and authorities, and be subject to such provisions, as if the same had been appointed by the grand

Goods, and at Intervals of not more than Fourteen Days.

Grand Jury at each Spring Assizes may exercise the Powers herein given, after the Commission has been opened.

If the Spring Assizes shall be concluded before the passing of this Act, or before due Notice of it, Grand Jurors may be re-assembled.

jury at such spring assizes under the provisions of this Act herein-before contained; provided that the time to be so appointed for holding the First Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions in each county, county of a city, or county of a town shall not be later than thirty days from the days so fixed for the respective grand juries to re-assemble.

In Counties of
Cities or Towns the
First Extraordinary
Presentment Ses-
sions to have the
Powers herein given
to Extraordinary
County Sessions.

Interpretation of
Act.

XXIII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That in the case of any coun-
ty of a city or county of a town the extraordinary presentment sessions to be held for
the same respectively under the provisions of this Act shall, in addition to the other
powers and authorities hereby given to any extraordinary baronial presentment
sessions, have and exercise at their first meeting all the powers and authorities
hereby given to any extraordinary county presentment sessions; and no such extra-
ordinary county presentment sessions shall be held for any such county of a city or
county of a town under this Act, save such respective extraordinary presentment
sessions for such county of a city or county of a town in this provision and before
mentioned, and the adjournment thereof respectively as herein-before directed; and
in the construction of this Act, unless the context or the nature of the case shall
exclude such construction, the expression "Extraordinary Baronial Presentment
Sessions," or "Baronial Sessions," shall, in the case of a county of a city or
county of a town, mean and include such extraordinary presentment sessions for
such county of a city or county of a town respectively, or the adjournment thereof,
hereby provided; and the word "Treasurer" shall, as to the county of Dublin,
mean and include the finance Committee; and the words "Assizes" or "Spring
Assizes" shall, as to the said county of Dublin, mean and include the "Presenting
Term."

County Surveyors
to assist in Works
directed by the
Lord Lieutenant.

XXIV. And whereas it may become necessary and expedient to provide further
employment for the labouring poor of Ireland during the approaching summer and
autumn, by the execution of works other than those presented for by the respective
grand juries of the counties wherein such further works shall be required; and in
order to assist in and facilitate the due execution thereof it is desirable that the
several county surveyors and their assistants, within their respective counties, should
superintend such works, either wholly or in part, and subject to such orders and
directions as may from time to time be issued to them by the Lord Lieutenant
or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, or by the
commissioners of public works in Ireland; be it therefore enacted, that the several
county surveyors in Ireland, and their assistants, do and shall at all times, from and
after the passing of this Act, and until the thirty-first day of December next, or
until the respective works in this provision mentioned shall be completed, in addi-
tion to all their other duties, obey, perform, and execute, either alone or conjointly
with or subject to the direction of any other person or persons to be appointed for
that purpose by the said Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors
of Ireland, all such orders and directions as the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief
Governor or Governors of Ireland, for the time being, or the commissioners of
public works, shall from time to time issue and transmit to them or any of them
respecting the planning, laying out, superintending, or overseeing any such work or
works within their respective counties as shall be specified in and by such orders
or directions, or the disbursing any such sum or sums of money which shall be
placed at his or their disposal for that purpose, whether such works shall be of a
public or private nature, and do and shall from time to time, and as often as he or
they shall be so required, report to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor
or Governors of Ireland, or to the said commissioners of public works, how and in
what manner he or they shall have executed such orders and directions, and dis-
bursed such sum or sums of money so to be issued and transmitted to him or them
as aforesaid.

Alteration of Act

XXV. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any
Act to be passed in this present session of Parliament.

MR. PENNEFATHER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 11, 1846.

I AM desired by the Lord-Lieutenant to transmit, for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, the accompanying copy of a Report of the 9th instant from the Commissioners of Public Works, and to state that his Excellency recommends that their Lordships should give the necessary authority for the execution of the works suggested by the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

The Commissioners of Public Works to Mr. PENNEFATHER.

Office of Public Works, February 9, 1846.

IN answer to your reference of the 29th ultimo, enclosing a memorial to his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant from the magistrates and ratepayers of the barony of Moyarta, county Clare, assembled at a meeting convened under the powers given by the 1st Vic. c. 21, and proposing therein that certain works should be forthwith undertaken for the employment of the distressed poor, we have to report that having consulted our engineer, Mr. Russell, on the different works proposed to be undertaken, we have been enabled to form an opinion thereon, and to advise his Excellency to recommend to the Lords of the Treasury, under the terms of the before-quoted Act, to sanction the following works being undertaken by the Board, the expense to be defrayed from the grant fund at the Board's disposal, and by a loan of one moiety of the cost, to be afterwards repaid by the barony in the manner to be directed by their Lordships.

<i>Moyarta Parish.</i>		£.	£.
Road between Querin and Blenkweir Bridge	. . .	100	
<i>Kiballyowen Road.</i>			
Road from Kiballyowen Bog to Tullyhog	. . .	200	
		—	300
<i>Killyearagh Parish.</i>			
Road between Kilkee and Kilrush to be improved	. . .	300	
Cutting hills on Corbally Road	. . .	60	
Road from Corbally to Lisbarahan	. . .	30	
		—	390
<i>Kilrush Parish.</i>			
Cutting hills from Kilrush to Higgin's Cross on the Kilkee road			600
<i>Kilmenducma Parish.</i>			
To cut a hill between Cloureddan and Leitrim	. . .	50	
Road from Crough to Cloghanbeg	. . .	110	
Lower hills between Coonclare and Crough Bridge	. . .	100	
		—	260
			£ 1,550

The remaining works applied for are to such a great extent, that we cannot recommend the whole being undertaken; for supposing them to be all works useful and necessary, the sum of 5310*l.*, the moiety of the estimate, is one beyond the means of the barony to repay. We therefore postpone reporting on those until we hear further from our engineer after a close inspection.

In the meantime, as employment is much demanded in the district, we recommend his Excellency to give his sanction to the works herein mentioned, and to recommend them to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 17, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, that their Lordships have had before them his letter, dated 11th instant, enclosing a copy of the Report of the Board of Works, dated 9th instant, on a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant from the magistrates and rate-payers of the barony of Moyarta, county Clare, assembled at a meeting convened under the powers given by the 1st Vic. c. 21, and

proposing that certain works should be forthwith undertaken for the employment of the distressed poor; and state that their Lordships, acting under the powers vested in them by the above-mentioned Act, have authorized the Commissioners of Public Works to execute such portion of the proposed works, in the barony of Moyarta, as they have recommended in their above-named Report should be undertaken, the aggregate cost of the works so authorized being 1550*l.*, one half of which will, according to the provisions of the Act, be issued from the Consolidated Fund in part of the balance of the Grant Fund, under the Act 2 and 3 Vict. c. 50, remaining unissued, and the other half will be issued from the Loan Fund at the disposal of the Board of Works—these issues to be made by the direction of this Board in such proportions as they may be certified by the Board of Works to be required.

Their Lordships, however, feel themselves justified in sanctioning this arrangement only on the condition that the Lord Lieutenant shall be of opinion that there are no landed proprietors or others, in the district in which these works are to be executed, who, owing to their being benefited by the works to be undertaken in a greater degree than the other cess-payers of the barony or of the county (accordingly as the Grand Jury shall determine that the moiety of the cost of the works shall be repaid by one or the other), may fairly be expected to contribute towards their execution a sum proportioned to the special benefit which they will derive from them.

If there should be any parties so circumstanced, their Lordships suggest that the Lord Lieutenant should cause a communication to be made to them on the subject, and that the sums which may be contributed by them should be appropriated in reduction of the moiety of the cost of the works to be defrayed from the Grant Fund, by which means that fund will become available to a greater extent to meet cases of real necessity in which there may be no other resource.

Transmit copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information and guidance, and state that a warrant will be transmitted to them, authorising the execution of the works, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Transmit copy of this Minute to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, for his information and guidance.

MR. PENNEFATHER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the sanction and approval of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, extract of a report from the Commissioners of Public Works, requesting their Lordships' authority for the grant of 4100*l.* in aid of certain works in the neighbourhood of Nobber, county of Meath, to the extent of one moiety of the cost, and that the remaining moiety may be advanced by way of loan from the Board's funds, with the view of relieving the labouring poor.

And I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to convey his Excellency's recommendation that the Board's application may be complied with.

ENCLOSURE.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS TO MR. PENNEFATHER.

Office of Public Works, February 16, 1846.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your reference of the 27th ultimo, submitting for our consideration certain memorials from magistrates and cess-payers, assembled at Nobber in the county of Meath, under the 1st Vict., chap. 21, we have the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, that we lost no time in directing our engineer to have surveys made of the works proposed to be undertaken forthwith, for the relief of the labouring poor and having considered the reports made to us, we beg leave to advise the Lord Lieutenant to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, that they should authorize this Board to make grants in aid of the works hereafter mentioned, to the extent of one moiety of the cost, and that the remaining moiety be advanced by way of loan from the Board's funds.

No. 1.	—Road from Wilkinstown to Lady Rath	£.
No. 2.	—Roffin to Stephenstown	1,000
No. 3.	—Kilmainham to Arden	900
No. 4.	—Continuation of ditto to Tubbermore Bridge	1,300
		<hr/>
		£4,100

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

February 20, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather that their Lordships have authorized the Commissioners of Public Works to execute the works proposed to be undertaken in the neighbourhood of Nobber, in the county of Meath, under the provisions of 1 Vic. c. 21, at the total cost of 4100*l.*, one-half of which is proposed to be issued as a grant, and the other as a loan to be repaid; and their Lordships will be prepared to make the requisite issues, in such proportions as they may be certified by the Board of Works to be required.

State, however, that if any proprietors will be benefited by these works in a greater degree than the other cess-payers, their Lordships rely upon the Lord Lieutenant causing a proper communication to be made to the proprietors in question, with a view to induce them to contribute a sum of money proportioned to the superior interest they have in the works.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works and to the Paymaster of Civil Services, for their information.

SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE to MR. TREVELYAN.

2, Eaton Place, February 26, 1846.

I HAVE received the enclosed papers from Mr. Pennefather, and in obedience to the orders of the Lord-Lieutenant, I take the liberty to transmit them to you.

I am bound to state to you that, in my own opinion, the requirement made in the Treasury letter is not unreasonable.

It cannot be very strictly enforced, but the inquiry may, in some instances, prevent jobbing, or compel a landed proprietor to make some payment in consideration of advantages to be gained by him from an outlay of public money on his estate.

The Lord-Lieutenant has the means, through the engineer of the Board of Works, of ascertaining the fact generally; and if it appears that the estate is encumbered, or the proprietor involved in pecuniary embarrassments, the answer would be, that although the work was calculated to benefit a private estate, there were no means of obtaining a contribution from the proprietor.

If, on the other hand, the Treasury insist on such payment being made in all cases, you will put a stop to the operation of the Act and the intentions of Parliament; for if the works are beneficial (as I presume all must be), some particular estate will derive more benefit than others.

You must be careful, therefore, in dealing with Irish localities, not to press this condition too far.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE.

Treasury, February 26, 1846.

I WILL endeavour to state, as briefly as possible, the view which is taken at the Treasury on the subject of the communication which Mr. Pennefather made to you by desire of the Lord-Lieutenant.

In order to make the Grant Fund go as far as possible, and to prevent its being misappropriated to works of private advantage, without some corresponding private contribution, the Treasury has for many years acted upon the rule that the grant is only to be to an equal amount with the private con-

tributions, one moiety of the cost of the work being, in every case, provided for by a loan the repayment of which has been secured by a grand jury presentment.

In other words, the total sum required for the execution of works, in aid of which grants are applied for, has been required to be made up as follows:—

One-half by grand jury presentment;
One-quarter private contributions;
One-quarter grant.

To this rule the following exceptions have been allowed, the contribution in each case, although falling short of the prescribed amount, having been supposed to be proportioned to the benefit expected to be derived by the contributors for the work:—

In 1839—A grant for a road from Roundstone to Banowen Bay, County Galway:—

	£	s.
Grant	1000	0
Contribution	331	10
Presentment		
From Town of Galway	331	10
From County	337	0
Expense of Work	£ 2,000	0

In May, 1841—For a road in Connemara, on the application of Mr. Martin:—

	£
Presentment	2,552
Contribution	500
Grant	2,052
	£ 5,104

In June, 1843—For a road from Duadrum to Dromara, on the application of the Marquis of Downshire:—

	£	s.
Presentment	1,000	0
Grant	532	8

in consideration that the Marquis of Downshire had already laid out a larger sum on a part of the road in question.

In 1844—For a road in Connemara, on the application of the Earl of Devon:

	£	s.	d.
Presentment	1,044	13	4
Grant	1,671	6	8
Contribution by the Waste Land Society	418	0	0
	£ 3,134	0	0

Such being the rule which has been acted upon with much public advantage in ordinary times, we have now arrived at the commencement of a new series of grants to be made with the view of affording employment during the expected scarcity; and the course which has been adopted has been determined by the following considerations:—

That care ought to be taken that funds granted by Parliament for the relief of the people during the scarcity, are not misappropriated to serve the interested views of private individuals; and that the permanent interests of the community do not suffer by advantage being taken of this temporary emergency to get rid of rules which have been found by experience to be of much practical utility:

That the motives which induced the Treasury to aim at making the Grant Fund go as far as possible, are greatly increased in force by the scarcity: and

That, so far from landed proprietors and others interested in the improvements proposed to be executed by means of grants, being released from the obligation of contributing towards them out of their private means by reason of the impending scarcity, the obligation upon them to make some personal sacrifice is rendered much stronger thereby.

Acting on this view, the Treasury sanctioned the grants applied for in the cases of Moyferia and Nobber, subject to the condition, that if the Lord-Lieutenant had reason to believe that any proprietors would be benefited by the works in a greater degree than the other cesspayers, a proper communication would be made to them, with a view to induce them to contribute a sum of money proportioned to the superior interest they have in the work, which sum would be appropriated in reduction of the moiety of the cost of the work proposed to be defrayed from the Grant Fund.

The propriety of this course of proceeding has received some confirmation from a representation from the county of Meath, stating that certain proprietors in that neighbourhood propose to avail themselves of the power of compulsory assessment, aided by a grant of public money provided by the Act 1 Vict. c. 21, in order to execute certain works in which they are personally interested, and which are of such a nature as to afford only very limited employment to the people.

Mr. Pennefather states that the course prescribed by the Treasury is attended with the following difficulties:—

1. The Lord-Lieutenant has no means of ascertaining whether there are any landed proprietors or others in the district in which the works are proposed to be undertaken, who would be benefited by them in a greater degree than the other cesspayers.

2. His Excellency has no means of ascertaining whether persons who may be so benefited are able to contribute in proportion to the advantage they are likely to derive from the works.

On the first point, I should observe, that according to the provisions of the 1 Vict. c. 21, applications for grants are to be referred by the Lord Lieutenant to the Board of Works for inquiry and report previously to their being submitted to the decision of the Treasury, and the Board of Works will be perfectly well able to ascertain, by means of their subordinate engineers and other officers, whether any particular proprietors are interested in the works in a degree so much greater than the other cesspayers, as to make it proper that they should be called upon for a contribution.

All the grants which were made previously to measures being adopted for the relief of the expected scarcity, were made, without the intervention of the Lord Lieutenant, under the Act 1 and 2 Wil. IV. c. 33; and previously to sanctioning the grant, the Treasury always required the Board of Works to report, in pursuance of the rule which has been already referred to, whether there were any proprietors who were particularly interested in the work and ought to contribute towards it. So that the course now prescribed is merely a continuation of that which has been invariably followed by the Treasury in its own immediate exercise of the same powers which have been partly vested in the Lord Lieutenant by the Act now being carried into execution.

With regard to the other case, of its being admitted that certain proprietors will be specially benefited by the works, but of their pecuniary circumstances being such that they cannot contribute, all that can be said is, that the fact ought, as far as possible, to be ascertained and reported, in order that exceptions may be made only in cases of proved necessity, and that the grounds of such exception may be properly placed on record.

No power of enforcing contributions from private proprietors is provided by any of the Acts relating to grants, and although the power of making the grant conditional upon such contributions involves a species of coercion, this discretion ought, as you observe, to be exercised with great caution in a time of serious scarcity; and cases may occur in which proprietors, who both ought to contribute and have the means of doing so, may nevertheless presume upon the knowledge they have that the Government cannot, under any circumstances,

allow the people to starve, and hold out long enough to secure the benefit of the work without giving anything towards it.

The Board of Works should, I think, be instructed to inquire and report in respect to each application for a grant:—

1. Whether such a state of destitution has occurred, or is likely soon to occur, in the immediate neighbourhood of the places where the works are proposed to be executed, as to require that means of subsistence should be provided for the people.

2. Whether the proposed works are such as will provide employment for the labouring class generally, or will only, or for the most part employ masons or other artisans.

3. Whether any particular proprietors or others will be benefited by the proposed works in a much greater degree than the other cesspayers of the barony or county, &c.

4. Whether the proprietors in question are willing to contribute in proportion to their respective interest in the work, and if not, what reasons are given by them for refusing to do so.

On receipt of this information, a satisfactory decision may in most cases be at once come to.

I have submitted Mr. Pennefather's letter and this reply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who authorizes me to say that the statement which I have made correctly describes the practice and wishes of the Treasury.

My letter to Mr. Pennefather is herewith returned.

MR. PEIRCE MAHONY to MR. TREVELYAN.

The Colonnade Hotel, February 27, 1845.

I ENCLOSE you for your perusal a copy of a letter from the Surveyor of the county of Kerry. It explains the extent of works, &c., he is prepared to recommend; and I am convinced that nothing short of the *advance* of a million—I do not mean a grant—will meet the wants of Ireland in this year.

As to the grant fund, I should be prepared to advance one-half of any sum necessary, *provided the other half was paid by landlords*; and in my efforts, since 1834, for Kerry, I have found the best course to have been to require, *as a grant* one-fourth, say 500*l.*; *private subscription* one-fourth, say 500*l.*; loan on presentments, repayable by 20 instalments, say 1000*l.* For the results I need only refer you to the enclosed letter from Mr. Stokes, which has been published by Lord Devon's Commission, Part iv., p. 172.

ENCLOSURE.

THE COUNTY SURVEYOR of Public Works in Kerry to PEIRCE MAHONY, Esq.

*County Survey Office, Tralee,
April 5, 1845.*

IN compliance with your request, I send you the following information relative to the public works in Kerry, which you can turn to whatever purpose you please. I have not gone into minute details of quarter miles, or shillings or pence, as I know you did not want them.

There have been 235 miles of road opened in Kerry since the year 1834.

There have been 140 miles of them made by the Board of Works.

There has been about 13,500*l.* subscribed *bona fide* by the proprietors, besides 21 miles of roads made and dedicated to the public by the Marquis of Lansdowne, and about 14 miles by Messrs. O'Connell and Locke, which are well worth 4,000*l.* more.

There is 1,200*l.* subscribed for quays, none for bridges, except as they form a part of new road cost.

The grants amount to about 30,000*l.* from the Treasury.

The gross cost is 123,000*l.*

And I believe the present county debt is about 20,000*l.*,* and as it now stands it will be all discharged at about the last assize of 1840.

The result of this expenditure has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of our very public-spirited gentry. The increase of traffic is apparent everywhere, and there are three of our eight baronies that had so few cars in them as to make it a curiosity to meet one ten years

* Mr. Stokes was wrong in supposing the debt 20,000*l.*; it was only 13,540*l.* in May, 1845. The gross expenses under the Board of Works since was 123,333*l.* At this moment the county debt does not exceed 2000*l.* As to Kerry, I would recommend to your attention Appendix, part 4, Nos. 40-62.

ago, where it is now three times as expensive to keep roads in repair as it was then. Every horse has now his car instead of his baskets; five times the value is got by horse work, and proportionate improvement goes on in the productiveness of the country. The state of Kerry, generally speaking, has improved in every way since 1834, when I first knew it. The markets are trebled, and they have sprung up in places where, eight years ago, they were not in existence; and when we consider that in these last ten years we have opened and repaired roads so as to make 1,100 miles now of good roads instead of about 400, many of which were very bad lines, it is not too much to say that the improvement of the county has resulted in a great measure from that extension of available roads.

THE COUNTY SURVEYOR ON PUBLIC WORKS IN KERRY TO PIERCE MAHONY, ESQ.

Trillick, February 18, 1846.

THE works that are to be proposed to the magistrates in Inaghlicomere are, roads from Gumbrough to Ashlee Strand, Ashlee to Beale, Killanaghlin Church to Turbert, Kilmearry to Alcea, Leitrim to Poulisow, extensions to Sir John Walsh's road at Tullamore to Gale Bridge, and to a road made by Mr. Becker at Leansmore, quays at Ennismore, Turbert Town and Turbert Island, and new road from Alcea to Anglerodlin near Newmansides. The flooded lands along the Peale and all its tributaries are examined and mapped, about 6000 acres, not going above Lisnaveel, the swampy stream from Moon Vearagh included. On the Gale to Moycane Brick to Alder, donkey Cooempane to the Causeway, from the Causeway to Ballyheigue is another project. I have written to Mr. Paine of the Board of Public Works for forms of memorial for the signature of Mr. W. T. Crobie, which, when I got, will be sent to you. I expect to be able to get up other projects under that Act for embankments from the side, similar to Sir E. Denny's one on Trillick Bay, which will be set a-going early this season. I believe there can be little doubt now that our stock of food for the people will be very short next summer, and many begin to have fears for 1847, on account of the bad seed; the spring here, for the most part of this month, is very mild, and the potatoes are shooting unusually early. I am sure all the late sowing will fail. I have got the magistrates to convene meetings in every barony but Clannaurice, to memorial for grant works to afford employment. I suppose the gross amount of the applications will be 50,000. If there is not at least a million put at the disposal of Government, there will be no perceptible good done in Ireland by their scheme for new public works.

MR. PENNEFATHER TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, February 28, 1846.

I AM commanded by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit, for the sanction and approval of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the enclosed copy of a report from the Commissioners of Public Works.

And I am directed by his Excellency to request that the necessary authority may be given for the execution of the works recommended to the Lord Lieutenant to be undertaken.

ENCLOSURE.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS TO MR. PENNEFATHER.

Office of Public Works, Dublin, February 25, 1846.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your reference of the 29th ultimo, submitting for the consideration of the Commissioners of Public Works, certain memorials from magistrates and cesspayers of the barony of Moyarta, county Clare, I am directed to report, for the information of his Excellency, that upon a careful survey and investigation of the different localities referred to and their circumstances, the Commissioners are prepared to recommend his Excellency to submit for the approval of the Lords of the Treasury, that they should be authorized to undertake the respective works in the barony of Moyarta in the county Clare, hereinafter detailed, and which have been applied for by the magistrates and cesspayers, in accordance with the provisions of the Act 1 Vict. c. 21, and that the amount of estimate, viz. 5,870*l.* may be sanctioned, one moiety thereof by way of grant, the other by loan. The detailed estimate is as follows:—

	£.
For 280 perches of road from Quins Quay to Templemeade	200
For 245 ditto new road from Lishears, from east to west, through bog	200
For 350 ditto from Ebrington line leading to Bella	300
For 160 ditto between Traskieve and Knocknagarran	80
For 245 ditto from the Board of Works' line to P. Healy's contract	100
For 350 ditto from Nelson's contract to Liddane	200
For 280 ditto from Uchternard to Rehy, west	150
For 280 ditto from Padraic to Kildaha	200
For 500 ditto from road between Kilkree to Kilkush, to be improved	300
For 1485 ditto of road from Kilkree along the cliff to mills at Moeran	900
For a protecting wall at Kilkree	450

	£
For 100 perches of Corbally road, cutting hills and filling	60
For 150 ditto improvement, Corbally to Larrakana	30
For 150 ditto road to Kildimo to Enagh	100
For 450 ditto new road, Ballynagon to Chirlevick	300
For 250 ditto from Clohamore to cross at Clouna to cut hills, &c.	200
For 100 ditto from old church ruins at Kilmeadune to village of Sams	90
For 80 ditto new line, to avoid a hill at D Sheedy's	50
For 1275 ditto road from Coersclare to the sea, on Danganelly and Dromely, repaired	150
For new road, Churchtown to Clonfinnen	50
For 200 perches from Creagh to Cloahbeg	110
For 640 ditto Coersclare to Creagh-bridge, to lower hills	100
For 80 ditto footpath in Coersclare village, and to lower hills	100
For 450 ditto through town of Kilrush, and to improve road to Ballyket	200
For 275 ditto from Milltown to Knock, from the post road to the south and Moydoo	150
For 750 perches, cutting hills on old road from Kilrush to Kerrybent	300
For 450 ditto ditto on old road from Kilrush to Higgin's Cross on the Kilkee road	600
For 40 perches, cutting from Barrack to Kilrush	50
Gripes to be filled on road from Kilrush to Coersclare	100
Road on Monerran	150
	<hr/>
	£ 5,970

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 3, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather that, presuming that the works in the barony of Moyferta, sanctioned in the letter of this Board, dated 20th ultimo, the estimated cost of which was 1,500*l.*, are all included in the detailed list of works in the same barony which are now recommended by the Board of Works to an aggregate amount of 5,970*l.*, their Lordships are pleased to sanction the execution of the whole of the works above adverted to, subject to the same condition that the proprietors more particularly interested in the several works be called upon to contribute in proportion to the special benefit they will receive from them.

Their Lordships would suggest that as these works are undertaken solely with a view to provide employment for the people during a period of expected scarcity, care should be taken that the works should not be commenced sooner or be carried on to a greater extent than may be absolutely necessary to provide the means of subsistence for persons in the neighbourhood who are entirely destitute.

PUBLIC WORKS for the RELIEF of SCARCITY in IRELAND.

The scarcity is so extensive, and the habits of the country are so peculiar, that our plan of relief, whatever it may be, ought to be such as will admit of a clear and easy distinction being made between what is indispensably required for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity, and what is demanded under the pretext of that scarcity, in order to forward the interested views of various parties; and it should also be such as to afford security that the whole of the funds employed will be appropriated, in the most economical manner, in providing necessary food to persons who would otherwise be in a state of destitution, without those funds being diverted to any incidental object whatever.

As the lauded proprietors in Ireland have long been accustomed to rely upon Government loans and grants for the means of making improvements of various kinds, and as the arrangements under which the new grant fund is to be administered afford a much more ready and advantageous mode of obtaining the execution of such improvements than any which has been available to the Irish proprietors for many years past, there has been a rush from all quarters upon this fund, or, to use Colonel Jones's words, "the applications for assistance are coming in so fast that our 50,000*l.* will soon be reported on. We have memorials before us far exceeding that sum. Many memorials are sent in fearing that the district will not come in for a share of the grant."

It has therefore turned out, as was anticipated, that seems so inviting and advantageous to that class of society which is charged with providing for the subsis-

tence of the people at this crisis, have been at once converted by them into an end; and a machinery which has been set up by the Government for the special object of the relief of the people from famine, is being, to a great extent, worked by the proprietors with a view to the execution of works of local interest of various kinds.

It is quite impossible for the Government, by any agency that could be employed, to distinguish, with sufficient promptness to meet the present emergency, those propositions which are made principally for the benefit of the proprietors, from those which are made principally or entirely for the benefit of the people; and if this mode of relief is to be extensively had recourse to, the applications which are made must be acceded to without any sufficient examination, in order to avoid the calamity of a starving people.

The fund of 50,000*l.* has been already absorbed, and if this mode of relief is to be continued, additional funds must be provided to an unlimited extent.

The existence of this limited and inadequate, but, as regards the proprietors who will benefit by it, highly advantageous grant fund, has also been attended with this unfortunate result—that, in their eagerness to avail themselves of it, the proprietors have neglected the real and substantial means of affording relief to the people under the pressure of scarcity, which means may be summed up under the following heads:—

The ordinary Board of Works' Loan Fund, which, by the Act just passed, has been rendered applicable to the improvement of private estates.

So few demands have of late been made on this fund, that a sum of 47,687*l.* belonging to it is now at the account of the Commissioners of National Debt, besides a sum of 15,000*l.* for the quarter ending 5th January last, which remains undrawn, and a further sum of 30,000*l.* which will become available up to the 5th July.

The works to be carried on under the Drainage Act, from funds raised by debenture or advanced by the Board of Works out of their general fund.

And lastly, the relief to be given by the local committees, which are being formed in distressed districts, under the superintendence of the Relief Commission, the funds to be administered by which committees are to be raised by local subscription, reinforced, when necessary, by grants of money or food, at the discretion of the Lord Lieutenant.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

Treasury, March 8, 1846.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, March 11, 1846.

APPLICATIONS were pouring in so fast upon me, that I thought it right to draw attention to the subject; the sums were so large, that the Treasury itself would scarce be able to meet the demands. We shall be very particular before we recommend any works, and in all cases of new roads, our engineers are directed to call upon the proprietors to ascertain what sum they will contribute; insisting upon it will, I am sure, have a good effect.

We must soon expect that real distress will be experienced; and where such does appear, the Commissariat should have depôts at hand, for if the season should turn out very wet, as in 1836, when I was in Donegal, several days may pass, when it will not be possible to give men employment; in that case money we could not give, but food would still be required.

To give you some idea of the number of works crammed into the memorials, there was one from a harony in Clare, in which our engineer was called to examine 90 different pieces of road! As we have now fairly broke ground, we know the points to which to direct the attention of our engineers, which will facilitate business.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieut.-Colonel JONES.

Treasury, March 11, 1846.

You have, perhaps, heard, that having begun upon the system laid down in the 1st Vict. c. 21, we are to go on with it to the extent really necessary for the relief of the people in the localities to which the Act is applicable.

But effectual securities are to be taken for the relief granted through the

medium of this Act being strictly proportioned to the necessities of the starving people, and for reasonable contributions being obtained from those proprietors who will be benefited by the works in a greater degree than the other cess-payers.

In the towns and other localities to which this Act is not applicable, the Relief Commission's plan of local committees raising subscriptions (to be aided, if necessary, by the Lord Lieutenant) and buying food, may be brought into action.

MEMORIAL of the LINEN WEAVERS of TUAM.

To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart.

The Memorial of the under-mentioned Linen-weavers of the town of Tuam, in the county of Galway,

HUMBLY SHOWETH,

THAT memorialists, for the last several years, are reduced to extreme misery themselves, and their long families, owing to a want of demand for their linens, and of persons of speculative habits in their town, since the disease of Mr. Robert Potter, and his Grace the late Archbishop of Tuam, through whom Mr. Potter obtained, from the London Tavern Committee, sums of money from time to time at one per cent, three persons forming a committee; namely, the deceased Mr. Potter, Charles Parsons, and Denis B. Potter.

That the deceased Mr. Potter was, in consequence of such loan, enabled to carry on the trade; his Grace having procured for him a market for the linens, and, in consequence, circulated each week from 400*l.* to 500*l.* in this town.

That memorialists, since that period, have turned themselves to common spade-work, which has this year become most unfavourable, owing to a rot in their potatoes.

That memorialists, in consequence of their deplorable state, were induced to represent their condition to the brother of their deceased benefactor, and one of the Committee aforesaid, Mr. Denis B. Potter, who has agreed to accept a loan on behalf of memorialists upon the same conditions as heretofore, provided a vent could be procured for the sale of their linens.

That in order to assist your memorialists in a capital for the purchase of yarn, &c., the said Denis B. Potter has agreed to give to each weaver a loan of 5*l.*, to be paid at the rate of 3*s.* per week, at an interest of two per cent., in order to pay expenses, &c.

That memorialists are convinced, if this Memorial be taken into consideration, it will render more service to a starving population than any other project heretofore mentioned, and a sure return of the money advanced. And memorialists, with their long families, will pay.

Tuam, March 12, 1846.

139 Signatures.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 20, 1846.

Write to the parties that their Lordships have no funds at their disposal to be employed in the manner requested by them.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, March 14, 1846.

WE find great difficulty, from the very great informality in the preparation of the memorials. It is a point on which we are required to be very particular, to guard against the technical objections which may be raised by the grand juries; and we have had some squabbling about entering upon land without the purchase-money being paid. Kerry has commenced: this morning's post brought an immense number of applications. We shall do our best to meet the applications. The Fishery Piers and Harbours Act will lead to much disappointment: we have already 102 applications, the amount, 29,670*l.*, and every day brings us more.

Having made inquiry, I failed in finding a military engineer who would answer to be appointed to the Board as engineer. I have, therefore, done the next best thing, in my recommendation to the Treasury, which is to give us the assistance of two civil engineers, who are both more or less connected with us; but when the numerous works upon which we shall be engaged for some years, are considered, I do not see that a better arrangement could be made. They are both well conversant with the particular duties we shall require them for under the new Acts; and I hope that the major part of their salaries will be paid out of the funds forthcoming for those services.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

Treasury, March 14, 1846.

THE formalities required by the first Act of this Session, to secure a presentment equal to one moiety of the expense of the work, having, in each case, been gone through, it only remains to determine whether a portion of the other moiety should not be contributed by those private proprietors, if any, who will be benefited in a greater degree than the other cess-payers; and as Colonel Jones has directed the officers under him always to report specifically on this point, no delay ought to be occasioned by our insisting on this condition being complied with in the cases to which it is applicable.

Colonel Jones does not appear to be apprehensive of any inconvenient delay taking place. Some works have been sanctioned in part, reserving for further consideration those parts in which private contributions appear to be called for; but when the instructions which have been issued on this point become fully understood and acted upon, even this degree of delay will not be necessary.

The mode of executing improvements provided by this Act is so much more advantageous than any other which is open to the parties interested, that if the Treasury were unconditionally, and as a matter of course, to sanction grants, merely because the process prescribed by the Act had been complied with, we should have to execute ourselves in the course of the next few months, with our own funds, and by means of our own officers, every improvement which is desired by any parties in any part of Ireland; and there would, besides, be a great liability that those works would be preferred which are for the advantage of influential proprietors, without reference to their being eligible for the employment of the people. Colonel Jones states, that the sums already applied for "are so large that the Treasury itself would scarce be able to meet the demands."

It is of great consequence to the success of the important service in which you are engaged, that you should act in the closest concert with the Chairman of the Board of Works; and I hope you will now arrive at a perfect understanding with Colonel Jones as to the course which is to be followed in respect to the grants under the Act of 9 Viet., c. 1.

In one of your recent notes you stated your opinion that the great pressure will be in May, but at the same time you enclosed documents which imply that we may have serious demands made upon us in various quarters at an earlier period.

However this may be, it is obviously necessary that our preparations should be pushed forward with the utmost dispatch consistent with real efficiency; and as our plan has been fully and satisfactorily organized, and you have an able and zealous establishment acting under your orders, to which further additions will be made as the occasion may require, I do not apprehend that even a high degree of activity will in this case degenerate into confusion.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

March 14, 1846.

It being of great importance that the Board of Works should have the assistance of properly qualified engineers for carrying out the numerous services which the recent Acts of Parliament have entailed upon them, it is requested that their Lordships will approve of John Macmishoe, civil engineer, and Barry D. Gibbons, civil engineer, being appointed to this duty, the former upon a salary of 800*l.* per annum; these appointments to be considered temporary, and to cease

when the demands for employment under the several Acts which have just passed shall be less pressing.

It is proper to state that these appointments are requested from the difficulty of procuring the services of one individual who combines experience with the knowledge of the different branches of engineering required for the variety of works to be executed by us.

Mr. Macmahon has had great experience in canal and drainage works, and is peculiarly fitted for planning and making estimates for such operations; he has been employed under the Drainage Commission for the last two years, but not upon any fixed appointment, which has led to much inconvenience; and we had no security by which his services could always be obtained. It is therefore very desirable that he should be attached to this Board as an engineer on the establishment, at a fixed salary. When engaged upon works relating to drainage or navigation, the expenses of which are to be defrayed by bodies, individuals, or counties, his time whilst so employed will be brought to charge against his salary, being *pro tanto* a diminution of the salary to be sanctioned by their Lordships.

Mr. Gibbons' appointment is recommended from the circumstance of his peculiar fitness for engineering duties which have reference to marine works, more particularly harbours, piers, &c., of which there is likely to be a great demand, under the Act 9 Viet., c. 8: his principal employment has been upon works of that description, and he is our resident engineer to Kingstown Harbour, at a salary of 800*l.* per annum; it is proposed that he should be paid 500*l.* per annum, in addition to that salary, and that he should relinquish all private practice, so that the Board may have full control over, and command of his services; the number of works to be placed under the charge of this Board, by the above-named Act, as well as the superintendence of the great harbours now under their charge, will, for a long time, engage the attention, and occupy the entire time of one engineer. Mr. Gibbons' employment under the Fishery Piers Act will be paid from the funds provided for these works. We therefore trust their Lordships will sanction these appointments. The services of two such individuals are highly necessary to enable us to discharge promptly and satisfactorily to the public, to the Government, and ourselves, the various additional duties we are required to perform; and we may be permitted to state that no engineer of eminence and character would give up his professional practice for so small a sum as the combined salary as that now recommended for the two engineers above mentioned; and we trust that this arrangement of employing two engineers, instead, will meet with their Lordships' approval, as they must, upon consideration of the widely extended field of our operations, perceive that one individual could not prepare the plans and make the necessary inspections.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 17, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that their Lordships are pleased to sanction the temporary appointment of John Macmahon, Esq. and Barry D. Gibbons, Esq., Civil Engineers, as recommended, for the purpose of acting under their orders in the execution of the various services, which, under recent Acts of Parliament, have to be carried out by, or under the superintendence of the Board of Works.

Their Lordships understand that the entire services of these two gentlemen are to be given to the public during the continuance of their engagement with the Board of Works, to the exclusion of private employment, and that they are to undertake any duties which the Board of Works may think proper to assign to them.

Their Lordships also approve of their salaries being made up to 800*l.* each, after making allowance for the salary of 300*l.* per annum received by Mr. Gibbons, as Engineer to Kingstown Harbour, and for the sums which may be recovered for the time employed by them in assisting in works relating to drainage, navigation, fishery-piers, &c.

The Commissioners of Public Works will submit to this Board a supplementary estimate of the sum required to be provided, to make up Messrs. Macmahon and Gibbons' salaries as above stated during the year 1846-7.

Mr. GRIFFITH to the Right Hon. the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.

Irish Office, London, February 26, 1846.

BEING obliged to leave town this afternoon for the west of Ireland, I beg to mention to you, in writing, should my services be required during the approaching distress among the Irish peasantry, that I shall be ready, together with the greater part of my staff of valuers, several of whom are experienced civil engineers, to give assistance in laying out and directing *local works*, where such may be necessary, on the same system as that adopted by me in the counties of Cork, Limerick, and Kerry, during the season of distress in the year 1822, when I had the pleasure of acting under you as Chief Secretary for Ireland.

I am well acquainted with every part of the south of Ireland, where, as you know, extensive public works have been completed under my direction, and having a thorough knowledge of the *characters and objects* of all the gentry, I think I should be enabled to check the undertaking of interested projects, and insist upon the execution of those only which appeared to be of a generally useful nature.

But as my undertaking the direction of a great number of small works, scattered over the face of the country, and employing several of my valuers as local superintendents, would derange and retard the progress of the general valuation of Ireland, it would not appear to be desirable to interfere with my establishment until circumstances may render it necessary.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieutenant-Colonel JONES.

Treasury, March 16, 1846.

ALTHOUGH grants for the execution of works to relieve distress are to be continued to the extent required, it is, by no means, intended to forego the demand for private contributions, when circumstances render it proper to call for them.

This and every other rule must, however, be modified or suspended in cases where it is evident that the consequence of our insisting on the strict execution of our rule would be that the people would starve; and I feel convinced that you have not delayed any really pressing case, for the sake of private contributions, without making the immediate provision required to feed the people, until more complete information can be obtained.

You will shortly receive precise instructions as to the course to be followed by you in this respect, after which there will no longer be any mistake in any quarter as to what is intended.

I will also write to you to-morrow about the measures to be taken by your Commission (Board of Works, I mean), in order to enable it to perform its part in a prompt and satisfactory manner in this emergency.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Dublin, March 18, 1846.

WE have the honour to transmit herewith an abstract of an application from the Earl of Courtown for a loan from this Board under the Act of 1st and 2nd WIL. IV., c. 33, of 1000*l.*, for the execution of a new line of road (through his lordship's estate) from Wexford to Dublin, between Crocket's-lane at the Gorey and Courtown New Road, and Ballymoney, in the county of Wexford; and we beg leave to recommend the same for your Lordships' most favourable consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

APPLICATION for a LOAN to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

Applicant.	Object.	Sum required.	Nature of Security.	Rate of Proposed Repayments.		General Observations.
				Principal.	Interest.	
The Earl of Castlereagh.	For the execution of a new line of road (through his Lordship's estate) from Wolford to Dublin, between Crockett's lane, at the Gusty and Courteen, new road, and Ballymurray, in the County of Wick.	10000.	Monied Payment, with Collateral Security by his Lordship.	5 per Cent.	5 per Cent.	The proposed line of road was laid out by Mr. James B. Farrell, the County Surveyor for Wickford, and examined on the part of this Board by Mr. Henry D. Gibbons, C.E. The line is judiciously laid out, and will be a great improvement upon the existing road, which has some very steep hills upon it. This is a case fully entitled to a loan, and upon the most favourable terms, inasmuch as it is for a very fit and useful work. The security is satisfactory, and the immediate employment it will afford will be most desirable and necessary. The proposed loan is strongly recommended.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
18th March, 1846.

JOS. C. WALKER, Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 20, 1846.

My Lords are pleased to sanction the loan recommended.
Write to the Commissioners of Public Works accordingly.
Acquaint the Paymaster of Civil Service in Ireland.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 17, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Ordnance, that, it being necessary immediately to strengthen the Surveying Department of the Board of Works in Ireland, in order to prevent delay in the commencement of projected drainage operations undertaken with a view to afford relief during the scarcity in that country, their Lordships request that Captain Larcom may be directed to place himself, and the establishment employed under him in the revision of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, at the disposal of the Board of Works, to the extent to which their services may be required for the purpose in question; and the regular progress of the Ordnance Survey will have to be more or less suspended on this, as on former occasions on which a more pressing service has intervened.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works, for their information.

THE SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, March 20, 1846.

HAVING laid before the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, your letter dated the 17th instant, signifying the desire of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that Captain Larcom, Royal Engineers, may be instructed to place himself and the establishment employed under him in the revision of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, at the disposal of the Board of Works, to the extent to which their services may be required in projected drainage operations,

I have the honour, by the Master-General and Board's command, to transmit for their Lordship's information, the enclosed copy of a memorandum drawn up by Major-General Sir John Burgoyne, Inspector-General of Fortifications, which, although it cannot justly be viewed in any other light than as a private and confidential document, the Master-General and Board think it proper their Lordships should be acquainted with on that footing. The great importance

of the subject, and the deep interest which necessarily attaches to it, render it, in the Master-General and Board's opinion, indispensable that nothing should be held back which can throw light upon it, and Sir John Burgoyne's judgment and long acquaintance with Ireland claim particular weight to any observations which he may offer on the subject, and especially so, as the department of which he is the head, is immediately connected with it, as also that which he so recently quitted.

ENCLOSURE.

Major-General Sir J. F. BURGOTNE to the MASTER GENERAL of the ORDNANCE.

84, Pall Mall, March 18th, 1846.

WITH reference to a Letter from the Treasury, dated March 17, requesting that the Ordnance Survey Department in Ireland should suspend its operations, and be placed at the disposal of the Board of Public Works in Ireland for the purpose of accelerating drainage operations, with a view to afford relief during the scarcity in that country, I take the liberty of submitting that this instruction has been issued hastily, under the great desire to afford every possible Government means during the distressing emergency; but I am satisfied that the inconveniences from this proceeding and expense would be very great, and the advantages none.

It is very difficult in an instant to show clearly, or perhaps quite satisfactorily on what I ground this impression, although I am certain I could do so after a little consideration.

1. It would have the effect of at once disorganizing the whole process of work and employment now carrying on by the Survey Department,—a great number of the persons now engaged in operations connected with each other would become idle; many of them would be inapplicable to the train of business which by this project is called for.

2. The surveys for drainage cannot be so purely mechanical, as to be at once put into the hands of mere surveyors, but must be carried on in concert with engineering views and directed by competent drainage engineers after a thorough study of the localities, and which will be continued throughout the surveys.

3. I doubt extremely the necessity for thus breaking in upon a great and important establishment, because I have not heard that there is any difficulty in the Board of Public Works obtaining what surveyors may be necessary for those mechanical operations; or if there were, it might be sufficient to instruct Captain Larcom to consider whether he could spare temporarily a few surveyors, best calculated for the service, without impeding essentially his own proceedings.

4. For any purpose of affording relief to the distress now existing or anticipated, this project is far too late. On reference to the Board of Public Works, I am sure it would be found that no work could be provided for the labouring population by such a measure before several months.

5. The entire suggestion I have little doubt originates in a memorial which I happen to know was recently submitted to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which, on the plea of urgency of the present distress, proposed (probably unintentionally as to its effect) measures to be taken by Government that ought naturally to be undertaken by landed proprietors, and affording them permanent advantages.

6. If the principle be once admitted of Government undertaking these surveys on any plan, the result of which must be considered, as for limited private and local benefit, it is clear that it will be demanded all over the country; and if so, a well considered system had better be adopted for it, for it will require an extensive organization.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Ordnance that their Lordships have perused Sir John Burgoyne's confidential memorandum with the respect peculiarly due to that officer's opinion on a subject of this description.

By the letter from this board, dated 17th instant, their Lordships requested that Captain Larcom might be directed to place himself and the establishment employed under him in the revision of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, at the disposal of the Board of Works, to the extent to which their services might be required for the purpose of assisting in the surveys of projected drainage operations undertaken with a view to afford relief during the scarcity in Ireland.

Their Lordships are still of opinion that the regular progress of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland ought to give place in any instance in which the temporary aid of a portion of the Survey Establishment may really be required to give prompt effect to any of the measures in progress for the relief of the people during the impending scarcity; and acting on this principle, in which their Lordships feel assured Sir John Burgoyne fully concurs, and having due regard to the considerations to which that officer has called attention, they propose

that the following revised instruction should be issued to the Board of Works and to Captain Larcom.

That it shall be at the discretion of the Board of Works to employ Captain Larcom on any duty connected with any of the measures of relief now in progress, in which it may appear to them that he is well qualified to render valuable assistance, and likewise to select, from time to time, as their services may be required, any of the officers or other persons on the Ordnance Survey Establishment in Ireland, who, from their character and attainments, or from the locality in which they are employed, would be particularly useful, and to assign to them any duty connected with any of the measures now in progress under the superintendence of the Board of Works, for the relief of the people during the scarcity, whether connected with drainage or otherwise, which the Board of Works may consider to be required by the peculiar exigencies of the case, taking care that they return to their ordinary duties in the Ordnance Survey, at the earliest period at which their assistance can be dispensed with by the Board of Works.

If the Master-General and Board shall concur in this view, their Lordships request that instructions to the above effect may be immediately sent to Captain Larcom, and that their Lordships may be informed thereof.

SECRETARY TO THE ORDNANCE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, March 24, 1846.

IN reference to my letter of the 20th instant, in reply to yours of the 17th, regarding the employment of Captain Larcom, Royal Engineers, and the Surrey Party under his orders, in facilitating the drainage operations about to be undertaken by the Board of Public Works in Ireland: I have the honour, by command of the Master-General and Board of Ordnance, to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the enclosed copies of the following papers, viz.:

A letter from Mr. Pennefather to Captain Larcom, forwarding a copy of resolutions of a meeting held in Dublin on the 6th instant.

The reply of Captain Larcom thereto dated 9th instant.

A letter from Captain Larcom to Colonel Colby, Royal Engineers, forwarding copies of the foregoing.

A letter from Colonel Colby to the Inspector-General of Fortifications, with a report from the latter officer annexed.

These papers are sent that their Lordships may be made aware of the further expression of Sir J. Burgoyne's sentiments on the subject.

P. S.—A copy of the resolutions of the meeting has not been sent, because the Master-General and Board apprehend the Lords of the Treasury have already been made acquainted with them; but if not, a copy shall be immediately transmitted.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. PENNEFATHER to Captain LARCOM.

Dublin Castle, March 7, 1846.

I AM desired by the Lord Lieutenant to forward the enclosed copy of resolutions of a meeting held on the 6th instant at No. 41, Sackville-street, Lord Castlemaine in the chair, and to request your opinion thereon for his Excellency's information. An immediate reply is requested.

Captain LARCOM to Mr. PENNEFATHER.

Ordnance Survey Office, March 9, 1846.

IN returning the resolutions of the meeting, at which Lord Castlemaine was in the chair, on the 6th instant, forwarded to me with your letter of the 7th instant, I beg to remark,—

In regard to the first resolution, viz.—that it is desirable the hydrography of the country be specially surveyed by this department, that I think such a survey would be very valuable in a country for which drainage is so important as it is in Ireland. It would only be necessary, in addition to the levelling of contours or lines of equal altitude, which are now in progress, to level the ridges of the country bounding the basins or valleys, and the streams or gulleys by which the waters which fall within them are, or may be discharged, when the

facilities or obstructions which now exist would become at once apparent. Such a survey would, no doubt, immensely assist the subsequent operations of drainage, whether under the Board of Works or by individuals; and it would be no very material addition to the expense; but the calculations for cuttings, &c., could scarcely be undertaken until the project of the engineer was completed, and it would materially alter the duties of this Department if it were, by anticipation, to make projects for all such improvements. The principal part of the surveying force is at present employed upon the English survey; and with the force remaining in Ireland, so general a measure can scarcely be executed in sufficient time to meet the difficulties of the present season. I pass, therefore, to the second resolution.

There can be no doubt that the Government, by executing the Townland Survey, which exhibits all local and territorial boundaries, and delineates the surface of the country, and by publishing the maps on the six inch scale at a low price, has made a great advance in aid of improvements in Ireland, and the survey of elevations, by barometres and by hydrographic features, will be a further step in the same direction. This resolution now further proposes that during the present emergency detail surveys for special purposes shall also be made by the Surveying Department. The force at present employed on contouring in Ireland is 1 officer and 15 surveyors—a number quite inadequate to survey specially the whole hydrography of the country in any short time; but if the Government approve of any special projects, and the Treasury and the Ordnance were to consent, there would be no difficulty in taking the levels and sections of particular districts as parts of a whole, to be combined hereafter by the general operations of the survey. I presume, however, there would be some responsible public body to judge of the necessity for each project in the first instance.

The third resolution is one of great importance, as famine is usually followed by fever in Ireland; and if any special surveys are required in its fulfilment, it will fall within the scope of the second resolution, so far as this Department is concerned.

Captain LARCOM to Colonel COLBY.

Ordnance Survey Office, Dublin, March 10, 1846.

I **HAVE** to enclose a copy of a memorial referred to me by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and of my reply. I have been requested by the Chairman of Public Works in Ireland to lose no time in transmitting these papers, that, if you approve, you may lay them before the Inspector-General; as the same memorial has also been referred to the Chairman, and he has forwarded it to the Inspector-General, with a copy of his reply.

Colonel COLBY to Major-General Sir J. BURGOYNE.

SIR,

Ordnance Map Office, Southampton, March 30, 1846.

I **FORWARD** the enclosed papers in accordance with Captain Larcom's request, without offering any opinion as to the correctness of the views which he has expressed, for the Lord Lieutenant's information.

Major-General Sir J. BURGOYNE on the above.

March 21, 1846.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Master-General, with reference to the question of applying the Ordnance Survey Department in Ireland to surveys for drainage measures under the present emergency of distress in that country.

The whole tenor of Captain Larcom's remarks, and indeed one direct expression, show that such a proceeding could not have influence on the present emergency; and, therefore, I think it would have been better had he confined himself to that, and left any such general operations as he seems inclined to recommend to the future consideration of the proper authorities, without prejudging them.

It involves matters that are not to be decided upon hastily. If the Ordnance Survey Department is to be charged with such operations, it will require a new branch peculiarly organized for them, as mere surveying and levelling are by no means sufficient for carrying them on effectively and economically. It is also a concern that will peculiarly, and as I think unreasonably, interfere with the business of private professional surveyors.

If the Government is inclined to enlarge the services of the Survey Department, it could be done probably in more ways than one, in a less objectionable manner, and to greater public advantage than by this.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

WRITE to the Secretary to the Ordnance in reply to his letter dated 24th instant, enclosing copies of correspondence arising out of a meeting held on the 6th instant, at No. 41, Sackville Street, Dublin, the resolutions come to at which were referred, by the Lord-Lieutenant's desire, to Captain Larcom, and refer him to the

previous letter from this Board of this day's date, as containing their Lordship's final decision relative to the mode in which it is advisable that Captain Larcom and the Ordnance Survey Establishment in Ireland should be rendered available in aid of the measures in progress for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity in that country.

Transmit to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord-Lieutenant, copies of their Lordships' two minutes of this day's date, on the subject of the proposed temporary employment of Captain Larcom and the Officers and others belonging to the Ordnance Survey Establishment in Ireland, in assisting in the measures in progress for the relief of the people during the impending scarcity, and request that he will suggest, for the consideration of the Lord-Lieutenant, the expediency of Mr. Griffith, and the establishment employed under his orders, in the valuation of Ireland, being instructed to give their assistance to the Board of Works, on precisely the same footing as Captain Larcom and his Establishment.

Their Lordships are informed that Mr. Griffith has already intimated his willingness to give his valuable aid to the measures for the relief of the people in any way in which it may be required.

Transmit a copy of both the above minutes of this day's date to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information and guidance.

SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Ordnance, March 24, 1846.

HAVING laid before the Master-General and Board of Ordnance your letter, dated this day, respecting the employment of Captain Larcom, Royal Engineers, and his party of surveyors, under the Board of Public Works in Ireland:

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the Master-General and Board have instructed the Inspector-General of Fortifications to cause their Lordships' wishes and intentions, as expressed in your letter, to be complied with.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

Transmit a copy of this letter to Mr. Pennefather, for the Lord Lieutenant's information; and to the Board of Works in Ireland, for their information; in continuation of the letters from this Board of yesterday's date.

The two JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Dublin, March 21, 1846.

IN reply to a memorial which we had heretofore the honour of addressing to your Lordships, praying for an increase to our salaries as the two junior Commissioners of Public Works, we were informed that the proper time to take our application into consideration would be when the conservation of the Shannon works should be added to our other duties.

Since that period very heavy and important additional duties and responsibilities have been thrown upon our Board, and are more especially pressing upon us under the recent enactments, so as to leave us little time for rest, or attention to our private concerns.

Under these peculiar circumstances, we confidently appeal to your Lordships' favourable consideration of our claims, and humbly pray that such addition may be made to our present salaries from the commencement of the current quarter as may seem reasonable and proper.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above

March 24, 1846

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that their Lordships have had before them a letter from the junior Commissioners dated 21st instant, renewing

their application for an increase of salary, with particular reference to the additional duties which have to be performed by the Board of Works under the recent enactments, and state that their Lordships are ready to admit that the laborious exertions which will have to be made by all the members of the Board of Works, for the timely and successful accomplishment of the various important objects to which their attention has lately been directed, will give to the junior members some claim to extra remuneration, and their Lordships will have the subject again before them when the proper time shall have arrived.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE this day made arrangements with Mr. Pennefather, which will enable us to afford immediate relief in very urgent cases. Pressure becomes great, but not general.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

March 21, 1846.

WE have the honour to transmit herewith an abstract of an application from the Earl of Stradbroke for a grant from this Board, under the Act of the 1st and 2nd Wm. IV., chap. 38, of five hundred and seventy-five pounds fifteen shillings (575*l.* 15*s.*) in aid of a new line of road from Clonmel to Dungarvan, between the old bridge of Ballymacarbury and the bounds of the barony of Decies, in the county of Waterford, and we beg leave to recommend the same for your Lordships' favourable consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

APPLICATION for a GRANT to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

Applicant.	Object.	Sum required.	General Observations.
The Earl of Stradbroke	In aid of a new road from Clonmel to Dungarvan, between the old Bridge of Ballymacarbury and the bounds of the Barony of Decies, in the County of Waterford.	<p>Estimate, 115<i>l.</i> 16<i>s.</i> 3<i>d.</i> Proposed Grant, 575<i>l.</i> 15<i>s.</i> To be contributed by Lord Stradbroke, 575<i>l.</i> 15<i>s.</i> 3<i>d.</i></p>	<p>The proposed line of road was laid out by Mr. Henry Owen, the County Surveyor for Waterford, and reported on the part of the Board by Mr. Thomas Kenney, C.E.</p> <p>Its utility as well as to open a portion of an immense tract of improvable moorland land lying south of the river Noy, and extending considerably more than 40 square miles without a road, that will enable the poor inhabitants to drive an income for their lands, or, where they do cultivate crops, to take out their produce.</p> <p>The Earl of Stradbroke offers to pay a moiety of the expense, with the view of procuring the people employment under the existing distress. The proposed grant is strongly recommended.</p>

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
21st March, 1846.*

JOS. C. WALKER, Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 24, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland that my Lords are much gratified in being able to meet the very liberal and public-spirited contribution of the Earl of Stradbroke towards the execution of the proposed work, by a public grant to an equal amount, and are therefore pleased to sanction the grant of 575*l.* 15*s.* recommended.

Mr. MASSY to Sir R. PEEL.

Rosanna, Tipperary, March 21, 1846.

I HAVE been requested by the magistrates and cess-payers of the barony of Clanwilliam, at special sessions assembled, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of

a memorial to the Board of Ordnance, in the hope that you might be pleased to use your influence to have our wishes, if practicable, carried into effect. I also enclose copy of a resolution, to a similar effect, unanimously passed by the Board of Guardians of this Union, another copy of which, as their chairman, and by their direction, I have transmitted through the Lord Lieutenant to the Board of Ordnance. The magistrates have, on former occasions, memorialized the Irish Government relative to the building of barracks, and an increase of troops in this district, having always considered it a strange circumstance that the large barony of Clanwilliam, generally the most lawless and disturbed part of Tipperary, should have been left trusting to but one company of infantry. We, therefore, heard with pleasure that it was intended to build a large military barrack near the town of Tipperary, and that land was taken for this purpose about a year since. The works, however, have not been yet commenced. Should a beginning be made this year, it will be a great advantage to the working classes, for, I regret to inform you, want of food has already overtaken us in some districts of this Union, and this want is likely to become general before many weeks. We are endeavouring to provide labour for the people, but the number of the unemployed is so great, as is also the carelessness of our numerous absentee proprietors, that any additional employment is a very great boon.

I fear, Sir, that we should not address you on a subject not in your immediate department, but the truth is, that it is to you we all look for counsel and assistance in our approaching emergency. You have been the first to foresee the calamity, the first to take precautions against it; we also trust to your wisdom to lighten the evil when it does come, as far as human means can do.

ENCLOSURE.

To the Right Honourable the Board of Ordnance.

The Memorial of the undersigned Magistrates at Special Sessions, at Tipperary, assembled this 18th of March, 1846,—

SHEWETH,

THAT for some time since a portion of ground near the town of Tipperary has been in your possession for the purpose of building a military barrack, and as the poor of this district, from scarcity of food and want of employment, are in a most distressed condition, your memorialists anxiously hope that you will be pleased to commence the building immediately, and thereby give employment during a season so likely to require it.

(Signed)

MAURICE CROSSIN MOORE, J. P.
JOHN J. FITZGERALD, BART., J. P.
JOSEPH COOKE, J. P. and D. L.
HENRY W. MASSY, J. P.
HUGH B. BRADSHAW, J. P.
J. ANTHONY BUTLER, J. P.
THOMAS BOLTON, J. P.
HUGH BAKER.

COPY of a RESOLUTION unanimously passed at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tipperary Union, held on Saturday, 21st February, 1846.

RESOLVES,

THAT the almost certain scarcity of the ensuing summer can only be provided against by an unusual supply of labour, and by a timely storage of provision, and that one of the best remedies for both those purposes in this district appears to be an immediate commencement of the building of the intended military barrack; and the ground for this building being already in possession of the authorities, we are of opinion that part of the work might be quickly run up, and used as a temporary provision store, its situation being particularly adapted to that purpose, as the present barrack is on the ground, and the Union workhouse in its immediate neighbourhood.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 3, 1846.

Acquaint Mr. Massy that, in considering the various works for which it was necessary to provide in the present year, the barracks at Tipperary appeared to be of inferior importance to others which were recommended for the sanction of the Treasury, and it was therefore deemed advisable to postpone to a future period the erection of the barracks in question.

MEMORIAL of the GALWAY TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Memorial of the Incorporated Commissioners acting under the 6th and 7th William IV.,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH—

THAT the town of Galway, with its environs, containing a very large and dense population exceeding 30,000 inhabitants, is totally unprovided with sewerage of any kind, which is so necessary for the public health, as fully appears from the evidence and reports of the Sanatory Commissioners on the Health of Towns in England, as laid before the House of Commons.

That the town of Galway presents unusual facilities for effecting so necessary a work by reason of the extensive lake about 15 feet above the level of the sea, thus affording an abundant supply of pure water at a comparatively inconsiderable expense, considering the very great and important effects upon the public health.

That the town of Galway, being peculiarly circumstanced under the aforesaid Act, and not having the power of assessing a borough rate, does not possess the funds by which they could accomplish this most necessary and now indispensable work, in consequence of several improvements now in contemplation at Galway, some of which are already in progress, thus rendering it imperative to pay more particular attention to the health of all those who may become resident in the town.

That your memorialists, feeling the necessity and importance of co-operating with Government in providing useful employment for the people at this most awful crisis, beg to state that the inhabitants of the town are willing to be assessed by Grand Jury presentment for one-half of the sum of 4000*l.*, which it appears by the plan and estimate will be required for the construction of this work, although they are at present labouring under hardships which with difficulty they can sustain.

Your memorialists, under all these circumstances, would most earnestly entreat your Lordships' sanction of this work, so necessary for the prevention of contagious diseases and the promotion of the public good, under the provisions of the Act 1st Victoria, cap. 21.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JOSEPH GREALY, *Chairman.*

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 5, 1846.

Write to the Galway Town Commissioners that my Lords do not deem it advisable to accede to their request.

MEMORIAL of the GALWAY TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Memorial of the Galway Town Commissioners, incorporated under the 6th and 7th William IV.,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH—

THAT your memorialists, having learned with sincere satisfaction that it was determined to erect new barracks near the town, deemed it their duty, in the present very distressed state of the labouring poor, to entreat the Board of Ordnance to make an order for the immediate commencement of the works.

That, in reply to the entreaty of your memorialists, urged by both the representatives of the town, that Board informed them, through their secretary, a copy of whose letter is subjoined, that it could not make such an order until Her Majesty's Government should place funds for the purpose at its disposal.

That your memorialists, therefore, feel themselves justified in earnestly calling your attention to the state of the labouring poor of this over-populated district, asking you to consider how, legitimately, relief may be extended to them by providing employment, so desirable and so obvious; how the health and comfort of the troops, as well as the security of the country, will be promoted, and the immense saving that will ultimately be effected to the public; and imploring you to place the funds requisite for the erection of the new barracks of Galway at the disposal of the Board of Ordnance.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

THOMAS KEARNEY, *Chairman.*

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BLAKE to Mr. HART.

Office of Ordnance, April 1, 1846.

I AM happy to be enabled to transmit to you herewith the reply of the Ordnance Board to the memorial of the Galway Town Commissioners, which I had recently the honour to present, and which had been forwarded to me through you as chairman.

SIR,

Office of Ordnance, April 1, 1846.

HAVING laid before the Board of Ordnance a memorial, dated the 23rd of March, from the Town Commissioners for the Improvement of the Town of Galway, signed by yourself as chairman, respecting the erection of barracks which are contemplated in that town, I have the honour to acquaint you that measures are in progress for obtaining a site for the new barracks; but no plan or estimate being prepared, or any money provided for the building of the new barracks, the Board fear it will not be possible to commence the works in the present year unless specially authorized by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

John Hart, Esq., Galway

R. BYHAM.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above

May 1, 1846.

Write to the Galway Town Commissioners that their Lordships cannot authorize the construction of new barracks at Galway until the work shall have received the sanction of Parliament and the necessary funds shall have been voted.

TREASURY MINUTE.

March 24, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Ordnance, that as there is a pressing demand for officers qualified to report upon works projected in Ireland for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute poor during the present season of scarcity in that country, and to superintend the execution of such works, my Lords request that he will move the Master-General and Board to inform them what number of officers of the Royal Engineers may be rendered available for this temporary service, without seriously interfering with the due performance of the ordinary duties of the department.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, for their information; and to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

March 30, 1846.

HAVING laid before the Master-General and Board of Ordnance your letter dated the 24th instant, stating that as there is a pressing demand for officers qualified to report upon works projected in Ireland for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute poor during the present season of scarcity in that country, and to superintend the execution of such works, my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury desire to be informed what number of officers of the Royal Engineers may be rendered available for this temporary service, without seriously interfering with the due performance of the ordinary duties of the department:

I have the honour, by the Master-General and Board's commands, to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that there are not any officers available for this duty, but that a communication has been made to the Commanding Royal Engineer in Ireland to ascertain whether he can spare any from those under his orders.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 1, 1846.

Transmit copy of this letter to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord-Lieutenant.

Also request that he will state to His Excellency, that Lieut.-Colonel Colby, the Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom, has been instructed by the Master-General and Board to proceed to Dublin, without delay, to ascertain and report what further assistance is likely to be required

by the Board of Works in examining into and superintending local works, in order that qualified persons may, if necessary, be selected for this temporary service from the Survey Establishments in England and Scotland.

SECRETARY of the ORDNANCE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

April 1, 1846.

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th ultimo, stating that a communication had been made to the Commanding Royal Engineer in Ireland, to ascertain whether he could spare any officer of Royal Engineers from those under his orders for the service mentioned in your letter of the 26th, I have the honour, by command of the Board of Ordnance, to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that the Commanding Royal Engineer reports that he will endeavour to spare, for the service of the projected works in Ireland for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute poor—

Captain Broughton,
Lieutenant Ogle,
Lieutenant Baillie,

for a short time, under the emergency of the case.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 3, 1846

Write to Mr. Pennefather, in continuation of the letter from this Board of yesterday's date, and transmit to him a copy of this letter, for the Lord-Lieutenant's information.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, with reference to the letter from this Board dated 17th ultimo, and transmit for their information copies of the following documents:—

Letter from the Secretary to the Ordnance, dated 30th March, 1846;

Their Lordships' Minute thereon, dated 1st April;

Letter from the Secretary to the Ordnance, dated 1st April;

And state that the Commissioners are authorized to call for the services of the three officers named in the last-mentioned document, as they may be required.

SECRETARY to the ORDNANCE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

[*Board of Ordnance, March 25, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour, by command of the Board of Ordnance, to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, that, in the year 1843, the attention of the Board was directed by the Secretary of State to the necessity of increasing the barrack accommodation at Tipperary; and in 1844, the Quarter-master-General represented that it was desirable that early attention should be given to secure the necessary ground for that purpose under the recommendation of the Lieutenant-General commanding in Ireland.

I beg to observe, that during many years there has been a small military barrack at Tipperary, for which an annual rent has been paid of 96*l.*, and a lease in perpetuity has (now) been procured of those premises from the trustees of Erasmus Smith's schools, with adjoining houses, gardens, and land, comprising altogether 21*a.* 0*r.* 32*p.* (under the Ordnance Acts), at the annual rent of 7*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and which is perfectly sufficient for the measure above referred to.

I beg, also, to forward a communication from the Irish Government respecting the proposed barrack, with a memorial from the magistrates of Tipperary; also a copy of a report on the subject from the Inspector-General of Fortifications.

It has not been practicable, in the Estimate of 1848-7, to include any provision towards the execution of the proposed work, but under the circumstances represented in the enclosures, and as the Lieutenant-General commanding is desirous that early arrangements should be made at Tipperary for securing barrack accommodation for a depot, with the possibility of increasing it to an extent sufficient for a Regiment, I am to beg you will be pleased to submit the papers to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, for the favour of their Lordships' decision, whether

measures shall be taken for proceeding with the work this year, and making provision for it in the Estimate of the next.

P.S. The Board beg the enclosures may be returned.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

March 27, 1846.

Write to the Secretary to the Ordnance, that their Lordships cannot authorize the construction of new barracks at Tipperary until the work shall have received the sanction of Parliament, and the necessary funds shall have been voted.

Return the enclosures.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, April 1, 1846.

We have had upwards of 7000 persons employed during the past week, and our numbers will be daily much increased. Almost all our Reports concur that before the beginning or middle of May, distress will not be very generally felt. It is provoking to read the language in which applications are written, when inquiry proves the statements are not borne out by facts. Mr. Radcliff is just returned from inspecting the works in Meath; he states that it is very difficult to ascertain what is the real state of distress, and as to the landlords, it is a shame to witness the backwardness they evince towards contributing to the expenses of the works. I understand from a Report (verbal) of one of our engineers, that in some instances the number of roads applied for in the memorials is from the circumstance that the resident gentry are afraid to oppose them at the Baronial Sessions.

CHAIRMAN of the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the GALWAY UNION to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

April 1, 1846.

I HAVE been directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to solicit the attention of your Honourable Board to the following statements:—

A considerable sum is at present due by this Union to contractors for the supply of food and other necessities to this workhouse, and many of these parties are not in a situation, especially at this period of distress, to remain without payment of their respective debts, being themselves in but humble circumstances. The Board are willing and ready to strike a rate adequate to the discharge of their liabilities, but in the present state of this district from the impending scarcity and distress, it is not the desire of the Guardians to call upon the rate-payers (many of whom are little removed from pauperism themselves) to make a fresh contribution.

With this view they submit their case to your Lordships in the hope that you will sanction an advance, say of two-thirds of the rate which it will be necessary for them to impose, and thereby postpone the period when it will be demanded, affording thereby considerable relief to this Union, and receiving ample security for the repayment of the monies so advanced.

Eagerly entreating from your Honourable Board an attentive and favourable consideration of this communication.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 7, 1846.

Acquaint the Guardians that my Lords do not think they should be justified in acceding to this request.

CHAIRMAN of the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the LIMERICK UNION to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

April 2, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit your Lordships a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Board of Guardians of this Union.

Resolved,—That it is most desirable that every facility should be afforded by Government, not only to the several local improvements proposed for the immediate employment of the labouring poor, but also to the public works projected through the kingdom, and that the powers vested in them by the several Acts of Parliament in reference to docks, railways, &c., both as regards grants and loans, can now be applied most advantageously for the relief of the distressed in this city and its vicinity, and for the permanent improvement of the country by giving, among other loans, the sum of 100,000*l.* to the Limerick and Waterford Railway Company for the promotion of the works, which will enable them at this particular time to give employment to their poor.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 7, 1846.

Write to the Guardians of the Limerick Poor Law Union that the Limerick and Waterford Railway Company have already been informed that their Lordships cannot comply with their application for an advance of public money in aid of the sums subscribed by their shareholders.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 3, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, that as it is of great importance that the fund provided for the execution of public works for the relief of the people during the impending scarcity should be strictly applied to that purpose, and that it should be administered with all the economy consistent with the satisfactory accomplishment of the object for which it has been provided, their Lordships desire that in reporting to this Board on applications for such grants, they will furnish specific information on each of the following points:—

First. Whether such a state of destitution has occurred, or is likely soon to occur, in the immediate neighbourhood of the places where the works are proposed to be executed, as to require that subsistence by means of employment should be provided for the people.

Secondly. Whether the proposed works are such as will provide employment for the labouring class in general, or whether they will only, or for the most part, employ masons or other artisans.

Thirdly. Whether any proprietors or others will be benefited by the projected works in a much greater degree than the other cess-payers of the barony or county; and

Fourthly. Whether such proprietors are willing to contribute towards the works.

But their Lordships desire that the precautions which these points of inquiry imply, may, on no account, be allowed to interfere with the timely application of the relief which it is the object of these arrangements to afford; and if, in any case, the information above required should not be forthcoming, while the wants of the locality are pressing, the Commissioners will, at once, recommend to this Board the grant of such a sum as may be required to relieve the immediate necessities of the neighbourhood, taking such further steps as may appear to them to be proper in order to carry their Lordships' instructions fully into effect.

In those cases, and they may be frequent, in which it may not be practicable to adhere to the instructions issued by the Commission to Committees of Relief Districts, directing that the payments for work done be made in food, and in which, therefore, it may be found necessary to pay money wages, the money payments should be *below the usual rate of wages in the neighbourhood*, and should be, as nearly as possible, limited to what is absolutely necessary for providing a sufficient quantity of food for the support of the workmen and the helpless persons of their families.

Transmit to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, copy of the letter above directed to be addressed to the Commissioners of Public Works.

Also transmit a copy to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh for his information.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 3, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather that their Lordships' attention has been particularly directed to the following works, which have been recommended for the sanction of this Board, under the provisions of the 1 Vict. c. 21, in his several letters, as underneath:—

Barony of Cary, in the County of Antrim.

For alteration and improvement of the road from Bushmills to Bally Castle	£3500
For making a new line of road and improving the present old road from Bally Castle to Ballymena	2000

Barony of Lower Slane, in the County of Meath.

For a new road from Mitchelstown to Mandistown	2000
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Barony of Iveragh, in the County of Kerry.

New road from Killoughin to Caherciveen, between Tiermoyle and Gurnard	200
New road from Killoughin to Ballinskellig, between Gurrnafarna and the new road at Doora	640
From Killarney to Ballinskellig, between Kuchome and Kentiphane	500
From Caherciveen to Ballinskelligs, between Dungan Chapel and the Quay at Ballinskelligs	430
To Caherciveen Bridge, from both sides	200

Barony of Ardee, in the County of Louth.

645 perches of new road from Kells to Duadalk, by Cookstown	1800
935 perches of new road from Ardee to Drumcondra, at the bounds of Meath and Louth	2000
222 perches of a new road between the Drumcondra and Ardee old road and the proposed new road through the Bog of Ardee	700

Barony of Castlereagh, in the County of Roscommon.

For a new line of road from Ballinlough to Ballymoe	1118
For a new line of road from Castlereagh to Ballyhaunis	445 10s.
For a new line of road from Castlereagh to Williamstown	496

State that new works of this description are ordinarily executed *entirely at the expense of the parties interested*, by means of advances made from the Loan Fund under the management of the Board of Works, and secured by County Presentments; and even in the case of certain wild and remote districts, in which this rule has, to a certain extent, been relaxed, one-half of the expense has usually been defrayed by Grand Jury Presentment, one quarter by private contributions, and one quarter only by a Grant of public money.

The sole object for which an additional sum of 50,000*l.* has been appropriated in aid of public works in Ireland by the first Act of the present session is the *relief of the distress arising from the scarcity impending over that country*, and if Grants were to be made out of this fund, without restriction, in aid of roads and other new works, in the proportion of one-half Grant to one-half Loan, this mode of procuring the execution of such works would be so decidedly more advantageous to the parties locally interested than any other which has of late years been available to them, that numerous applications would be likely to be made from a desire to participate in the advantages which this opportunity would offer, leading to the misapplication of the fund, and the neglect of the other, and, in some respects, more certain and unobjectionable means of relieving the people afforded by the ordinary operations of the Board of Works' Loan Fund, and by the plan of proceeding prescribed by the Relief Commission.

Their Lordships, therefore, refer to their letter of this day's date to the Commissioners of Public Works, on the subject of the precautions to be taken in order to secure a strict application of the fund which has been provided for the execution of public works for the relief of the people during the impending scarcity, a copy of which has been transmitted for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, and they desire that their sanction to the execution of the several

6663.—Letter dated
March 30th, 1846.
D. 41.

6664.—Letter dated
March 30th, 1846.
D. 42.

6665.—Letter dated
March 31st, 1846.
D. 76.

6666.—Letter dated
April 1st, 1846.
D. 164.

6667.—Letter dated
April 2nd, 1846.
D. 134.

new roads above described may be considered as suspended, except in the extreme case contemplated in the sixth paragraph of the above-mentioned letter.

And they request that the Lord Lieutenant will cause immediate and effectual inquiry to be made on the following points in respect to each of the said proposed new roads:—

1. Whether the destitution in each neighbourhood is such as to render it absolutely necessary that some works should be commenced.

2. Supposing it to be necessary that some works should be commenced, whether the new roads proposed might not be executed in the ordinary way, by Loan and Grand Jury Presentment; and

3. If decisive objections exist to the last-mentioned course, and a grant of public money is necessary, it should in that case be ascertained whether any particular proprietors will be benefited by the proposed works in a much greater degree than the other cess-payers of the barony or county, and whether the proprietors in question are willing to contribute towards the works.

As, with the exception of the new roads above adverted to, the other works included in Mr. Pennefather's letters, quoted at the commencement of this Minute, were such as were likely to have been proposed only for the purpose of affording the people employment and relief during the scarcity, their Lordships have authorized the Board of Works to proceed at once with the execution of them.

Transmit to the Commissioners of Public Works, for their information and guidance, copy of the letter above directed to be sent to Mr. Pennefather.

State that the course of proceeding which their Lordships wish to be pursued in respect to the new roads recommended in their Reports to Mr. Pennefather, noted in the margin, is fully detailed in the enclosed copy of a letter to that gentleman.

27th March, 1846
(two Reports).
28th March, 1846.
28th March, 1846.
1st April, 1846.

The other works recommended in the above-mentioned Reports have received their Lordships' sanction, and may be executed as follows:—

Report, 27th March.—One work, to the amount of 100*l*.

Report, 30th March.—Thirteen works, to the amount of 2170*l*.

Report, 1st April.—Three works, to the amount of 900*l*.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, Dublin, April 4, 1846.

FROM all the accounts we receive, there are certain districts where the potato will be entirely exhausted by the beginning of May. Galway and Roscommon are very bad, and great employment must be given. It has always appeared to me, that the Act 9 Vict., c. 1, was not suited to meet the demands that will be made for relief. The baronial sessions, in many instances, are conducted more with a view to private, than public interests; while in others the gentry or magistrates are afraid to oppose the proposers, and the memorials are sent forward, to be immediately followed by pressing letters for employment, which are instantly forwarded from the Castle to the Board of Works. In some cases, the Lord Lieutenant has advanced small sums to enable us to commence work before the regular forms can be gone through. I believe I mentioned in a former letter, that from one barony in Clare, there had been applications for upwards of 90 pieces of road, and this day from an adjoining barony, applications for 118; how such a system can work well, I do not know.

I do not see my way well with respect to the relief to be afforded by food; depôts should be formed well in the heart of the distressed districts if it be available; Limerick, Banagher, Athlone, or Sligo, may be good points as central depôts, but the food must be brought home to the poor man's door. It would, in my opinion, be desirable that depôts of Indian meal should be formed in each Poor Law Union. When hunger presses, it must not be a question of out-door relief as regards the Poor Law. I look upon this month as the most important as regards the Government arrangements, and I state it once for all, that under the Act 9 Vict. c. 1, employment cannot be found for the numbers that will require it. Speculators in some parts have introduced Indian corn, and are selling it at a high price, the people selling their oats, and buying Indian corn as an article that will keep better.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 7, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, that their Lordships have authorized the Commissioners of Public Works to execute the following work, at an outlay of 420*l.*, one-fifth of which has been undertaken to be contributed by Lord Fitzgerald's agent:—

A new line of road from Kenalay to Cashel.

Their Lordship's sanction to the other proposed works included in the Report of the Commissioners, dated 31st ultimo, and which consist entirely of new lines of roads, without any contribution from the parties principally interested, must be considered as suspended, for the reasons and subject to the inquiries explained in the minutes of this Board, dated the 3rd instant.

Write accordingly to the Commissioners of Public Works, and add that the sum contributed by Lord Fitzgerald's agent is to be deducted from the Grant; one moiety of the whole expense of such works being in every case advanced from the Loan Fund, and repaid by the barony.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS TO MR. TREVELYAN.

April 7, 1846.

We have the honour to forward herewith a return made up to the 31st March, which shows the number of applications we have received for grants for roads, under the Act 9th Vict., ch. 1, the amount of the Presentments for the same, and the sums recommended by us and approved of by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. We have also attached to it an Index Map of the Ordnance Survey of the county of Clare, to enable their Lordships to form an idea of the extent and relative positions of the several works applied for in that district, and of the arrangements necessary to be made, by this Board, for the employment and proper control of the numerous parties required for the effective execution of so great a number of detached works.

We endeavour to anticipate the demands for superintendence, and, so far, have been successful, considering the existing demands on railways for engineers and superintendents. At the same time, we feel that we ought not to deceive either the Government or ourselves in the expectation that we shall be able to find engineers or superintendents equal to take the charge of such a multiplicity of works as will press upon us, if the presentments follow each other through the distressed districts in proportionate numbers with those which have been already sent in from Counties. For instance, from the Barony of Moyarta, in the County of Clare, there were *sixty-nine* applications for different roads; and in the adjoining Barony of Inchiquin, we have under examination *one hundred and thirteen works*, for which grants are applied for by memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, under the above-named Act: and if the distress increases so will the demands for employment multiply and become more cogent, and our difficulties will, consequently, be enhanced.

The system adopted, at present, to afford relief is, for the district requiring it, to send in a memorial to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant: that document is then forwarded to the Relief Commissioners, who pass it on to this Board with any observations they may have to make upon it, whether urgent or otherwise. After being registered and examined, it is then put into the hands of a military officer or engineer for investigation, and who immediately proceeds to the district to inspect and report upon the several works embraced by the memorial, and to obtain the information required by the printed instructions marked A, which have been prepared for the guidance of officers employed by us on such occasions; and, on the receipt of his report, we proceed to take it into consideration, and decide upon the works which we ought to recommend to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for approval, and which to reject; and, upon the receipt of our report, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant communicates his recommendation of the approved works to the Lords of the Treasury.

Such is the mode to be pursued according to the provisions of the Act 9 Vict., ch. 1, under which the applications are made, and which appears to be clear and simple. Still it must be evident to their Lordships, that the process is a long one in cases where immediate relief is required. Nor does the Act appear to us to be well suited for the general demands and wants that will arise: it is too slow in its operation, and invites applications for works which, under no other circumstances, could be so advantageously executed for the benefit of the locality or for individuals, and which would not be recommended for approval were it not that, in almost every case of memorial, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant is urgently called upon to order the works to be immediately commenced. The same pressure is applied to the Relief Commission by letter and by deputation, and the same is observed with respect to ourselves; so that, in many cases in which we should not for a moment hesitate to reject, we feel compelled, from the urgent representations sent to us by the Irish Government and Relief Commissioners, to do that which we feel ought not to be done, except from the reports and representations alluded to above. We see no remedy, under the existing system, except that of the Local Committees being formed before the distress manifests itself, and by which time could be afforded for a more leisurely inspection of the district. We trust their Lordships will see how very difficult it is for us, with all the desire on our parts to prevent improper expedition, to do so effectually while the demands for employment are so urgent.

We have many complaints from proprietors, objecting to the lines in which the roads are proposed to be made, as destroying ornamental or highly-cultivated lands, and that they had not any notice of the holding of the Sessions from their absence in Dublin or elsewhere. We are aware from the reports we have subsequently received that the proceedings at many of the Baronial Sessions have been extremely irregular. Those who could, and were anxious to object, were overpowered by the numbers of those who demanded roads to be made in the immediate neighbourhood of their own holdings, and to resist the applications would have been highly imprudent, if not dangerous. Their Lordships are aware that the Master-General and Board of Ordnance placed Captain Larcom and the Irish Branch of the Survey under this Board, to assist in any way that they could be usefully employed; and their Lordships directed that Mr. Griffith, the Valuator-General for Ireland, should, in like manner, be placed at our disposal. We, therefore, made arrangements, which were approved of by the Chief Secretary, to place under Captain Larcom the duty of making the inquiries into the works applied for in the memorials; and we directed that the three officers of Royal Engineers, and the nine officers from the regiments serving in Ireland, who had been placed at our disposal by the Commander of the Forces, should receive their instructions from Captain Larcom. This was an arrangement which appeared to us best suited to meet the objects desired, as there were great facilities afforded by it for quick despatch from the readiness with which the officers could be furnished with the maps of the district they had to visit; and it left Captain Larcom (under the instructions we issued to him, paper B) at liberty to use his own judgment and discretion in selecting such individuals as he might consider useful, and thereby avoiding all unnecessary interference with the details of the operation carrying on in the Survey Department. Mr. Griffith has also given us the benefit of his personal assistance; and, in conjunction with Captain Larcom, we find the arrangements made are working satisfactorily, and have no doubt will continue to do so.

We also enclose papers marked C, D, E, which have been prepared by us for the engineers and officers employed in reporting upon, or in charge of, works; and we also enclose a paper marked F, which is the circular letter we forward to those proprietors or landholders who we consider ought to contribute towards the expenses of the roads: we regret to state that our applications, in most cases, have been unsuccessful.

This being the first Report we have made, we considered that the Lord's Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury might wish to be informed of the nature of our proceedings, and the arrangements we had made for carrying into execution their Lordships' instructions for affording relief, by the employment of the poor, during the present period of distress, which is the reason why we have written so fully on the subject.

We also enclose a Return, showing the number of men to whom employment has been given during the period from 21st February to 31st March.

Ordnance Survey Department the Board will direct the three officers of Royal Engineers, now attached to this Board, and the nine officers of the line, to receive instructions from you as to the localities they will be required to inspect.

A supply of printed instructions, prepared by the Board, have been sent you, on which the engineers and officers who have been sent to the country have acted, and you will have the goodness to issue them as occasion may require.

The officers and persons sent to the country should be furnished with a copy of the Act of Parliament (a supply of which will be sent you); and great care is necessary in the examination of the several lines of road that the termini are within the bounds of the Barony in or for which the sessions were held. This is of the utmost importance, not only as regards the sum mentioned in the memorial, but further in reference to the Presentation to be made by the Grand Jury. In every case, when a line of road applied for is such as will greatly benefit an individual, it will be proper that the inspecting officer should ascertain the names of the proprietors whose lands will be benefited by the proposed roads, and send in his list with the Report.

A messenger will be dispatched daily with such memorials as may in the mean time be received for Mounsej, and will bring back any reports you may have received from the country. The Board beg you will impress upon the minds of all employed the great importance of the duties entrusted to them, and the necessity for despatch.

ENCLOSURE C.

INSTRUCTIONS for the Guidance of ENGINEERS, &c., sent from the BOARD of WORKS to Report upon Memorials under the Act 9 Vict. cap. 1.

For Engineers for the laying out and constructing New Lines of Road, or the improving of existing Roads, by cutting down Hills and filling Hollows.

No. 1. Roads that have for their object mere employment, so as to alleviate distress arising from scarcity of food.

No. 2. Those that tend to improve the agricultural interests of the district.

No. 3. Roads that facilitate the general means of transit towards the leading internal markets and to the sea ports.

The termini being decided on by the magistrates and rate-payers, and the amount to be expended presented for under the Act of the 1 Vic. c. 21, the document is then fit to be put into the hands of the Commissioners' engineer for examination, if laid out by the local officers of the County; but if it is to be laid out for execution by the Commissioners' officer, his first duty will be to perambulate the country in the shortest line between the points fixed on, and to select the most facile course which comes nearest to a right line, that would unite the terminals, keeping in recollection that deviations may be made with advantage to the present and prospective interests of the country, if by so doing, the line will be made to afford easy access for rural purposes, to good turbaries, or to natural fertilizing depôts, such as limestone, rock, coen gravel, marl, &c., still bearing in mind that the sum presented for cannot be exceeded.

Where the country is open, one eye survey may enable him to make a selection; but where it is irregular, presenting several apparently feasible ways for overcoming the physical difficulties, which the ascents or descents on the line may present, each way should be narrowly inspected, to ensure that the best is chosen; the levels of which are then to be accurately taken, observing that the severest gradient should not exceed 1 to 20, which, although on country roads, it may not be considered an unfavourable incline, yet requires double the power, or two horses to overcome its ascent, while one would be found quite sufficient on a level plane.

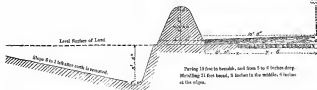
The best line being selected (having reference to the foregoing remarks), the next thing to be decided on, is breadth of carriage-way. Two mail-coaches will pass each other on a road 11 feet in width. This may be taken as the minimum breadth, and only to be adopted in rock cuttings. Roads that are merely for agricultural accommodation should not exceed 15 feet between the backs of the fences. Those for mixed uses to range from 18 to 30 feet, beyond which, except where the traffic is very considerable, and the wear consequently great, they should not be extended, as it would be a needless waste of land, and cost of construction. When the line projected in one county runs to the verge of another, it should be ascertained if it can with facility be extended into the county it impinges on; if not, it can only be supported as an agricultural road, and not one of general utility.

With respect to construction:—In all cases of formation through arable land, the vegetable soil should be removed from beneath the metalling, and where practicable (within a reasonable limit as to cost), the whole surface of the formation should be ballasted with rough rubble stones about six inches in depth, on which the metalling is to rest. This ballast will form an effective system of underdrainage for the road, without which the cost of maintenance will be much increased; free egress must also be given to the drainage water into the side ditches or fences, the grips of which should be so formed as to levels, that the water without accumulation may run freely off; by adopting these means, the ditches tend to drain the land as well as the road. The sketch on the next page gives a good form of cross section for roads and fences.

Where side cutting is taken for trunking or forming the road, the soil should be stripped from off the land wanted, and the excavation taken so as to allow of the lands being reformed and cultivated, when the soil is restored. The same practice should be adopted in spoil-banks; the soil should be taken off where the excavated earth is to be laid, and the surface of the spoil-bank, when properly formed with slopes of 6 to 1, resoled and returned to the farmer. In this way, the least amount of waste is committed on the land; and the vegetable soil removed from

off the surface of the road, if given to the occupier of the grounds through which the road is carried, will be an acceptable loan.

Cross Section of a Road 21 feet between the Mounds.



In the formation of roads through moors, or shallow bogs, the elastic matter should be removed where the cost would not be too great, an inflexible base being of the first consequence in road constructing. When the cost becomes too heavy from the depth of the bog, the first operation should be *drainage*, so as to remove all the stagnant water from off the line. These drains, all of which are to cross the road at interspaces of about 40 feet, should be so made of dried turf properly moulded, as to remain permanently open; and the side or fence drains in all cases, and at all times, should be kept sufficiently deep and clear for these cross drains to discharge into. The formation may then be proceeded with, the filling in of all the hollows to be done with virgin bog, chopped and firmly trodden. The crowning of the roadway to be then formed with dried peat scrags; these are scads cut about 16 inches by 12 inches, and 9 inches in depth, laid evenly over the whole breadth of the carriage way, in two layers; on this formation a coating of tenuous clay, 9 inches in uniform depth, should be placed, on which the metalling, either fine broken stones, or, what is better for bog roads, adhesive gravel, is to be placed, averaging 8 inches in thickness. The equilibration of a bog road is its greatest security.

As a general guide to forming an opinion of the average cost of a 21 foot road (all others in proportion) it may be taken at from 5s. to 6s. per yard lineal, that is for work only; for the cost of land assume 30s. per statute acre an average price; and 23 years' purchase a fair term for the fee, it will be found to add about two-sevenths in amount to the estimated cost of the work.

A general idea of the number of men to which one mile of road estimated to cost 500*l.* will afford employment; say for four months, from 1st of May to 1st of September, assuming that there will be 88 working days within that time, may be thus formed:—First, deduct 10*l.* per cent. off the gross estimated sum for implements and management; this reduces the amount applicable to labour to 450*l.*; divide the sum by 88, the days to be worked. It will produce 5*l.* 2s. 8d. per day, equivalent to the employment of say 123 men at 10*l.* per day for 88 days. But if we come to the conclusion, that the poor cannot live on the wages of five days per week, or 4s. 2*d.*, and that nothing short of 5s. per week will support them, 105 becomes the divisor, and the number that can be then employed is reduced to 103 men per day. In this way an approximate estimate can be formed of the number of men, that the expenditure of any given sum within certain limits as to time will afford employment to, assuming that the whole is spent in manual labour. But as there is scarcely any road-project that has not a certain amount of mason's work in its formation, this amount has to be added to the 10*l.* per cent. for implements and superintendence, and deducted from the gross amount, before a division of the sum applicable to the payment of men's labour is made.

To increase the means of extending employment to the poor in cutting down hills, and filling hollows, long wheeling even to the extent of from 150 to 200 yards may be encountered sooner than employ horses, as the hire of two horses will absorb the wages of seven men at least.

Permanent execution of the works undertaken, if to be obtained through manual labour, should in all cases be preferred to imperfect execution, even though the project may be carried to a greater extent.

9th March, 1845.

JOHN MAC MAHON, C.E.

Office of Public Works.

Approved,

9th March, 1845.

By order of the Board,

J. C. WALKER, Secretary.

ENCLOSURE D.

SIR,

Office of Public Works, Dublin, March 1845.

WITH reference to the works about to be executed in the county of under your superintendence, the Board request your attention to the following observations:—

It is desirable that the works should only be advanced in proportion to the wants of the poor, so as to afford employment for as extended a period as possible.

A Committee has been named who will co-operate with the Board, of which you also are appointed a member.

Tickets will be issued to the labourers, and others requiring relief, and no person is to be employed on any of the works who does not bring a letter or ticket from the Committee.

The payments will (when possible) be weekly—the rate of wages to be in no case higher than the ordinary rate of the district; and where infirm persons are employed they will, of course, not be paid at the same rate as the able-bodied.

Your instructions should be in writing to all parties; and you should be careful to establish a good system at the outset to prevent confusion hereafter, as the distress may become more urgent.

It is most desirable to have as small a sum as possible of this fund abstracted for payment of anything but labour.

The Board would be glad to have your suggestions as to the employment of a pay clerk, and the place of residence most convenient to the works, and the procuring of change for the payments.

You are to forward to the Board Ordnance Maps showing the sites of each work.

The Board wish to have returns, weekly, from the Superintending Overseer, of the number of men, women, and boys, employed on the different works during the season of distress, distinguishing the infirm from the able-bodied men.

It will be necessary for you to appoint a better class of check clerk on these roads, so that the Board may order payments without auditing the accounts previously in this office; any over charge in calculation will be charged against the overseer and check clerk.

Every assistance will be given by the police, consistent with the duties they have to perform. Overseer's books, check lists, pay returns, &c., will be sent as required.

The payments will be weekly; the returns being forwarded to the pay clerk on a day to be fixed by you; and you will give the Board notice before hand of the probable amount that will be required for each weekly payment, so that the amount may be remitted in time to the pay clerk.

By applying to the county surveyor, he will probably be able to furnish you with some men fit to act as overseers and gaugers.

You will give orders for the necessary tools and implements, on agreements, and inform the Board of their nature and extent. Should you be unable to procure them on fair terms in your district, the Board will send such as you may require from elsewhere.

ENCLOSURE E.
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENGINEERS.
1 Victoria, Chap. 21.

IN proceeding to execute works under the 1st Victoria, c. 21, the Board have all the powers for this purpose, which they possess under the original Public Works Act, 1st and 2nd Wm. IV., c. 33.

Sec. 74 authorises the taking of land for the purpose, rendering therefore, or for any damage which may be occasioned thereby, such satisfaction to the proprietor or occupier as may be agreed on, and in case of their not agreeing, then upon payment of such sum as shall be awarded by a jury of 12 persons.

In the event of the jury awarding a less sum than has been offered on behalf of the Commissioners, the expense of the jury is to be borne by the party, and, on the other hand, if a larger sum is awarded than has been offered, the expense falls upon the Commissioners.

For the purpose of an immediate entry on the lands, the Act authorises the Commissioners to so enter and proceed with the construction of the road or bridge, after having tendered to the proprietor or occupier, such sum as they may consider reasonable.

In proceeding in all such cases as above provided for, the course is to ascertain the quantity of land to be taken, and the value of it, then, the occupier's interest in the land, upon which a calculation may be made, not only of the sum to be paid the occupier, but also what should be paid the proprietor for the loss of rent of that portion of the land taken for the road, and the value of his reversion therein.

By order of the Board,
JOSEPH C. WALKER, Secretary.

Office of Public Works, Dublin, March 3, 1846.

ENCLOSURE F.

SIR,

Office of Public Works, March, 1846.

A MEMORIAL having been presented to the Lord Lieutenant from the barony of _____ in the county of _____ under the authority of the 1st Victoria, c. 21, praying that certain works, therein specified may be forthwith undertaken for the relief of the distressed poor, I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to ascertain whether you are willing to contribute any and what sum towards the expense of making the proposed road from _____ to _____ which it is understood will pass through and benefit your property. This application is made by direction from the Lords of the Treasury, who require private contributions in aid of new lines of road, when public grants are sought for.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

RETURN showing the NUMBER and NATURE of APPLICATIONS, under the Act 1 Vict., c. 31, with the Amount applied for, the Amount recommended, and the Date of commencing Work, up to the 31st March, 1846, accompanied by a Letter to the Treasury of this date.

No.	County.	Survey.	Nature of Application.	Date.	Amount applied for.		Amount recommended.		Date of commencing Work.
					£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
1	Armagh	Curry	Making new roads, and improving old.	March 2	12,870	0 0	5,500	0 0	..
2	"	Dunblane, Upper	"	" 2	2,988	0 0	1,960	0 0	..
3	"	Dunblane, Lower	"	" 2	3,562	0 0	"	"	..
4	"	Kilmoreny	"	" 2	9,550	0 0	350	0 0	..
5	Clare	Bannaty, Upper	"	March 17	4,416	0 0	1,012	0 0	April 6.
6	"	Bannaty, Lower	"	" 17	5,018	0 0	3,029	10 0	April 6.
7	"	Clondra	Roads and quays	March 7	12,281	15 2	2,811	0 0	March 23.
8	"	Coronee	New roads, and improving old.	" 26	9,221	0 0	"	"	..
9	"	Deilane	"	" 7	9,980	0 0	4,020	0 0	March 28
10	"	Inchiquin	New roads, and improving old, and repairs.	" 20	5,792	0 0	"	"	..
11	"	Islands	New roads, and improving old.	" 16	1,539	12 0	"	"	..
12	"	Moyry	"	Jan. 31	10,070	0 0	7,520	0 0	March 1.
13	"	Tulla, Upper	New roads, and improving old, and repairs.	March 7	15,537	0 0	2,456	10 0	April 6.
14	"	Tulla, Lower	New roads, and improving old.	" 7	10,257	0 0	1,580	0 0	..
15	Cavan	Clonchee	"	Feb. 9	3,200	0 0	1,600	0 0	March 25.
16	Cork	Carberry, West	"	March 21	2,300	0 0	"	"	..
17	Galway	Athearry	New roads, and improving old, and repairs.	" 23	2,144	0 0	"	"	..
18	"	Ballynacree	New roads, and improving old.	" 23	4,576	0 0	"	"	..
19	"	Dunmore	Roads, footpaths, and repairs	" 23	14,515	0 0	"	"	..
20	"	Galway	New roads, and improving old.	March 3	10,000	0 0	"	"	..
21	"	Kilconnell	"	" 3	2,197	0 0	"	"	..
22	"	Killyon	"	" 3	3,710	0 0	3,110	0 0	March 18.
23	"	Kilbarney	New roads, and repairs	March 17	4,707	0 0	"	"	..
24	"	Lisnirra	New roads, and repairs, and quay.	" 2	5,549	0 0	"	"	..
25	"	Longfoss	Roads	" 14	2,914	0 0	"	"	..
26	"	Tynquin	New roads and repairs.	" 7	7,439	0 0	4,925	0 0	..
27	Kerry	Clonsilla	New and old roads, quays, &c.	" 14	22,805	0 0	"	"	..
28	"	Corkquerry	Roads, piers, fever hospital, and lighthouse.	" 7	25,060	0 0	3,350	0 0	..
29	"	Dunkerron, North	New road and bridges.	" 26	4,830	0 0	"	"	..
30	"	Dunkerron, South	Roads, quays, canal, &c.	" 26	6,145	0 0	"	"	..
31	"	Glasnevin	New roads and quays	March 6	9,666	0 0	"	"	..
32	"	Irishmanstown	"	" 14	15,830	0 0	"	"	..
33	"	Ivagh	Roads, piers, harbours, &c.	Feb. 28	22,769	0 0	2,020	0 0	..
34	"	Magunby	Roads new, and improving old.	March 6	5,570	0 0	2,610	0 0	..
35	"	Trillick	Roads and harbours	" 4	13,620	0 0	"	"	..
36	Kilbenny	Kilbenny City	Bridge, and improving streets	" 23	7,560	0 0	"	"	..
37	King's	Ballybrink	Improving roads	" 4	1,200	0 0	"	"	..
38	"	Ballyvaughan	"	" 21	960	0 0	"	"	..
39	Limerick	Clonsilla	New roads	" 15	5,895	0 0	515	0 0	March 27.
40	"	Connelley, Lower	Roads, rivers, and deepening rivers.	" 21	8,508	0 0	"	"	..
41	"	Coshma	New roads	" 27	6,578	0 0	"	"	..
42	"	Glasnevin	New roads, and improving old.	" 10	11,109	0 0	"	"	..
43	"	Limerick	Sewers, raking and improving roads.	" 19	3,250	0 0	"	"	..
44	"	Pebble Brien	Making and improving roads	" 12	5,550	0 0	350	0 0	March 28.
45	"	Shinnah	"	" 26	10,946	0 0	"	"	..
46	Leath	Ardee	"	"	1,740	0 0	"	"	..
47	"	Dundalk, Upper	"	" 23	5,100	0 0	"	"	..
48	"	Dundalk, Lower	"	"	"	"	"	"	..
49	"	Fernand	"	Feb. 17	410	0 0	120	0 0	March 24.
50	Meath	Kells, Upper	"	"	1,000	0 0	1,900	0 0	March 5.
51	"	Kells, Lower	"	" 21	6,660	0 0	5,620	0 0	March 5.
52	"	Maggillan	"	"	4,100	0 0	4,100	0 0	March 5.
53	"	Narna, Lower	Improving roads and footpaths.	" 24	2,260	0 0	1,745	0 0	..

(continued.)

* Amount omitted, but entered into account for inspection.

Between showing the Number and Nature of Application, &c.—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Details of Application.	Date.	Amount applied for.	Amount recommended.	Date of commencing Works.
54	Meath.	Sligo	Improving roads and footpaths.	Feb. 24	£. s. d. 769 0 0	£. s. d. " " "	" "
55	"	Slane, Upper	" "	" 24	200 0 0	" " "	" "
56	"	Slane, Lower	" "	" "	2,700 0 0	2,700 0 0	Feb. 21.
57	Queen's	Ballypenna	" "	" 26	2,400 0 0	" " "	" "
58	"	Sloneenarry	" "	" 16	4,950 0 0	" " "	" "
59	"	Tinechinch	" "	" 25	1,600 0 0	" " "	" "
60	Downpatrick	Athlone	" "	" "	" " "	" " "	" "
61	"	Ballintober, North	New, and repairing old roads	" 21	8,014 0 0	909 0 0 683 8 0	March 20.
62	"	Ballintober, South	" "	" 21	8,088 15 0	" " "	" "
63	"	Boyle	" "	" 25	3,371 0 0	" " "	" "
64	"	Castlerea	New roads, and improving old.	" "	3,314 0 0	" " "	" "
65	Sligo	Coolevin	New roads, and improving old, and repairs.	" 18	4,000 0 0	" " "	" "
66	"	Truncpark	New roads	March 7	1,929 0 0	" " "	" "
67	Tipperary.	Clonmellum	" "	" 25	4,490 0 0	" " "	" "
68	"	Ida and Olla, East.	(Navigation) footpaths and roads.	" 24	6,308 0 0	" " "	" "
69	"	Kilmorenagh, Upper	" "	" "	3,854 0 0	810 0 0	" "
70	"	Kilmorenagh, Lower	" "	" 21	3,118 0 0	" " "	" "
71	"	Middlethird	" "	" 23	5,360 0 0	" " "	" "
72	"	Ossmond, Upper	New roads, and improving old roads.	" "	4,600 0 0	2,585 0 0	" "
73	"	Ossmond, Lower	" "	" 2	9,295 0 0	" " "	" "
74	"	Oweny and Arna	" "	" 3	6,000 0 0	" " "	" "
75	Westmeath	Partullagh	" "	Feb. 19	1,600 0 0	300 0 0	March 17.
76	"	Rathcourse	" "	March 23	1,285 0 0	" " "	" "
					478,221 2 1	70,326 8 0	

Office of Public Works, Dublin, April 7, 1846.

By Order of the Board,

J. C. WALKER, Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 24, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, acknowledging the receipt of this Report, and state that it is their Lordships' wish that they should continue to furnish, at the expiration of each month, during the continuance of the present scarcity, a detailed Report of the progress of their operations under the several Acts of Parliament and other arrangements having any bearing upon the relief of the scarcity, showing to what extent issues have been made under each head for the execution of works of different kinds, and what precautions have been taken to prevent abuse.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 7, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, that their Lordships having had before them his letter, dated 4th instant, enclosing a Report from the Board of Works, dated 1st instant, recommending the execution of seven works in the Barony of Upper Tulla, County of Clare, under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict. cap. 21, have authorized the Commissioners to proceed with execution of the following works:—

Lowering the hill at Lodge, near Mr. Russell's house	£50
Cutting a hill on the road from Ennis to Scariff	60
Cutting the hill at Scariff	300

With regard to the other four works, which are new roads, at an aggregate cost of £1,156/10s., without any private contributions, their Lordships must suspend their sanction to them for the reasons and subject to the inquiries mentioned in the two Minutes of this Board, dated the 3rd instant, unless the Lord

For these Minutes see pages 251, 252.

commencing all the works included in the Report from the Board of Works, in which case his Excellency will, in the exercise of the discretion vested in him, give such directions as the case may seem to him to require.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information and guidance, with reference to their Report to the Lord Lieutenant, dated 1st instant, recommending the execution of certain works in the barony of Upper Tulla, county of Clare, under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict. cap. 31.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 7, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, that their Lordships must suspend their sanction to these works for reasons, and subject to the further inquiries explained in the Minutes of this Board, dated the 3rd instant.

See pages 224, 225.

Acquaint the Commissioners of Public Works.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 7, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, that their Lordships feel it incumbent on them to suspend their sanction to the following two works, for the same reasons and subject to the same further inquiries as have been fully explained in the Minutes of this Board, dated 3rd instant:—

For making a new line of road at Glenmore	£1200
For making a road from Deer Park to mail coach road	200

The Board of Works have been authorized to execute the other eight works included in their Report, dated 2nd instant, at an aggregate outlay of 1,495*l*.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, that their Lordships have caused his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to be informed that they feel it incumbent upon them to suspend their sanction to the following two works recommended in the Commissioners' Report, dated 2nd instant:—

For making a new line of road at Glenmore	£1200
For making a road from Deer Park to mail coach road	200

Also state that they are authorized to execute the other eight works included in the above-mentioned Report, at an aggregate cost of 1,495*l*.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 9, 1846.

I AM directed to acquaint you, with reference to the Treasury sanction of the 24th ultimo, for a grant of 575*l*. 15*s*. in aid of a new road from Cloumel to Dungerran, that since the estimate was framed, an increase in the price of labour has taken place, which will increase the cost of the work, and therefore the Earl of Stradbroke's agent is unwilling to contract for it at the estimated cost; and as the Board's engineer agrees in the necessity of an addition thereto, the Board propose, for the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury, an addition to the grant of fifty-seven pounds five shillings (57*l*. 5*s*.), Lord Stradbroke being willing to contribute an equal sum.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 14, 1846.

Inform the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland that my Lords are pleased to sanction the proposed addition of 57*l*. 5*s*. to the grant in question, making the whole sum to be contributed by Government and by the Earl of Stradbroke 633*l*. each, and the total expense of the work 1266*l*.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to the Right Hon. the EARL of LINCOLN.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
April 9, 1846.*

I CONSIDER it my duty to enumerate, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that the undermentioned works, which had been recommended by the Board of Works, have not been sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury until further information shall be afforded.

*See several proceedings
of Treasury
Minutes.*

This will account to his Excellency why particular works applied for have not been put in hand for execution. These works are new lines of roads, and their Lordships wish to ascertain the amount of private subscriptions which can be obtained. It is the practice of the Board of Works, in all cases where a line of road is likely to prove of private benefit or advantage, to call upon the individuals so to be benefited to state to what extent they are disposed to contribute; but in almost every case our applications remain unanswered, to avoid giving a positive refusal.

I would beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the amount applied for under the 9 Vic., cap. 1, which, up to the 31st March, the day our return for the Treasury terminated, was 478,321*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the sum recommended by the Board of Works 70,326*l.* 8*s.* The sum asked for was embraced in memorials from 15 counties only, and this at the present early period of the season, when potatoes generally are within reach of the poorer classes. It, therefore, behoves us to look forward and consider what are likely to be the demands upon Government, and whether the present system is the best as regards economical expenditure, and affording general and beneficial employment.

From all I can learn, the baronial sessions are not conducted in a satisfactory manner. Inquiries as to the roads to be included in the memorial, are not previously instituted by the county surveyor, or any professional person; the lines or pieces of road applied for are put down upon the application of individuals, the majority of the meeting not being at all aware of the positions of the roads; and many present at the meeting, who would be disposed to object, consider, under the present state of the country, that it is more prudent to assent, than to offer opposition. From want of previous inquiry, sums of money are put down which are totally inadequate to allow of the works being properly executed. In fact, it appears to be a system for each barony to apply for as much as they think Government will grant. Yesterday a deputation from the barony of Bunratty, in the county of Clare, stated they had made a calculation, based upon the census of 1841, as to the proportion of the 50,000*l.* voted, they were entitled to receive, and they had, in order to secure it, put down in their memorial sums which amounted to their proportion!

This is an abuse which the Board of Works and their officers have no power to guard against. Unfortunately, the memorials are not sent in until the demands for work become pressing, and no time is afforded for making those inquiries which it is so desirable should be made. It is extremely difficult for the officers who are sent down to the country to report upon the applications, to ascertain what is the true state of affairs. It frequently happens that the Relief Commissioners send us urgent demands for employment when that same day's post has brought us reports from an officer in the same district that there is no immediate necessity for work. What is to be done to meet the demands such as the deputation alluded to above make, when they state that there are 20,000 persons in their barony without a potato to eat and without the means to purchase? The Act 9 Vic., c. 1, will not meet such cases; and I would respectfully request the attention of Government to be directed to this important subject.

At present the aid afforded by Government is granted upon the application of those who are personally and locally interested. Some check should be put upon this system, or some other better mode adopted, to secure a proper administration of the funds so generously allocated by Government for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland.

I hope your Lordship will feel that it is only from a sense of duty, and from an anxious desire to carry out the views of the Government, that I have brought this subject under consideration. When we reflect upon the amount asked for, the mode in which it is applied, and the amount of destitution there is likely to be, and the little assistance to be expected from private contributions to meet the advances making by Government, it is impossible to calculate upon the extent to which aid will be required.

GRANTS for the RELIEF of the DISTRESS in IRELAND.

The mistake which has been made consists in this,—that among several means of relief which have been provided, one (*the half-grant system*) includes such advantages to the landlords as to have led to a general demand for it, whether relief for the people was required or not; so that, instead of a *test of real distress*, we have a *test of an interested exaggeration*; and there has been an exclusive application to this particular means of relief, not for the sake of the remedy, but of the *ager in which it is offered*, to the neglect of the other and less objectionable means which have been provided to meet the present emergency.

For many years past *grants* in aid of public works have been confined to remote, wild, and poor districts, like Connemara and the western parts of Mayo and Donegal; and, even there, a proportionate contribution has been required from the proprietors interested.

But when this *new system of half-grants* was made applicable to the whole of Ireland by the recent Act, the appeal thus made to the selfishness of the proprietors was irresistible; and in the general scramble for this unlooked-for boon, the ordinary and much smaller advantages offered by the Board of Works' Loan Fund, have been despised and rejected; and, indeed, it is unreasonable to expect that *classes of people will consent to do things entirely at their own expense*, when there is a chance of their being done for them, *half at their own and half at the public expense*. The Treasury has done what it can to resist the torrent, by requiring proof of distress, and calling on the proprietors for contributions; but these endeavours must be to a great extent ineffectual, because, among other reasons, the proprietors have only to hold out until a case of distress is made out, in order to force the Government to yield to their terms; and, in the mean time, the Government is placed in the awkward and injudicious position of hesitating to apply a remedy which it has itself devised, and withholding the relief which it had itself previously been supposed to offer.

If the first Act of the present Session had been based on the same principle as the Grand Jury Presentment Act, and had been confined to the object of providing a more expeditious and simple machinery for bringing the Board of Works' Loan Fund into operation, as the Grand Jury Presentment Act was intended to render the sums annually raised by grand jury presentment immediately available, all the means for the relief of the present distress would then have worked harmoniously; the burthen would have been placed equally, and in perfect consistence with the established practice of the country, upon the land; and, in the absence of any apparent means of making a profit out of the prevailing distress, the appeal would have been direct to the patriotism of the landowners, reinforced by a wholesome apprehension of the consequences likely to ensue to them from their failing to acquit themselves in a creditable manner under the responsibility fixed upon them.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

Treasury, April 15, 1846.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 11, 1846.

Authorize the Commissioners of Public Works to proceed in the execution of the following works, recommended in their Report to the Lord Lieutenant of 7th inst., viz.:—

In the Barony of Upper Ormond, in County of Tipperary.

Lowering hills in Clack and Kunhane parishes, estimated at	£250
Filling dykes and improving the road through Ballymacky by Caminn	
Lowering Knockhalten Hill	150
" a hill near Lissenhall	250
" hill near Kilmore	100
" two hills near Toomara	160
" hill near Russel Mill	165
" hill near Glenahilty	50
" hill near Chapel of Minagh	80
For raising the road between Ballymacclagh Bridge and Patrick's House	30
	50

And inform the Commissioners that my Lords will, for the reasons stated in former communications from this Board, postpone their decision on the other works recommended in the said Report.

Acquaint Mr. Pennefather with the communication made to the Commissioners of Public Works, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 11, 1846.

Authorize the Commissioners of Public Works to execute all the works in the Barony of Lower Navan, in the County of Meath, recommended in their Report to the Lord Lieutenant of 4th instant, with the exception of the new road from Foxes Lane to the Navan and Athboy Road, their decision upon which my Lords will postpone; the expense of the works now authorized being 745*l*.

Acquaint Mr. Pennefather.

TREASURY MINUTE.

April 11, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, authorizing the execution of the work at Gray Abbey, on the road from Ballinasloe to Creggs and Castlereagh, in the barony of Killyan, county of Galway, at an expense of 50*l*., and informing them that my Lords will, for the reasons which have been already repeatedly stated, defer their decision on the other works in the same Barony recommended in the Report to the 4th instant, to the Lord Lieutenant.

Acquaint Mr. Pennefather with the communication made to the Board of Works, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

COMMISSIONERS OF WOODS, &c., to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

April 14, 1846.

In our Reports of 15th September, 1843, and 8th February, 1844, we brought under your Lordships' consideration the circumstances connected with a property belonging to the Crown, known as "The King's Island," at Limerick, the rents and revenues arising from which had been formerly possessed by the constables of Limerick Castle, and which had come within our management as part of the land revenue of the Crown, on the abolition of that office, when held by the late Lord Gort.

And in the latter of those Reports we sought your Lordships' authority to enter into an agreement with Mr. Thomas Nolan, for his occupation of this property as tenant to the Crown, from year to year, commencing on the 29th day of September then preceding, and subject to the payment of the sum of 289*l*. 4*s*. 8*d*., in respect of each of such year's occupation, and to the conditions and provisos therein specified.

This authority was communicated to us by Sir Thomas Fremantle's letter of the 17th of February, 1844; and an instrument of agreement having been entered into with Mr. Nolan, he has continued to occupy these premises at the above rent, and subject to the conditions and provisos referred to.

With reference to the suggestions hereinafter made, we beg to transmit herewith a general plan of the King's Island, showing its connexion with the city, and the extent and boundaries of that portion thereof, which, as the property of the Crown, has been since the date of the above agreement, and now is, in the occupation of Mr. Nolan.

From this map your Lordships will perceive that the island is defended from the inroads of the river, by an embankment surrounding its whole circuit (marked on the plan as "Tide Bank"), and that the Crown's portion of the island is bounded towards the city by a line running east and west from E. to B., the river Shannon forming the western and the Abbey River the eastern boundary to the Crown property.

The embankment in question is of earth; it is imperfectly constructed; narrow, and suffers frequently from heavy floods occurring in the rivers; thereby exposing the Lands within its bounds to damage from inundation, and requiring a constant outlay on the part of the tenant to repair and maintain it as a fence.

In the course of the year 1843, it was suggested to us, on the part of the Cor-

poration of Limerick, that this bank might be made available as a public walk for the use and recreation of the inhabitants of the city, which is occupied on the side next to the island by a dense population of the poorer class; and that such an arrangement, if carried out, would tend materially to the benefit of the inhabitants by affording them the means of enjoying air and exercise, from which they are at present to a great extent debarred, by their position in the town.

Founded on these suggestions, a correspondence ensued with the Corporation, in which we proposed to recommend to your Lordships that we should be authorized to execute such works as would be required for enlarging the embankment to such a width as would form it into a walk for the benefit of the public, on condition of the Corporation providing out of their own funds for the construction of fit and proper approaches thereto from the city; one of these approaches to be formed upon the east side from Thomond Bridge at the point marked A. on the map, to join the bounds of the Crown property at B; and the other on the west side from Park-gate Bridge at the point marked H, through G. and F., to the bounds of the Crown property on that side at E.

To this proposal the Corporation declined to accede, unless we would consent to recommend the enlargement of the embankment at the expense of the Crown to such an extent as would provide not only a walk, but a carriage drive for the public, involving an outlay which we did not deem it expedient to propose to your Lordships.

At this point the negotiations carried on directly with the Corporation terminated.

Recently, however, applications have been made to us on behalf of the Corporation, through John O'Brien, Esq., one of the members for the city of Limerick, expressing their desire to treat with us either for a lease or for the purchase of the fee-simple of this property, in order to the same being appropriated under the direction of the corporation to public purposes, partly as a public park, and in other part as a cemetery, or in allotments to the poor.

Viewing the circumstances under which the property is occupied, the revenue derived from it, the objects which the Corporation had in view, and that there was the probability that they would not agree to become the lessors of the Crown if those objects are to be carried out except upon such beneficial terms as we had no power, under the Land Revenue Act, to recommend, we proposed terms to them for the purchase from the Crown of the fee-simple and inheritance of the land, namely, thirty years' purchase of the present rental, payable to the Crown, under deduction therefrom of the amount at which a general repair of the embankment had been estimated: an outlay which, whatever might be the result of the negotiation with the corporation, it would be necessary should be incurred for the security and protection of the Crown's property from the river floods.

To this proposal the Corporation have stated, that the amount required by us for the purchase of the fee-simple was beyond the present state of their funds; but that they trusted at no very distant period that they might be able to effect a purchase in which the health and convenience of the citizens are so much concerned.

And at the same time they submitted for our consideration a proposition to the effect, that if the expense of the formation of an embankment of 20 feet in width as a public walk, and of half the cost of making corresponding approaches thereto from the city were borne by this Board, the Corporation would undertake to bear the other half of the cost of making these approaches. And they urged upon us further that the present scarcity of food, and distress among the lower classes of the city, rendered it highly expedient that immediate relief in the way of employment should be extended to them.

The urgent distress of the lower class of the population of the city of Limerick is fully borne out by the statement of the mayor of Limerick, recently submitted to us, and by Mr. O'Brien, copies of which are herewith transmitted.

The work proposed we consider to be one which, while it would afford employment at the present season to the laborious poor of the district, will be highly advantageous to the Crown property, not only as a defence against inundation, but as giving the means of internal drainage, and tending materially to increase the value of the lands.

The work also, when completed and made available as a public walk, will in no small degree tend to the moral and social improvement of the adjoining quarter of the city, by providing the means of healthful recreation and exercise to the inhabitants of a densely populated district.

An estimate of the probable cost of erecting an embankment of the width proposed, and of forming the necessary approaches, has been recently laid before us, from which it appears that the former will amount to the sum of 2062*l.* 1*s.*, and the latter to 1363*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, one moiety of which latter amount would have to be defrayed by the Corporation, leaving the cost to be provided out of the funds of this department 2743*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

In notifying to the Corporation that we were prepared to recommend to your Lordships the adoption of this arrangement, we have stipulated, in the event of the same being sanctioned, that the funds to be provided by the Corporation should be placed at our disposal prior to the commencement of any works connected with the approaches; and that the whole arrangements should be executed under our control and direction. We propose to place the immediate superintendence of the works under Mr. Boyss, the Crown Agent of the King William's Town Estate, in whose competence for such a service we have entire confidence, and to whom we will give instructions in carrying out the works, to select as many of the unemployed and destitute poor of Limerick as may be found competent.

And further, as your Lordships will perceive on reference to the map, that the ground forming the site of the requisite approaches from A. to B., and from E. to H., is beyond the bounds of the Crown property, we would require that all the necessary proceedings for obtaining possession of so much thereof as is required for the accesses should be effected by and at the expense of the Corporation over and above the moiety of the cost of forming these approaches.

Should your Lordships, on consideration of the foregoing circumstances above stated, coincide with us in opinion as to the expediency of this work being undertaken on the principle and in the manner above specified, we have to request that we may, as early as may be practicable, receive your authority to expend out of the ordinary income of the Land Revenues of the Crown in Ireland within our management the sum of Three thousand four hundred and twenty-five pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence (3425*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*) in the execution of such works as shall be necessary for repairing, reforming, and enlarging the present river bank or fence of the King's Island, so as to form the same into a public walk of 20 feet in width at the top, and also in forming such approaches thereto from the city at Thomond Bridge and Park Gate Bridge as may be required to give a public and convenient access thereto for the inhabitants of the city of Limerick, provided the Corporation of the city of Limerick shall contribute thereto, and in aid of these funds the sum of Six hundred and eighty-one pounds eighteen shillings and nine pence (681*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*), as the one moiety of the estimated cost of forming the required approaches, the amount thereof to be lodged to our account at the Bank of Ireland prior to the commencement of any of the works connected with this portion of the improvements.

Mr. Boyss's report, and estimates for the proposed embankment and approaches (received this morning) are transmitted herewith, which, with the general map of the island, we have to request may be returned with your Lordships' decision.

MR. TREVELYAN to the COMMISSIONERS of WOODS and FORESTS.

Treasury Chambers, April 15, 1846.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your report of the 14th instant, in which you request authority for the outlay of a sum of 3425*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in the formation of a public walk at Kingsland Island, Limerick, provided the Corporation of Limerick shall contribute the sum of 681*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* as one moiety of the estimated cost of making the approaches, I am commanded by their Lordships to convey to you their authority for this expenditure, and I am to urge upon you the expediency of an early commencement of the work.

The Enclosures to your Report are returned herewith, as requested.

Mr. GRIFFITH to the EARL of LINCOLN.

Limerick, April 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I reached Limerick from Dublin on the morning of the 18th instant, and almost immediately proceeded to Cratloe, where I found Mr. Stafford O'Brien and the Relief Committee for the district assembled to meet me. On inquiring into the nature of the proceedings, and the state of the people, I found that although the local subscriptions were considerable, and that much extra employment was given the people by Mr. Stafford O'Brien, great distress prevailed on the adjoining estates, and that the funds in the hands of the Committee were quite inadequate to employ those who had no food even for a few weeks.

Having subsequently examined the several roads in the district on the improvements of which it was proposed to employ the people, and having walked over the line of a new road which I was informed had been approved of by the Board of Works, I laid out certain of the road improvements, and recommended that labourers might be employed on the line of the new road, in quarrying and breaking stones at a fixed price per cube yard, to be used afterwards for metalling the road; and to aid the Committee in this work, I informed them that I was authorised to contribute half the expense, but that care should be taken not to employ any individual whose family had any other means of support.

Next day I proceeded, accompanied by Sir Lucius O'Brien, Bart. and his brother, Mr. R. O'Brien, to meet the Relief Committee at the Six-mile Bridge and Newmarket districts of the county Clare; here I found that the county surveyor, acting under the orders of the Board of Works, was making arrangements for commencing works in the vicinity of both towns, and, in consequence, it was unnecessary that I should interfere; and the Relief Committee determined to confine their operations in future to the distribution of Indian meal at cost price, about 10s. 6d. per cwt., to the able-bodied, but to sell at an under price to those who were unable to earn a full rate of wages, and to give, without return, a small quantity to such persons as from age or infirmity were unable to work, and who had no person immediately connected with them who could earn their support by labour.

The price of labour has generally been raised throughout the country from 8d. to 10d. per day; and when it is considered that no labourer could consume one pound of Indian meal when made into bread or stirabout, which is usually sold by the Committee at one penny, it becomes evident that even with a family of six, fourpence-worth of meal for food will suffice, and the remainder can be expended in the purchase of milk and fuel.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, I was engaged in making a tour through the baronies of Clonwilliam, Coonagh, Owey Beg, Pubble Brien, Kenry, and Lower Connelloe, in the county Limerick, and attended meetings of several Relief Committees, as well as examined the lines of several proposed roads and other works, and I have the pleasure to say that the numerous Committees are using every exertion to relieve the distress, and procure employment for the people. My arrival appeared to give very general satisfaction, being considered as the immediate precursor of more general employment, which is looked for with anxiety by all parties. Acting on the same principle as at Cratloe, I have offered to assist the Relief Committee at Pallskenry, in the barony of Kenry, in employing the people to break stones for a new road which is to be made in that neighbourhood; the amount expended on which will be repaid on the commencement of the road by the county surveyor, so that ultimately my advance will be returned.

In the same manner I have consented to aid the Committee of the district of Ballynahane, in the barony of Pubble Brien, by contributing funds to enable them to employ the most distressed, in a very poor and deserted neighbourhood, to break stones for a proposed road from the base of Tory Hill to Ballynahane. In my tour through the barony of Kenry I was attended by Mr. De Vere and his brother, sons of Sir Aubrey De Vere, Bart., and in Pubble Brien by Mr. Mansell, of Tirree; and I received much assistance and information from Lord Dunraven.

For the barony of Coonagh, to the east of Limerick, no meetings had been held to apply for works under the 9th Viet. cap. 1, or 9th Viet. cap. 2; but I understood a baronial meeting was held yesterday under the first-mentioned Act.

For the most part of the barony of Coonagh is much neglected, and there are very few resident gentry, though Lord Stanley's agent, who resides in a neighbouring district in the county of Tipperary, is very zealous and active; but I apprehend

much difficulty will be experienced during the next four months, in employing the people, and keeping them in due subordination.

The same observations are applicable to the adjoining barony of Ouney Beg; but there I found at the village of Cappamore a newly formed but active committee sitting, who, although they had met for the first time only the day before, had already procured a supply of Indian meal from Limerick, which they intended to dispose of in the same manner as other committees had determined to do. This committee consisted of Mr. Holland, a magistrate residing in the neighbourhood, his brother, and the Protestant curate residing at Cappamore. A letter had been addressed to each of the absent landed proprietors of the barony, soliciting subscriptions, but in the mean time the committee had commenced work with their own subscriptions, which amounted to 25*l*.

With the exception of Cratloe in the county of Clare, Pallaskeyny, and Ballycashane, in the county of Limerick, I have not consented to make any advance in aid of the local committees; and when the contemplated work has been commenced, no assistance of the kind will be necessary; but what has been done, though trifling, has had a very good effect.

In the city of Limerick, considerable funds, to the amount of about 1700*l*. have been raised by subscription, and at present 600 labourers are daily employed in various works throughout the city; but the mayor and corporation are most anxious that other works should be forthwith commenced to relieve their own fund from the present pressure, and enable it to hold out to the end of the season. In this respect I shall be able to assist by commencing immediately the embankments, &c., at the King's Island, authority for which I received this morning from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, confirmed by the Treasury. Including the approaches, one half of which is to be paid by the Corporation of Limerick, the sum to be expended will amount to 2300*l*., which will enable me to give employment to 350 men for about four months; and as it is probable other works will soon be commenced under the 9th Vic. cap. 1, I think matters will go on in a satisfactory manner.

Lord LINCOLN to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, April 20, 1846.

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, stating that the Lords of the Treasury would recommend to Parliament that grants to the amount of 119,750*l*. might be made in aid of the improvement of navigation in connexion with four great Drainage Works in Ireland, such grants being a moiety of expense peculiar to the navigation improvement, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication on the subject from the Board of Public Works, and of the Papers Nos. 1 and 2 which accompanied it; and I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to request that you will call the attention of the Lords of the Treasury to the causes, as explained in the letter of the Board of Works, which have occasioned the increase of the Estimate No. 1 for these Works, as compared with that referred to in your letter of the 21st ultimo, and that you will convey to their Lordships the recommendation of His Excellency for their sanctioning the amount of the Estimate No. 1, viz., 135,570*l*. 3*s*. 7*d*.

ENCLOSURE.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the Earl of LINCOLN.

Office of Public Works, April 9, 1846.

THE Commissioners have received from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury a communication, dated the 19th March, 1846, in which the Board are informed that their Lordships are disposed to recommend to Parliament that grants to the amount of 119,750*l*. might be made in aid of the improvement of navigation in connexion with four great Drainage Works in Ireland, such grants being a moiety of expense peculiar to the navigation improvement. The Works to which their Lordships' letter referred were—

Lough Neagh and River Ban,
Lough Erne and Lough Oughter,
Lough Erne to the Shannon,
Lough Corrib, Mask, and Carra

drainage and navigation improvement.

I am directed to inform your Lordship that the amount of the estimates for these measures, to which the Treasury communication refers, was that calculated upon in May, 1845, when, as stated in Mr. Mulrany's memorandum of the 3rd of that month, the plans and estimates were not completed.

The estimated amount of one-half the cost of the works peculiar to navigation, as ascertained by the revised estimates, completed up to the present time, is 135,573*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, exclusive of interest on borrowed money, as such estimates are more particularly set out in the accompanying table (Paper No. 1), which the Board submit should be substituted for that contained in their Lordships' minute.

As a communication to this effect was made to your Lordship by Mr. Mulrany, on the part of the Board, on the 10th ult., the Commissioners presume that you have since communicated with their Lordships on the subject.

An accurate description of the measures for which the grants are proposed to be made may be required in framing the resolutions to be submitted to the House of Commons; I beg, therefore, to transmit the accompanying Paper No. 2.

PAPER No. 1.

NAVIGATION CONNECTED WITH DRAINAGE IN IRELAND.

No.	Districts.	Total Estimate of Cost, including Interest, except in No. 2.	Proportions Chargeable.				Moieties of Cost of Navigation, including Interest, except in No. 2.				Moieties of Cost of Navigation, without Interest, and Amount of Proposed Grant.			
			To Drainage, Mill-power, and Public Bridges.				To Navigation.							
		<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
1	Lough Neagh and Lower Bann.	200,714 4 7	121,429 4 7			79,285 0 0					100,357 10 0	50,178 5 0	50,178 5 0	
2	Lough Erne and Lough Ogish, from Belleek to Killybegs, and near to Carris (approximate estimate, exclusive of interest).	55,000 0 0	32,000 0 0			23,000 0 0					17,000 0 0	8,500 0 0	8,500 0 0	
3	Junction Navigation from the Shannon to Lough Erne.	118,701 4 4	10,616 0 0			98,085 4 4					40,025 12 2	20,012 6 1	20,012 6 1	
4	Lough Corrib Lough Mask and Carris	74,851 11 5 78,370 11 5	44,086 10 10 17,221 8 3			29,765 0 7 53,367 0 3					14,882 0 3 26,678 11 2	7,441 0 1 13,339 5 6	7,441 0 1 13,339 5 6	
	Totals	448,236 11 16	215,526 4 8			232,710 7 2					115,324 13 7	57,662 6 8	57,662 6 8	

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
April, 1846.

By order of the Board,
JOH. C. WALKER.

PAPER No. 2.

Drainage Acts, Ireland, 5 and 6 Vic. c. 89; 8 and 9 Vic. c. 69, and 9 Vic. c. 4.

INLAND NAVIGATIONS.

Description of Navigations for which Grants are proposed (for Insertion in Resolutions of House of Commons).

A GRANT to the extent of a moiety of the cost and expenses peculiar to the making and improving the following navigations, in conjunction with drainage, under the provisions of said Acts, and not exceeding in the whole the sum of 135,573*l.*, that is to say,—

1. The navigation (in the Lough Neagh district, situate in the counties of Antrim, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, and Down,) of the Lower Bann River, from the bridge of Coleraine, on the tidal part of said river, to Lough Neagh, and extending thence to the first lock or entrance of the Lagan, Newry, Ulster, and Coal Island canals.

2. The navigation (in the Lough Erne and Lough Ogish district, situate in the counties of Fermanagh and Carrick) from Belleek, by the course of Upper and Lower Lough Erne, Lough Ogish, and the River Erne, and the towns of Enniskillen and Belurbet to Killybegs, and near to the town of Carris.

3. The Junction navigation (in the Ballinamore and Ballyconnell district, situate in the counties of Leitrim, Carrick, and Fermanagh,) by the course of the Woodford River and Lakes from Lough Erne, at the mouth of the said river, to the River Shannon, near the village of Leitrim.

4. The navigation (in the Lough Corrib and Mask districts, in the counties of Galway, Limerick, and Mayo,) by the River and Lake Corrib, and Loughs Mask and Carris, from the seat at Galway to the northern extremity of said Lough Mask and Carris, and to Cloon Lough in the River Aille.

By order of the Board,

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
April, 1846.

JOH. C. WALKER.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 24, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, that their Lordships having received through the Earl of Lincoln a copy of their Report, dated 9th instant, with its Enclosures, numbered 1 and 2, on the subject of the four great contemplated Works of Drainage and Navigation, from which it appears that the moiety of the cost of the navigation which it is proposed should be provided by a grant of Parliament is estimated to amount to 135,573*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, their Lordships desire that they will report what portion of the said amount is likely to be required within the financial year 1846-7.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, April 28, 1846.

In obedience to the desire of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, communicated by your letter of the 24th instant, I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to report, that of the estimated sum of 135,573*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, which it is proposed should be provided by a Grant of Parliament as the moiety of the cost of executing the four great works of drainage and navigation included in the Report of this Board to the Earl of Lincoln of the 9th instant, the sum which, in the opinion of the Commissioners, is likely to be required within the period of the current financial year 1846-7, will not exceed 35,000*l.*

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 8, 1846.

Write to the Earl of Lincoln with reference to his letter, dated 20th April, transmitting copy of a communication from the Commissioners of Public Works, dated 9th of the same month, with two enclosures, on the subject of the four great works of navigation and drainage, and state that their Lordships have been pleased to sanction the revised estimate amounting altogether to 135,573*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, which has been submitted by the Board of Works, of that portion of the expense of improving the several lines of navigation, which will have to be provided for by a public grant.

Add, that the Board of Public Works have reported that of the above-mentioned sum of 135,573*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, the sum likely to be required within the period of the current financial year 1846-7, will not exceed 35,000*l.*, and their Lordships will accordingly cause provision to be made for that sum in the estimates about to be laid before Parliament.

Transmit a copy of this minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information.

Let the papers be transferred to the Clerk of Parliamentary Accounts, in order that the necessary provision may be made in the Miscellaneous Estimates.

MEMORIAL OF THE WATERFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Waterford,

Respectfully sheweth,—

THAT the labouring population of this city and neighbourhood have suffered greatly during the past winter, from the dearth and bad quality of their ordinary food, together with the usual concomitant evil, typhus fever, and are now, for the most part, in a state of deplorable destitution. That, as the year advances, the sad

effects of the partial destruction of the last potato crop are daily becoming more painfully manifest, while the heavy pressure on the poor is aggravated by a general deficiency of employment; yet notwithstanding the trying severity of their sufferings and privations, the working classes of this locality have evinced a spirit of patient endurance deserving of the utmost praise.

That Memorialists, in common with their fellow citizens of all classes and denominations, have, by the formation of Relief Committees, by raising a large amount of subscriptions, and by other measures, done all in their power to prepare the means of affording relief in this emergency; but they feel convinced, nevertheless, that neither the exertions of Local Committees, however active or well-directed, nor the proceeds of any private subscriptions, however munificent, can do more than very partially mitigate a calamity of such fearful magnitude.

That while your Memorialists readily and gratefully acknowledge the humane and provident care manifested by Her Majesty's Government, in securing timely supplies of Indian corn for the food of the people, and in facilitating the admission of further quantities of this useful article by a liberal reduction of the import duty, they feel bound respectfully to declare their belief, that these wise and beneficent measures will fail of producing the intended relief, unless employment on a most extensive scale can be forthwith provided for the classes who live only by their labour.

Your Memorialists beg leave to represent that, most fortunately, a happy and reasonable opportunity for such employment would now be found in the neighbourhood of this city, and in the equally distressed and populous localities of Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir, and Tipperary, if the construction of the *Waterford and Limerick Railway* could be immediately and simultaneously proceeded with throughout its whole extent. The operations of the Company empowered to execute this line have been hitherto, we understand, necessarily confined to the formation of that portion of it (35 miles) extending from Limerick to Tipperary; being bound by their Act of Parliament to have so much of it completed before the 1st of May, 1847; to which purpose the Directors have been obliged to devote all the money that has been hitherto raised from the shareholders.

Under these circumstances, and as the only obvious means of providing employment at once useful, permanent, and sufficiently extensive to meet the pressing exigency of the case, your Memorialists respectfully solicit that a sum of money may be advanced, as a loan, by Her Majesty's Government to the *Waterford and Limerick Railway Company*, of such an amount as may enable the Directors of that body to commence operations immediately along the whole of the remaining portion of their line from Tipperary to Waterford.

This measure, if promptly adopted, will have the happy effect, in the opinion of your Memorialists, of rescuing thousands of well-disposed men, idle and willing to labour for the support of themselves and their numerous families, from the awful consequences of hopeless poverty, idleness, and crime; will greatly tend to preserve or restore the public tranquillity; and will, at the same time, accelerate the accomplishment of a most beneficial public work, to the speedy completion of which your Memorialists look forward with intense anxiety, as the certain means of increasing, to an incalculable extent, the commerce of this important port, and of developing the resources of the extensive, fruitful, and populous tract of country through which this line is to run.

Memorialists, therefore, earnestly request that you, respected Sir, will be pleased to use your influence with the other members of Her Majesty's Government to induce them to consent to the issue of the desired loan to the Company aforesaid.

And Memorialists will ever pray.

Signed on behalf, and by desire of, the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Waterford.

GEORGE WHITE,

Waterford, April 22, 1846.

President.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

April 28, 1846.

Acquaint the parties that my Lords do not consider it advisable to make special advances to Railway Companies who have undertaken to make railways on private account exclusively for individual advantage; that it is open to those Companies to raise money by calls on their subscribers, or by loans; and that on application to the Commissioners for Exchequer Loans, their claim to receive a loan from the public funds, on the same conditions and securities as the undertakers of other works of the same description, will be duly considered.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, May 2, 1846.

I send herewith an extract of a letter from a Lieutenant of a county, which will give you some idea of the mode in which the memorials are applied for, by which you will readily perceive the difficult task we have to perform:—

"I request you will assure his Excellency that no person is more sensible than I am of the imperfect and crude manner the applications from the barony of _____ were put forward; but the magistrates and cess-payers were so eager that they would not delay the calling of the meeting until we had the benefit of the county surveyor's attendance. The consequence was, that slips of paper, where no measurement or previous survey had been made, were approved of, the applicants conceiving that the money asked for in each locality, and agreed to be presented, would be laid out as the engineer to be employed might think proper or direct; it being quite impossible, as connected with relief, that time would permit, or proper persons could be obtained, to make the correct plans and estimates required by the grand jury or Act of Parliament; and, indeed, amongst the poorer and remote districts, the applicants would not go to the expense of a survey on a doubtful prospect of success. It was not thought right to stop the applications going before Government, imperfect and irregular as they were, they being so intimately connected with charitable relief, and were so numerous, that, in many instances, we endeavoured to get the applicants to lessen the amount sought, as it would appear improper to put in for large sums of money as well as for imperfect settlements." This will give you some idea how matters are managed. We certainly do find it to be our duty to reject many roads, either from the circumstance of the lines proposed not being desirable, or as not giving employment where wanted. If every road is to be made that is applied for, there will be plenty of expenditure; each barony and parish endeavours to get as much money as it can; but will it give everybody employment?

I passed through a barony (Roscommon) a few days since, and was told that the sessions were just closed, and that roads to the amount of 16,000*l.* had been applied for. In many cases, sooner than reject roads where the sum presented is too small, we endeavour to make the roads as narrow as possible, sooner than that delay should occur. One of two things must be done; either put an efficient check over the applications, or else relieve us from the responsibility, and let us merely pass the memorials on.

I have now lying before me two Reports from our engineers, one from Clonmel, who has, "in conjunction with the Relief Committee, reduced the number of men employed from 300 to 240, and at Fethard the wages have been reduced from 1*s.* to 10*d.* The chief part of the able-bodied labourers have been employed by the neighbouring farmers, and altogether matters appear to be going on favourably down here."

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

May 2, 1846.

BEFORE the end of this month we shall have real distress and misrepresentations to contend with. The latter being one of our greatest difficulties. The same post which brings us reports from our officers in the country that employment is not immediately required, brings most urgent and pressing instructions from the Castle or Relief Commissioners to the contrary effect. It is only by visiting the country that the real state of affairs can be known.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to me in my late tours to have been enabled to ascertain the true state of things in every county that I travelled; in all I was given to understand that immediate employment was not generally required.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, May 9, 1846.

I HAVE little to communicate. Since my last the accounts from the country are not so pressing for employment. The tillage and planting potatoes afford a great deal of employment at this moment, and are likely to do so until the end of this month. In many cases the Relief Committees have requested our engineers to hold their hands until the end of this month.

In some districts there will be a much less breadth of land planted with potatoes than usual, from two causes—one, a dislike of the farmer to let come-acre from the difficulty of getting the rent for the past year, and the other is, that the boys have been told that Government will employ them all at high wages.

TREASURY MINUTE.

May 12, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that their Lordships will not refuse their sanction to the immediate execution of such of the works in the barony of Dunmore, in the county of Galway, to the aggregate amount of 5750*l.*, recommended in their Report to the Lord Lieutenant, dated the 7th instant, as may be rendered indispensably necessary by the state of destitution of the people in each neighbourhood; but the cost of one of the proposed works ("for a new road from Tuam to Dunmore, by the race-course at Gurrane to the gate of Grange, 3000*l.*") is so considerable, and the Commissioners' Report as to the state of destitution in the neighbourhood is in such general terms ("Employment is much required for the labouring classes in this barony, which will be provided by the proposed works"), that, in the opinion of this Board, the works in question, and particularly that above adverted to, the cost of which alone amounts to 3000*l.*, should not be commenced, unless the evidence before the Lord Lieutenant, of the existence of a state of destitution requiring immediate assistance on the part of the public, should be such as to induce his Excellency to give his authority for their execution.

Transmit a copy of this minute to Mr. Pennefather, and request that he will submit it to the Lord Lieutenant for his information, and for such further directions as his Excellency may think fit to give.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

May 12, 1846.

WE have the honour to forward, herewith, our monthly Report of applications by memorial, to relieve distressed districts, for works under the

Act 9th Vict., c. 1. The sum applied for, as stated by us in our first Report, was four hundred and seventy-eight thousand two hundred and twenty-one pounds (478,221*l.*), and the total now applied for, up to the 30th day of April last, was seven hundred and eighty-five thousand four hundred and forty-eight pounds (785,448*l.*).

Our operations continue to be carried on as detailed by us in our former Report, and appear to work satisfactorily. We have been obliged, in consequence of the increase in the number of memorials, to apply to the Lieutenant-General commanding the forces in Ireland, for additional assistance, in placing at our disposal officers to inspect and report upon the applications. The officers so employed are performing their duty with zeal and intelligence. The reports which they furnish upon the state of the district enable us to form an opinion, and to be guided in the selection of the works most necessary to be commenced as regards the wants of the people. It is satisfactory for us to be enabled to state that the reports, generally, with some few exceptions, state that immediate employment is not required, and that our engineers, who are charged with the execution of the works, have been requested by the Relief Committee not to commence at present; and, in several localities where the Board's officer has appeared, on the day named to commence work very few men presented themselves. This favourable state of things has been caused by the usual employment afforded at this season of the year in tilling the land and planting potatoes.

If the Relief Committees will exercise a proper and sound discretion in the selection of the persons to be employed, we have little hesitation in stating that we shall be able to afford employment to those really needing assistance. These Committees should bear in mind that, every year, in the con-acre districts there exists more or less distress, according to the season, and, therefore, the Relief Committees should be very particular in issuing tickets for employment.

A RETURN of APPLICATIONS made under the 1st Victoria, c. 21, showing the Total Number of Applications, their Date and Amount, also, the Amount recommended, and the Date of Works being commenced, carrying on the Return furnished, ending 31st March up to the 30th April, 1846.

No. of Applications.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Works proposed.	Amount Applied for.		Amount Recommended.		Date of commencing Work.
					£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
as per last Return	(as per Return up to 31st March)				418,321	2 1	70,326	8 0	
75	Galway	Ballymore	March 25				2,810	0 0	April 11
		Galway	" 3				1,700	0 0	" 16
		Kilconnell	" 13				1,155	0 0	" 27
		Kilfinane	March 17				982	0 0	" 22
		Loughrea	" 14				990	0 0	
	Kerry	Clonsilla	" 14				3,100	0 0	April 20
		Glenties	" 6				2,380	0 0	
		Inverkeogh	" 14				3,000	0 0	April 30
	Kings	Ballybrit	" 4				505	0 0	
		Ballycavan	" 21				595	0 0	
	Limerick	Charleville	" 16				1,474	6 0	
		Connelloe, Lower	" 21				1,600	0 0	
		Peklemin	" 12				1,830	4 8	April 30
	Louth	Ardee	"				6,670	3 0	" 17
		Dundalk, Lower	"				2,895	0 0	" 9
	Meath	Sligo	Feb. 24				170	0 0	
	Rathfriland	Athlone	"				350	0 0	April 27
		Ballymole, North	Feb. 21				2,100	0 0	
		Castlemore	"				2,950	10 0	April 17
	Sligo	Castlemore	Feb. 18				900	0 0	" 28
	Tipperary	Clonsilla	March 25				780	0 0	" 27
		11th and 12th, East	" 24				1,610	0 0	" 22
		Kilnamonagh, Lower	" 21				1,247	15 0	" 24
		Midland	" 28				2,710	0 0	" 30
		Owney and Arm.	" 3				1,800	0 0	" 4
	Westmeath	Portlough	Feb. 19				500	0 0	
77	Carlow	Idroo, East	April 28	New, and improvement of old roads.	1,500	0 0			
78	"	Idroo, West	"	"					
79	"	Rathilly	April 29	New, and improvement of old roads.	650	0 0			
80	Cavan	Castlemore	"	"					
81	Clare	Burren	April 27	New, and improvement of old roads.	5,850	19 6			
82	Cork	Bantry	"	"					
83	"	Bere	"	"					
84	"	Carberry East (West)	April 30	New, and improvement of old roads.	900	0 0			
85	"	Carberry West (East)	" 30	"	1,600	0 0			
86	"	Condons and Glen- gibbon	" 27	"	3,470	2 6			
87	"	Deshullow	" 30	"	15,500	0 0			
88	"	Fernoy	" 9	"	2,385	0 0			
89	"	Heane and Buryan	"	"					
90	"	Kinsale	April 29	New, and improvement of old roads.	1,607	6 6			
91	"	Kinsale	"	"					
92	"	Kinsale	April 22	New, and improvement of old roads.	925	0 0			
93	"	Maskerry, East	"	"					
94	"	Maskerry, West	"	"					
95	"	Orroo and Kilmoe	"	"					
96	Galway	Ballypatrik	April 22	New, and improvement of old roads.	16,977	0 0			
97	"	Clon	" 10	"	6,694	0 0			
98	"	Drakelin	" 9	"	5,888	4 0			
99	"	Loughrea	" 11	"	6,368	0 0			
100	"	Moycollen	" 29	"	17,922	0 0			
101	"	Ross	" 29	"	6,271	0 0			
102	Kildare	Cushary	" 25	Improvement of old roads.	621	4 6			
103	"	Cane	" 23	New, and improvement of old roads.	1,378	19 6			
104	"	Kilsallen	"	"					
105	Kilkenny	Cannagh	April 29	New, and improvement of old roads.	1,290	0 0			
106	"	Gweeo	"	"					
107	Kings	Ballybay	April 29	New, and improvement of old roads.	1,885	0 0			

(continued)

A Return of Applications made under the 1st Victoria, c. 21, &c.—continued

No. of Application.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Works proposed.	Amount Applied for.		Amount Recommended.		Date of commencing Work.
					£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
106	Kings.	Cleedick	April 18	New, and improvement of old roads.	669	0 0	..	..	..
109	"	English	" 16	" "	924	0 0	..	..	..
110	"	Garrycastle	" 1	" "	12,000	0 0	..	..	..
111	"	Kilmarney	" 14	" "	1,558	0 0	..	..	..
112	"	Philipsstown, Upper	" 9	" "	6,991	0 0	..	..	..
113	Letchin	Castigallen	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
114	"	Letchin	April 28	New, and improvement of old roads.	8,800	0 0	..	..	..
115	"	Mohill	" 11	" "	16,000	0 0	..	..	..
116	Limerick	Connello, Upper	" 14	" "	9,527	0 0	..	..	..
117	"	Coonagh	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
118	"	Coshlin	April 18	New, and improvement of old roads.	20,600	0 0	..	..	..
119	"	Kerry	" 9	" "	4,920	0 0	..	..	..
120	"	Kilmallock	" 16	" "	826	0 0	..	..	..
121	"	Owneybeg	" 18	" "	4,913	0 0	..	..	..
122	"	Smalton	" 4	" "	9,037	0 0	..	..	..
123	Louth	Louth	" 18	" "	3,350	0 0	..	..	..
124	Mays	Borrischoole	" 24	" "	9,100	0 0	..	..	..
125	"	Carra	" 20	" "	9,900	0 0	..	..	..
126	"	Charnock	" 17	" "	2,576	0 0	..	..	..
127	"	Castelle (omitted in last Return).	March 8	" "	4,710	0 0	..	..	..
128	"	Eris	April 16	" "	15,000	0 0	..	..	..
129	"	Gallen	" 24	" "	9,900	0 0	..	..	..
130	"	Kilmaine	" 18	" "	4,200	0 0	..	..	..
131	"	Merrick	" 27	" "	6,900	0 0	..	..	..
132	"	Tinsley	" 16	" "	12,540	0 0	..	..	..
133	Meath	Lane	March 27	" "	1,620	0 0	..	..	..
134	"	Meyfemath, Lower.	April 6	Improvement of old roads.	250	0 8	..	..	..
135	"	Naxon, Upper	" 6	" "	650	0 0	..	..	..
136	Queen's	Charnalagh	" 16	New road	1,600	0 0	..	..	..
137	"	Cullenagh	" 22	New, and improvement of old roads.	2,100	0 0	..	..	..
138	Roscommon	Ballintubber, South	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
139	"	Moyean	April 29	New, and improvement of old roads.	500	0 0	..	..	..
140	"	Roscommon	" 29	" "	1,032	0 0	..	..	..
141	Sligo	Carbury	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
142	"	Cornan	April 14	New, and improvement of old roads.	3,459	16 0	..	..	..
143	"	Leyry	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
144	"	Tinnell	"	" "	..	..	..	..	..
145	Tipperary	Kilgorty	April 18	New, and improvement of old roads.	3,801	0 0	..	..	..
146	"	Iffa and Offa, West	" 14	" "	1,090	0 0	1,210	0 0	..
147	"	Ikerin	" 4	" "	3,527	0 0	..	..	..
148	"	Shiveenagh	" 26	" "	1,386	0 0	..	..	..
149	Waterford	Deane within Drum	" 26	" "	2,783	0 0	..	..	..
150	"	Uppertield	" 22	" "	4,590	0 0	..	..	..
151	Westmeath	Clonsilla	" 22	" "	1,285	0 0	..	..	..
152	"	Carkeene	" 22	" "	2,500	0 0	..	..	..
153	"	Kilkeny, West	" 18	" "	960	0 0	..	..	..
154	"	Moyenagh	" 11	" "	1,300	0 0	..	..	..
Totals					785,448	10 7	117,840	8 8	

* Application received since date of this Return will appear in Return for May.

Mem.—Total days of men employed, viz.—

In week ended, 4th April	12,979
11th April	17,451
18th April	21,738
26th April	26,765
2nd May	31,703
	110,636

By Order

JOS. C. WALKER, Secretary.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
12th May, 1845.

TREASURY MINUTE ON THE ABOVE.

May 15, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that the sanction given by their Lordships to the execution of works under the 9 Vict. cap. 1, is to be invariably understood as being conditional upon the works applied for being required for the relief of urgent and unusual distress arising from the late failure of the potato crop; and should any work which may have been sanctioned, or may hereafter be sanctioned under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, prove not to be actually required for the purpose of giving employment to relieve distress of the nature specified, the case to which their Lordships' sanction had reference must be considered as not having arisen, and no expenditure of public money should be authorized on account of any such work.

Transmit a copy of this Report and Minute to Mr. Pennafather for the Lord Lieutenant's information.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Board of Works, Dublin, May 21, 1846.

THE memorials are confined entirely to the rural districts, and in all likelihood the works applied for will not afford employment to all who will demand it. Farmer, priest, landlord, and tenant all make strong attempts to squeeze something out of the Government purse. It is very difficult for the Lord Lieutenant, under the applications and statements made to him, to resist ordering works.

Mr. GEORGE CAIRN to Sir ROBERT PEEL.

*Great Southern and Western Railway Office,
3, College Green, Dublin, May 22, 1846.*

I TOOK the liberty of addressing a letter to you, calling your attention to the position of the Dublin and Cashel, or Great Southern and Western Railway, in this country, and to the extensive relief which, through the instrumentality of the railway works, may be administered to a very distressed and densely-peopled country. In conformity with the intentions expressed in my letter to you, I made a personal application to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, through their Secretary, Mr. Brickwood, who advised me to put the substance of what I said into a letter formally addressed to the Commissioners. He told me, at the same time, that the sum I mentioned far exceeded the means placed in the hands of the Board. I accordingly wrote a letter, a copy of which I enclose, together with the Commissioners' answer to my application. I now, therefore, again solicit you to take the subject of my letter into your consideration. By a more liberal grant this year to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, they will be enabled to lend, on good security, such amounts as will be sufficient to meet the wants of the borrowers, and adequate and most opportune to relieve, or at least mitigate, the deep distress now certain to prevail in the months of July and August next.

I have consulted the principal contractors on our line, and I find that, in case we had at once a sum of 500,000*l.*, they would undertake to give immediate employment to many thousands in distress, now destitute and unemployed. By a simultaneous action the employment would be distributed judiciously along the greater part of the line; and the wages being paid in cash, and with the most scrupulous regularity, the disbursement of such a considerable sum through the labouring classes must either, if not entirely remove, all apprehensions of suffering from want and idleness.

If you do not feel disposed to extend the grant to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners sufficiently to meet the demand I now make, our Company must, of course, restrict its works within the limits prescribed by the tardy contributions of calls, or the uncertain resource of a loan in the public money market; both means totally inadequate to meet the emergency. The Government has now an opportunity of affording the greatest extent of relief with the certainty of a punctual repayment of every shilling borrowed. A great national work will be materially advanced; and a population, the most obstinate in resistance to law, and the most

difficult to tranquillize, will, it is hoped, learn by a salutary experience to trust to industry alone for its social improvement and permanent welfare.

May I request to know what your determination will be on this proposition; as I could, without delay, make such arrangements with the contractors as would enable them to commence work early in July.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR,

London, May 7, 1846.

I TAKE the liberty of requesting you to lay before your Board the following statement which I make on the part of the Southern and Western Railway in Ireland.

The line has been laid out in conformity with the recommendation of a Government Commission. It is essentially a great central trunk line, connecting the capital of the country with the southern and western districts, having the cities of Cork and Limerick as termini in two directions; the thriving town of Carlow, situated on the river Barrow, on another; and passing through or near many populous towns in the intermediate distances. Early in July next, 56 miles of a double line of railway will be open for public traffic as far as Carlow; and in October it is confidently expected a further portion of the main trunk line will be open to Mounttruth. Half the capital of the Company, viz., 1,250,000*l.*, will be paid up in July, when the Company, under the provisions of the Act of Incorporation, is entitled to borrow money, and mortgage the line as security.

My object in troubling the Commissioners with the above details is to lay a foundation for the application I now make, being, that the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners should in July next, when the Railway Company shall be in a condition to afford a legal security, advance by Exchequer Bills, or otherwise, the sum of 500,000*l.*, to enable the Railway Company to continue with vigour the execution of the works.

I most earnestly entreat the attention of your Board to the following considerations: The railway passes through a fertile country, it is true, but suffering at this time the deepest distress by the failure of the potato crop and want of employment. The dense population of the towns along the line, Thurles, Templemore, Tipperary, has long been notorious for its turbulent and discontented character, and now aggravated by a famine. There appears no way of averting the impending calamity but by giving full and active employment to the peasantry. This most desirable object the Railway Company confidently undertakes to effect. All the works at this stage are of that description that can be executed by the ordinary labour of the country; and, with a certainty of obtaining the aid now sought, I may safely assert that 50,000 poor fellows, now starving and idle, will be placed in a condition to earn such wages as will render them and their wretched families comfortable and independent during the two most trying months in the year, July and August, when the old crop is exhausted and the new not ripe.

I make this application with the more confidence, because, at a period when no famine was apprehended, it was thought expedient to encourage, under certain safe conditions, an useful public work. The great calamity which now has visited Ireland has added the greater and infinitely more important inducement to act with liberality and decision on this critical occasion. To the policy of acceding to the proposition I make I can only add that the severity will be beyond all doubt. The whole line is a trifle short of 200 miles in length; it passes through the most fertile and populous districts of Ireland. The termini at Dublin, Cork, and Limerick, with their magnificent harbours and well-equipped fleets of steamers, afford facilities for the import and export of goods possessed by no other railway in the united Kingdom.

The execution, now complete, of 56 miles of the line, enables the Company to assert that the estimate of the engineer, Sir John Macneill, will be borne out, and the remuneration most satisfactory.

In conclusion, I beg further to remark that, by the Act of Incorporation, the Directors cannot make calls on the shareholders except at intervals of two months; and the heavy calls, hitherto so cheerfully and so punctually paid, cannot, under the present pressure in the money market, be persisted in without inflicting an unreasonable burden on parties who have so patriotically supported this great national undertaking.

I remain, &c.,

GEORGE CARR, Deputy Chairman
of the Great Southern and Western
Railway, Ireland.

J. S. Brichwood, Esq., Secretary to the Public
Works, Loan Commissioners, London.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 29, 1846.

Sir Robert Peel submits to the Board a letter, addressed to him by the Deputy Chairman of the Great Southern and Western Railway, stating that a loan of 500,000*l.* is required for carrying on the works of the railway in such a manner as will afford immediate employment to large numbers of persons.

As Parliament has imposed a limit upon the sum to be annually placed at the disposal of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, my Lords do not feel that they

should be justified in holding out an expectation that they could recommend to Parliament an augmentation of that sum for the purpose of meeting the wants of a particular railway Company.

To the extent to which the funds at the disposal of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners are available, my Lords will readily sanction an advance to the Great Southern and Western Railway Company on adequate security; but my Lords cannot establish a precedent for exceeding that amount of public money which Parliament has thought it fit to appropriate annually to the encouragement of public works.

Write accordingly to Mr. Carr.

Transmit copy of this letter, and of the foregoing Minute, to the Public Works Loan Commissioners for their information.

MEMORIAL OF INHABITANTS AND LANDHOLDERS OF TULLYNECHIN.

The humble CASE of the INHABITANTS and LANDHOLDERS of the Townland of TULLYNECHIN, in the County of CAVAN, Tenants under Minor Arkins, and now under the patronage of the Honourable and Right Honourable Henry Goulburn, now Chancellor of the Exchequer for the Kingdom of Ireland,

Most humbly sheweth to your Noble Lordship our past and present distressed situation. Having for a remote period of years paid rents under your noble patronage to a land agent commissioned under you, unto whom we oftentimes explained our grievance and distressed situation, paying high rents, when neither trade nor money was in circulation, for barren mountain. We now live between hope and despair, having no expectation of relief from our agent, Mr. Johnston. We have now no other means but to make our humble application to your Noble Lordship in this season of distress, having neither meat nor money to disguise our poverty. We now stand in a miserable situation, and know not what to do. Hoping that your Noble Lordship will mitigate our present state and have our grievance redressed, and we, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Signed by 39 persons.]

We hope your Noble Lordship will have compassion for us, as many others under said Minor Arkins has been compensated for their long suffering, paying extra rents; and we are daily in expectation of the same allowance and compensation.

Direct an answer for John Lynch, Tullynechin, Stradone Post-office.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

May 29, 1846.

Transmit a copy of this memorial to Mr. Pennefather for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, and for such directions as his Excellency may think proper to give; and state that the parties have been informed that their memorial has been so referred to the Lord Lieutenant.

Write to the parties accordingly.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

June 5, 1846.

WE have the honour to forward herewith our third monthly statement, No. 1, of the sums applied for by memorial under the Act 9 Vic. chap. 1, as also of the sums recommended by us for His Excellency's approval, viz. :—

	£.
The sums applied for up to the 31st May amounted to	1,054,891
The amount recommended was	243,209
The amount expended in making the inquiries was	1,541
The amount paid away in wages, &c., to the men employed on the works, was	11,862
The amount of contributions	2,280

Immediately upon receipt of your Lordships' sanction, we took the necessary steps for putting into execution the several works according as the necessity for

employment demanded it. His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant is pressed by applications to have all works commenced as soon as sanctioned, but in many cases this is not advisable to be done.

Our engineers are instructed to exercise their judgment in conjunction with the Relief Committees. If this were attended to in all cases, works would not be commenced sooner than they ought for the purpose of attaining the object intended, namely, relief.

We have been induced to urge the exercise of this discretion upon our engineers, because we have from several quarters been given to understand that it would have been better to have retarded the commencement of the works, so as to have thrown the aid afforded by them further back in the season when employment will be most required.

We are aware, and regret, that there has been some delay in putting forward recommendations from some of the baronies whose memorials have been sent to us, but it has arisen solely from the length of time necessary to inspect the great number of roads applied for, more, as it would appear, to open out great lines of communication, than with regard to the employment of the people. Others appear to have been solely for private benefit.

We invariably reject such applications, unless it can be shown to our satisfaction that there is a population along the entire length of lines applied for in need of employment.

Deputations have waited upon us to urge the recommendation of such lines; our answer is in the words of your Lordships—"That the sanction given by their Lordships to the execution of works under the Act 9 Vict. chap. 1 is to be invariably understood as being conditional upon the works applied for being required for the relief of urgent and unusual distress arising from the late failure of the potato crop, and should any work which may have been sanctioned, or may hereafter be sanctioned by the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, prove not to be actually required for the purpose of giving employment to relieve distresses of the nature specified, the case to which their Lordships' sanction had been given must be considered as not having arisen, and no expenditure of public money should be authorised on account of any such work."

We have also had applications from large towns to give employment by improving the sewerage and the footpaths. Such works, however desirable, do not come within the meaning of the Act, and we have no powers to execute them, except by the special directions of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, who places funds at our disposal to undertake works not embraced by the memorials.

Repairs, which are very generally applied for, we are obliged to reject, the power originally proposed to be given to us having been struck out of the Bill by the House of Commons.

During the past month the applications for employment have been numerous and pressing; but the fact is, that the demands of the people, with some few exceptions, have been the reverse of urgent, except within the last week; and the reason assigned by some of the contractors on the Shannon works for not pushing on their works has been that they could not get men to work, and this we believe has been found the case in many large public as well as private establishments.

We may consider that nearly all the memorials for work proposed to be applied for have been sent in, and, therefore, will be soon reported upon by the officers appointed to that duty.

We have, therefore, now arrived at the second stage in the duty which has been assigned to us, viz., that of giving employment; and we would earnestly entreat the attention of your Lordships and the Government to the peculiar situation in which we are placed, the duties we are required to perform, the difficulties with which we have to contend in the giving employment to the destitute poor throughout the whole of Ireland, and this, too, to be accomplished through the length and breadth of the land almost simultaneously. If your Lordships add to this the superintendence of engineers, overseers, pay-clerks, and others, together with the arrangements which must be made for the weekly payments to the workmen, and tools to be provided for every barony, you will perceive some of the difficulties.

We labour under great disadvantage in having to employ many individuals

of whose talents, abilities, and experience we are necessarily ignorant; and, as might be expected, some have proved incompetent, and, therefore, have been discharged. Others, well disposed, are wanting in experience.

The duties of the superintending officers are much increased by the irregularities in the issue of tickets by the Relief Committees, who pay but little attention to the rules prescribed for their guidance. Many members sign tickets, which are issued without any entry being made in the secretary's book, and that to a much greater extent than the work can bear.

Every holder of a ticket considers he has as good a right to be employed as any other individual, and, consequently, forces himself upon the work, which puts an end to all regularity; and, unless Relief Committees evince due and proper discretion in the selection of the individuals to be employed, in not giving tickets to all who indiscriminately may ask, it will be impossible for the Board and its officers to give satisfaction, or have the works executed in a proper and creditable manner.

Individuals as well as the Relief Committees, whenever they fancy the Board's officers are not acting with proper energy by not putting in hand work which they consider necessary, forward complaints immediately to the Castle.

The farm labour having terminated, there is a pressure for work; and it may be expected that in the course of another week all the roads applied for will be in progress of execution.

No discretion is left to our officers; and the Relief Committees, by the great anxiety they display to have the works commenced, betray a great want of judgment, which eventually will produce bad results.

We are given to understand that, in some parts of the country where there will be employment upon the roads, the labourers have intimated that it is not their intention to go to England this season to look for work. In fact, it may be anticipated that the Government will be expected to provide such for every labouring man in the country.

Many landholders who are now employing their tenants are anxiously looking out for the works to be commenced in their neighbourhood in order to relieve themselves.

Your Lordships are aware that a distinct account is obliged to be opened for each road sanctioned. This entails upon the accountant's branch a vast increase of business.

With a view to transact this part of our duty in the most expeditious and satisfactory manner, and to insure regularity in the payments, we have considered it necessary to establish district offices, and appointed trustworthy persons from the head office to take charge of them, to overlook the district, pay clerks, check their accounts, and attend to the issues of money from the country banks, arrangements having been made with the directors of those banks who have branches of their establishments in the towns most conveniently situated in respect to the districts where the people are employed, and we trust your Lordships approve of what we have done.

These arrangements were not made without due and mature consideration; great difficulties were experienced in getting the pay lists properly checked, to send off the amount from Dublin in time to make the payments.

The duty of establishing depôts of silver has given us a great deal of trouble. We trust that the arrangements we have made will secure accuracy in the pay returns, with prompt and regular payments to the people employed.

In carrying on the very numerous works, we have made use of as much as possible the services of the county surveyors, and we have experienced from these officers an active co-operation.

In some localities where the county surveyors' districts are too extensive, or from other causes, we have established engineers unconnected with the county; but we are not prepared to say that the works are more expeditiously put in hand, than when we have employed the former officers, they having the advantage of a perfect knowledge of these duties and resources, not possessed by strangers, in being able to procure the assistance of overseers and others connected with the ordinary country works.

They have also works entrusted to them under extraordinary sessions acts, the management of which may be economically combined with that of works under the authority of the Board.

In all cases of employing county surveyors we pay for assistants, to prevent

delay in getting on the works; but your Lordships, we are sure, will be aware of the difficulty to be encountered with the most perfect system of organization in putting on at once a number of works in the same barony, without incurring a wasteful expenditure for temporary superintendents.

We dwell on these subjects, as we are aware that communications are addressed to the Irish Court by local committees pressing for works, all to be commenced immediately on their being sanctioned, and indeed, in many cases, before it.

We have made an arrangement which we hope will be attended with beneficial results: viz., establishing uniformity of action and regularity in the mode of conducting the business of the Board, and at the same time to assist the executive engineers and others in charge of works in their communications with relief committees.

We have posted a military officer at Galway, whose duty it will be to make frequent inspections of the works, report their progress, inquire into the regularity of the payments, and attend the relief committees, whom he will assist by his opinion and advice.

The number of memorials which were received being so great, we were obliged to apply to the Lieutenant-General commanding for additional assistance to enable us to expedite the inspections. Immediate attention was paid to our application, and we have much pleasure in acknowledging the satisfactory manner in which the officers are executing the duties assigned them.

The number of individuals employed on this duty amounts to twenty-five, viz. :—

Officers of the corps of Royal Engineers	7
Officers of the Regiments of the Line	16
Civil Engineers	2
Total	25

These numbers will be greatly reduced almost immediately.

We have been obliged to take on a great number of temporary extra clerks. The amount of correspondence which this Board has to carry on at the present moment, entails a labour upon all branches and classes of officers that can be little appreciated by those who are ignorant of the immense number of letters we are obliged to answer.

The registered letters alone, since the 1st January, amount to 7829, and this number is independent of those referring to accounts.

In all cases where it appears by the Report of the Inspecting Officers that individuals will be benefited, applications were made to them for contributions; some of these have been met in a liberal spirit; some, for reasons assigned, have refused, and others offer to give the land free.

The rates of wages paid are those of the country where the works are carried on, generally 10d. and sometimes 1s. a-day.

The idle labourers, who receive tickets from the committees, prefer working on the roads, and leave the farmer, where such may be willing to keep them. They are under the impression that they may work as easily as they choose, and that work will be found for them; and, in addition to this inducement to throw the works, they are paid regularly in cash, which is not the case generally on the farm works.

Several pressing applications have been made to us to put on a much larger number of men than our engineers have considered prudent. If we are compelled to do so, it may be worthy of consideration, whether it may not be necessary, in order to make the work afforded by the presentments last during the season of scarcity, to reduce the wages to 6d. per diem, which will afford employment to a greater number, and for a longer period, and in all likelihood be the means of driving the able-bodied and well-conditioned men away.

RETURN of APPLICATIONS made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Viet. chap. 21, showing the Total Number, their Date, Nature, and Amount; also, the Amount recommended, and the Date of the Order for commencing the Works.

Carried on from the Date of last Return, April 30th to May 31st, 1846.

No.	County.	Borough.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount applied for.			Amount recommended.			Works ordered to be commenced.
					£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
			Carried forward from last Return		785,448	10	7	117,840	8	8	1846
	Clare	Bearratty, Upper						5,125	0	0	May 14
	"	Cleardaroh.						4,214	8	1	" 13
	"	Coconacoe.						2,593	10	0	" 12
	"	Ibrickane.						600	0	0	" 21
	"	Inchiquin.						2,507	3	5	" 19
	"	Inchade.						299	0	0	" 12
	"	Tulla, Upper						1,200	0	0	" 23
	"	" Lower						6,500	0	0	" 8
	Cork	Condona and Clongibben.						1,498	16	0	" 23
	"	Dahallow.						1,640	0	0	" 30
	"	Fernoy.						1,790	0	0	" 13
	"	Munkary, West						200	0	0	"
	Galway	Atheeny						200	0	0	" 30
	"	Ballynacoe.						856	0	0	" 11
	"	Clare						2,988	0	0	" 18
	"	Dunkellin.						2,215	0	0	" 18
	"	Dunmore.						5,180	0	0	" 26
	"	Kilconnell.						500	0	0	"
	"	Kiltarton.						219	15	0	" 19
	"	Leitrim.						2,835	0	0	" 12
	"	Longford.						1,687	0	0	" 30
	"	Loughrea.						550	0	0	" 6
	"	Rea.						300	0	0	"
	Kerry.	Claremorris.						1,100	0	0	" 16
	"	Trughemoney.						450	0	0	" 29
	Kildare	Carbury.						521	4	6	" 28
	"	Clare.						887	15	0	" 28
	Kilkenny.	Kilkenny City.						500	0	0	"
	King's	Edgish.						604	0	0	" 23
	"	Garrycastle.						2,098	0	0	" 19
	"	Kilcoarney.						158	0	0	" 39
	Leitrim	Carrigallen.						1,300	0	0	"
	"	Mohill.						875	0	0	"
	Limerick	Clawilliam.						8,171	8	0	" 14
	"	Connello, Upper						1,832	0	0	" 30
	"	Coshles.						4,618	5	0	" 28
	"	Coshma.						240	0	0	" 7
	"	Kerry.						1,600	0	0	" 25
	"	Kilmallock.						270	0	0	" 12
	"	Limerick City.						445	0	0	" 30
	"	Shanid.						1,820	0	0	" 12
	"	Small County.						4,902	7	4	" 12
	Louth.	Dandalk, Upper						2,260	0	0	" 12
	"	Ferrard.						1,350	0	0	" 29
	"	Leeth.						1,220	0	0	"
	Mayo	Burrisheale.						1,210	0	0	" 30
	"	Clannacree.						2,576	0	0	" 30
	"	Costello.						490	0	0	" 21
	"	Eris.						500	0	0	" 30
	"	Gallen.						800	0	0	"
	"	Kilmacine.						1,100	0	0	" 21
	"	Murrink.						2,100	0	0	"
	Meath	Lane.						1,140	0	0	" 12
	"	Mogallias.						125	0	0	"
	"	Moybarath, Lower						250	0	0	" 18
	"	Navan, Upper						650	0	0	" 14
	"	Sane, Upper						1,090	0	0	" 23
	Queen's	Clurnallagh.						1,000	0	0	" 26
	"	Tamshinch.						450	0	0	"
	Roscommon	Ballintubber, North						1,649	10	0	" 26
	"	Boyle.						1,267	14	0	"
	"	Frenchpark.						2,537	3	2	" 23
	"	Moycarn.						1,011	0	0	"
	"	Roscommon.						1,525	0	0	"
	Sligo	Cerran.						650	0	0	" 21
	Tipperary.	Clawilliam.						800	0	0	"
	"	Ethogerty.						1,450	0	0	" 19
	"	Ilfa, and Offa, West						1,617	0	0	" 22

Returns of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict., chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Recommended.	Works ordered to be commenced.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Tipperary—con.	Borris.	1846.				1846.
	"	Kilmanagh, Upper	"	"	"	590 0 0	
	"	Middletown	"	"	"	615 0 0	May 20
	"	Ormsod, Lower	"	"	"	500 0 0	
	"	Oweny and Arna	"	"	"	3,645 0 0	" 9
	"	Stonemagh	"	"	"	3,870 0 0	" 20
	Waterford	Decora within Drum	"	"	"	290 0 0	" 30
	"	Upperthird	"	"	"	1,700 0 0	
	Westmeath	Clonsilla	"	"	"	310 0 0	"
	"	Kilkenney, West	"	"	"	610 0 0	
	"	Moycushil	"	"	"	650 0 0	May 23
	"	Rathcoran	"	"	"	900 0 0	"
						1,155 0 0	
155	Carlow	Foch	May 11	New roads and improving	700 0 0	"	
156	"	St. Mullins, Lower	" 14	old.	1,700 0 0	"	
	"	Idroa, West	" 12	"	3,350 0 0	"	
	Cavan	Castlerea	" 6	"	3,825 0 0	"	
157	"	Chamahan	" 30	"	4,060 0 0	"	
158	"	Tullyhaw	" 20	"	3,350 0 0	"	
159	"	Tullybrann	" 30	"	1,290 0 0	"	
160	Clare	Bunowry, Upper	" 6	"	3,484 0 0	"	
	Cork	Bantry	" 1	"	4,200 0 0	"	
161	"	Berris	" 29	Building galleys and lowering	180 0 0	"	
				hills.			
162	"	Barrymore	"	New roads and improving old	9,083 10 0	"	
	"	Boir	" 9	"	"	"	
	"	Carbery, East, W.D.	" 11	"	20,000 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 26	"	"	"	
	"	"	" 9	"	2,066 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 11	"	"	"	
163	"	Carbery, West, W.D.	" 22	"	1,360 0 0	"	
164	"	Cork, Co. of City	" 14	"	4,150 0 0	"	
165	"	Cowrya	" 26	"	4,500 0 0	4,500 0 0	
166	"	Duhallow	" 28	"	180 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 28	"	2,882 12 0	"	
	"	"	" 19	"	"	"	
167	"	Ferny	" 22	"	12,558 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 30	"	"	"	
	"	Isane and Barryroe	" 2	"	1,263 19 10	"	
	"	Kerrinallan	" 6	"	703 2 0	"	
	"	Monkerry, East	" 2	"	1,840 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 6	"	3,063 10 0	"	
	"	Ortery and Kilmore	" 7	"	3,033 15 0	"	
168	Galway	Althay	" 27	"	200 0 0	"	
169	"	Clonsilla	" 16	"	4,734 0 0	"	
170	"	Galway, Co. of City	" 14	"	3,700 0 0	"	
171	"	Moycushil	" 2	"	1,700 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 26	"	"	"	
172	Kerry	Magniky	" 28	"	4,440 0 0	"	
	Kildare	Kilcolla	" 8	"	1,000 0 0	"	
173	Kilkenny	Galway	" 19	"	3,185 0 0	"	
	"	Gowran	" 2	"	10,445 0 0	"	
174	King's	Ballyboy	" 19	"	500 0 0	"	
175	"	Genahill	" 14	"	500 0 0	"	
176	"	Philpstown, Lower	" 22	"	2,245 0 0	"	
177	"	Warrenstown	" 22	"	1,205 0 0	"	
178	Leitrim	Dromahaire	" 14	"	9,300 0 0	"	
179	"	Rosbeg	" 18	"	2,300 0 0	"	
	Limerick	Coomagh	" 9	"	8,738 0 0	"	
180	Mayo	Bornahade	" 26	"	1,300 0 0	"	
181	"	Cartho	" 26	"	10,350 0 0	"	
182	Monaghan	Dulan, Upper	" 22	"	1,835 0 0	"	
183	"	Fore	" 9	"	1,650 0 0	"	
184	Queen's	Slieveanagoe	" 14	"	8,312 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 9	"	"	"	
185	Roscommon	Athlone	" 12	"	7,355 10 0	"	
186	"	Ballinabber, South	" 9	"	4,205 0 0	"	
187	"	Ballynas	" 9	"	6,048 17 3	"	
	"	"	" 11	"	"	"	
188	"	Castles	" 11	"	2,685 15 0	"	
189	"	Frenchpark	" 8	"	2,537 3 2	"	
190	"	Roscommon	" 6	"	8,736 0 0	"	
	"	"	" 27	"	"	"	
	Sligo	Carbury	" 4	"	8,700 0 0	"	
	"	Lerney	" 9	"	3,270 0 0	"	

* Section not received.

Return of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict., chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Survey.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Recommended.	Works ordered to be executed.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
191	Sligo—continued	Terrill . . .	May 6	New roads and improving old	3,225 0 0	.	1846
192	Tipperary	Ida and Ofa, East.	" 16	"	4,000 0 0	.	
193	"	Owney and Arva .	" 16	"	4,971 0 0	.	
194	"	Slieveadagh . .	{ " 8	"	150 0 0	.	
194	Waterford.	Coshmore and Cosh- bride. . .	{ " 8	"	1,400 0 0	700 0 0	
195	"	Decies within Drum	" 22	"	906 0 0	.	
196	"	" without Drum	{ " 19	"	18,116 0 0	780 0 0	
197	"	Middlefield . .	{ " 21	"	687 0 0	.	
198	"	Upperbird . .	" 27	"	4,460 0 0	.	
199	"	Waterford County .	" 6	Building Court House .	4,000 0 0	.	
200	"	" Carr . .	" 26	"	4,000 0 0	.	
201	Westmeath .	Moyshel & Mag- herafion . .	" 6	New roads and improving old	785 0 0	.	
202	"	Moylish . . .	" 19	"	1,270 0 0	510 0 0	
203	Wicklow . .	Rathdown . . .	" 12	"	300 0 0	.	
			" 26	"			
					£. 1,064,891 7 5	243,089 0 2	

N.B.—Three cases not numbered were numbered in last Return.

Office of Public Works, Ireland,
June 6, 1846.By Order of the Board,
JOS. C. WALKER,
Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 16, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, that their Lordships have perused with much interest, their third Monthly Report, dated 5th instant, of the progress of their operations under the several Acts of Parliament for the relief of the scarcity arising from the late failure of the Potato Crop.

The Commissioners appear to have ably and energetically contended against the difficulties of their situation, and their Lordships do not doubt that the various arrangements explained in their Report were the best which could have been adopted under the peculiar circumstances of the present emergency.

The Commissioners state that a separate account has to be opened for each road sanctioned, and that, to ensure regularity in the payments, they had established distinct offices, and appointed trustworthy persons from the head office to take charge of them, to overlook the district pay clerks, check their accounts, and attend to the issues of money from the country banks.

Their Lordships attach great importance to the object of securing a prompt and exact account, according to a regular and well understood system, of the large sums in the course of being issued to numerous persons in various parts of Ireland, for the purpose of carrying on public works of different kinds, and they request that they may be furnished with a more particular detail of the measures which have been adopted by the Commissioners for this purpose, of the degree in which they have been successful, and of the points, if any, in which they have been found to be defective.

Several circumstances are alluded to in the course of the Report, indicating that a watchful check is required to be kept over the works intended for the relief of the people suffering from the late failure of the Potato Crop, in order to prevent the arrangements for this purpose from injuriously interfering with the ordinary operations of private business, and from being abused to the encouragement of idleness, and to a lavish expenditure exceeding what is required for the limited and temporary object for which the sanction of Parliament has been obtained; but their Lordships are of opinion that these important ends will, as far as possible, be attained by a proper attention to the instructions from this Board, dated the 3rd April last, directing that in those cases "in which it may be found necessary to pay money wages, the money payments should be below the usual rate of wages in the neighbourhood, and should be, as nearly as

"possible, limited to what is absolutely necessary for providing a sufficient quantity of food for the support of the workmen, and the helpless persons of their families;" and to the further instruction, dated the 15th May, last, stating that "the sanction given by their Lordships to the execution of works under the 9th Vict. cap. 1, is to be invariably understood as being conditional upon the works applied for being required for the relief of urgent and unusual distress arising from the late failure of the Potato Crop; and should any work which may have been sanctioned, or may hereafter be sanctioned under the Provisions of the above-mentioned Act, prove not to be actually required for the purpose of giving employment to relieve distress of the nature specified, the case to which their Lordships' sanction had reference, must be considered as not having arisen, and no expenditure of public money should be authorized on account of any such work."

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Add that their Lordships have transmitted a copy of this Minute to the Lord Lieutenant, and have requested his Excellency to give the Commissioners his support and assistance in carrying into effect the directions contained in it, in such manner as may be best suited to the circumstances of each district.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to Mr. Pennefather for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, and write as above.

MR. PENNEFATHER TO MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 15, 1846.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit for the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury a Memorial from the Corporation of Kilkenny, praying for a grant of 6000*l.* to erect a new bridge in that city.

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORIAL OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF KILKENNY.

To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury.

The Memorial of the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of Kilkenny in Council assembled

HUMBLY SHOWETH,—

THAT a public work of paramount importance to the Borough of Kilkenny, and of great utility in a more extended sense, requires to be undertaken at Kilkenny, namely, the erection of a new bridge, instead of the present existing structure over the river Nore, to connect John-street with Flax-lan-street, in said Borough of Kilkenny.

That the bridge now crossing the river, between the two streets here mentioned, is one of extreme danger in its construction, and should be removed in order to insure the safety of passengers.

That said bridge is dangerous from the precipitancy of its ascent at both sides, which makes it almost impassable in the winter season, and particularly dangerous, from the sharp and sudden angles to be encountered in its approach, so much so, that serious accidents are of frequent occurrence, and, on more than one occasion, loss of life has resulted.

That the bridge described by Memorialists, as so hazardous to strangers and travellers, is part of the main southern line of road between Dublin and Cork; the same, along which the mails are carried between these two towns and the intermediate towns, and, therefore, of public importance, to a greater extent, than concerns Kilkenny.

That the Borough of Kilkenny is most heavily taxed for local purposes, and unable to undertake a work of such magnitude as this now specified; and that the Corporation of Kilkenny, already considerably in debt for improvements made within the borough during the last three years, is without funds for the purpose.

That application was lately made by the Justices and cess-payers of Kilkenny assembled, agreeable to the provisions of the Act 9 Victoria, c. 1, to the Board of Works, for a grant under said Act for the erection of a bridge at a point described by Memorialists, and that said application was not complied with, as not coming under the provisions of that statute.

That Kilkenny has not hitherto been favoured with any grant for the purpose of any public work, and that taking into consideration its importance, as one of the principal cities of Ireland, Memorialists hope your Lordships will agree with them, that when a work of such importance as that under notice is contemplated, Kilkenny is fairly entitled to a share of the advantages elsewhere bestowed.

That the inhabitants of Kilkenny, with scarcely any assistance from those not actually within the city, have subscribed Eight hundred pounds to meet the necessities of the present year of scarcity, which, with the addition of Four hundred pounds granted by the Lord Lieutenant, is now being dispersed in giving employment to the resident labouring poor to the number of five hundred persons, who, with their families, form an aggregate of two thousand individuals. And that should your Lordships be graciously pleased to comply with

the prayer of Memorialists in the present instance, the contemplated work will afford employment in the time of greatest need, when the existing funds may prove insufficient for that purpose, and will provide additional occupation to the artisan population, who, although in very great distress, could not be relieved out of the money just referred to.

Memorialists therefore pray that your Lordships will be pleased to grant out of the funds at your disposal for such purposes, a sum not exceeding Six thousand pounds, to be applied for the erection of a bridge over the Nore, at Kilkenny, between Rose Inn-street and John-street, viz., in place of the bridge now standing near the same point, and which Memorialists have shown to be a work of the greatest importance and necessity.

And Memorialists will pray,

Signed on behalf of the Council,
JOSEPH HACKETT, Mayor.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 19, 1846.

Write to Mr. Hackett, that their Lordships have received, through Mr. Pennefather, the Memorial of the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of Kilkenny, praying for a grant out of the funds at their Lordships' disposal for such purposes, of a sum not exceeding 6000*l.*, to be applied for the erection of a bridge over the Nore at Kilkenny, between Rose Inn-street and John-street, in place of the bridge now standing near the same point; and state that their Lordships have no funds at their disposal for such purposes.

Acquaint Mr. Pennefather.

TREASURY MINUTE.

June 16, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, that their Lordships' attention has been called to the following works recommended in their Reports to the Lord Lieutenant, dated respectively the 6th and 8th instant.

Barony of Ballynahinch—County of Galway.

	£.
The extension of the road from Clodgah Dough to the Quay at Cleggan	2000
Widening and completing the road from Board of Works road in Murvey to cross-roads at Ballyconneely	1400
New road from the bridge at Streamstown to the Glebe Gate at Kingston	1750

Barony of Kilconway—County of Antrim.

Completing the road from Ballycastle to Ballymena, by Glarbrick	2300
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It appears to their Lordships to be deserving of consideration, whether these works are not of a more extensive character than is consistent with the limited object of relieving distress arising from the late failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and whether, adverting to the advanced state of the season, they could be completed before that distress shall have ceased.

If the information possessed by the Commissioners, of the state of the localities concerned, should be such as to induce them to believe that the above-mentioned view is correct, their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will submit to the Lord Lieutenant in this, as they have already done in other instances, a modified proposition for the execution only of such portions of the works in question, as may be required to meet the present emergency; selecting, as far as possible, those parts which may be completed within the period during which distress arising from the above cause is likely to prevail.

Transmit a copy of this minute to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, with reference to his letters, dated 10th instant, on the subject of certain works proposed to be executed under the Act 1 Vict. c. 21, in the barony of Ballynahinch, in the county of Galway, and in the barony of Kilconway in the county of Antrim.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, June 23, 1846.

WE beg leave to submit, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the difficulty in which we find ourselves placed in regard to carrying out the intentions of the Legislature as contemplated in the Act of the present session, 9th Viet., cap. 3, for the encouragement of the sea-fisheries of Ireland, "by promoting and aiding with grants of public money the construction of piers, harbours, and other works."

By this Act, their Lordships are empowered to make advances in aid of such works to the extent of 50,000*l.* in the whole; and by the 4th clause, the grant for any one object is restricted to 5000*l.*, and is in no case to exceed three-fourths of the total actual cost of the work, the residue in every instance to be levied off the county, district, or the proprietors of lands, as the equity of the case may appear to justify.

Immediately after the passing of the Act, applications poured in upon us from nearly all parts of the sea-coast, and we have received no less than 180 memorials praying for the construction of piers, quays, and other such works.

Inquiries have been made into the merits of several of the proposed projects, and estimates have been prepared for 27 of them, the aggregate cost of which amounts to 57,000*l.*

We are now therefore in a position to state our opinion, that the funds provided by the Act 9th Viet., cap. 3, are quite insufficient for the attainment of its intended object. The expense of building a pier or quay exposed to the force of the Atlantic, as many of these works would be, will very much exceed the estimates formed by many of the applicants for the purpose; and some of those which might probably be the most useful and important for the public interests could not be constructed at the cost limited by the provisions of the Act; and it will not, in consequence, be in our power to recommend them for their Lordships' approval.

A considerable sum may also be requisite to enable us to repair, alter, or improve the existing harbours, piers, quays, &c., on the sea-coast, which may be deemed by us fit and still useful for the purposes of the sea-fisheries, pursuant to the provisions of the 6th clause of the recent Act.

Very extravagant notions have been formed by some of the beneficial results likely to arise from the working of the Act to peculiar interests and localities; but we cannot avoid expressing to their Lordships our opinion that its machinery will be found too cumbrous, and some of its provisions too complicated and perplexing, to admit of the possibility of the benevolent objects of the Legislature being attained to anything like the extent contemplated, or that would appear desirable.

Under all these circumstances, we are desirous to be honoured with their Lordships' instructions, as to the principle on which we should proceed in selecting and submitting for approval works applied for from the various districts along the sea-coast for fishery purposes; and whether we are altogether to exclude from further consideration those projects which, either from situation or extent, must necessarily involve a larger outlay than the Act has provided for.

It is obvious that of the number of applications already received as above stated, not one-half can be complied with under the limits, as to funds, prescribed by the Act, at the same time, that it will require much care and discrimination to arrive at a satisfactory decision of the comparative merits and peculiar claims to consideration of each. In the mean time we are proceeding in our examination and inquiries in respect to the localities from whence memorials have been received; and, if no additional funds beyond those already provided for the service by the Act of 9th Viet., cap. 3, are to be looked for, we shall be prepared, on receiving their Lordships' instructions to that effect, to make the best selection we can from the numerous applications before us, and on obtaining the Treasury sanction, to proceed to carry the works into effect with all the expedition attainable under the provisions of the Act.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

June 30, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works and Fisheries in answer to the statement contained in their Report of 23rd ultimo, representing the inadequacy of the funds provided by the Act of 9 Vict. cap. 3, to carry into execution the works proposed to be constructed under that Act, that my Lords are of opinion, that the grants of public money toward the construction of fishery piers and harbours in Ireland, should be strictly limited to the sum of 50,000*l.*, fixed by the Act; and that, therefore, it will be their duty, in recommending grants under this Act for their Lordships' sanction, to have this limit in view, and to select those works which may appear most useful, and to which the largest private contributions may be made, bearing in mind that one-fourth part of the expense of a work is the smallest contribution that can be sanctioned by this Board, and that a much larger contribution should be insisted on towards the expense of all such works as are not recommended by some peculiar public advantage to be derived from them.

TREASURY MINUTE.

June 26, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennefather, with reference to the letter from this Board dated 16th instant, that their Lordships having reason to believe that numerous persons who do not really stand in need of relief, are employed on the works which have been sanctioned under the Act 9 Vict. c. 1, for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity, and that rates of wages are given exceeding what is required for providing a subsistence for the workpeople and their families, and holding out a temptation to engage in the works carried on under the above mentioned Act, in preference to other means of employment which are open to them, their Lordships request that he will suggest to the Lord Lieutenant, that the Board of Works and the Relief Commission should be directed to issue such instructions to the superintendent of the works and to the Local Relief Committees, as will secure a due observance of the rules which have been laid down for the proper administration of the funds provided for the relief of the people suffering from the late failure of the potato crop in Ireland.

MR. PENNEFATHER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, June 30, 1846.

HAVING laid your communication of the 26th instant before the Lord Lieutenant, his Excellency has commanded me to state that he has directed a copy of your letter respecting the employment of "numerous persons who do not really stand in need of relief on the works which have been sanctioned under the 9 Vic. c. 1, for the relief of the people suffering from scarcity, and the payment of rates of wages exceeding that which is required for providing subsistence for the workpeople and their families, and thereby holding out a temptation to engage in the works carried on under the abovementioned Act in preference to other means of employment which are open to them," to be brought without delay under the notice of the Relief Commissioners and Board of Works.

His Excellency having no means of testing the accuracy of the reports which appear to have reached the Treasury relative to the employment of persons not actually in want of relief, and the rate of wages paid to them, can do no more than forward their Lordships' suggestions to those who are specially charged to provide employment in those localities where distress really exists.

His Excellency commands me further to state, that the most unremitting and anxious attention has been given by the Relief Commissioners to the numerous and pressing applications which have been made to Government for assistance under the present distressing emergency, arising from a failure of the ordinary food of the people; and every precaution which is possible under the circumstances has been taken by them to secure a due observance of the rules laid down for the proper administration of the funds provided for the relief of the people suffering from the late failure of the potato crop in Ireland.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 3, 1846.

Write to Mr. Pennafather that their Lordships are fully aware of the zeal and ability with which the Relief Commission and the Board of Public Works have exerted themselves to secure the adoption, in the most economical and effectual manner, of the measures required by the present emergency; and in suggesting that renewed and more stringent directions should be given to the Local Relief Committees and other parties acting in a subordinate capacity, their Lordships had in view the necessity which exists for preventing the funds appropriated to the relief of distress arising from the late failure of the ordinary food of the people, from being diverted from their proper object, and for preparing for the entire cessation of this expenditure at the earliest practicable period.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, July 3, 1846.

THE Board of Works have endeavoured to follow out the instructions they have received; had they not done so, they would have been guilty of a dereliction of duty.

The number of applications examined and reported on exceed 2600.

There is no doubt that many works were commenced without necessity. It is true the representations were extremely urgent and pressing, and therefore great precaution and judgment were necessary.

The delay was occasioned by those very necessary inquiries which the Government and Parliament considered it requisite to have made, and which results have proved to have been highly judicious and important, and attended by most beneficial results, stopping jobs, preventing objectionable lines of roads or other works from being undertaken, and rejecting others for which the sums presented were totally inadequate.

The Board of Works rejected all applications for *repairs of roads*, inasmuch as they were not sanctioned by the Act 9 Victoria, c. 1, repairs having been struck out of the Bill when in the Commons, it being considered that it was a description of work which ought to be executed by the county.

The Board always promptly acted in conformity with the directions of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, upon any work ordered by his Excellency. And in many cases the Board have requested authority from the Lord Lieutenant to be allowed to put works in hand, anticipating that the sanction of the Treasury would be subsequently obtained.

The Board have invariably commenced works when the necessity has been made apparent to them or to their officers, who have always been directed to use their own discretion as to the proper period for commencing the works. The Commissioners have received accounts from various channels of information, that urgent representations have been made for the Government to commence works, where in fact no distress exists.

The Board well knowing that there was a regular set against the Government in order to obtain as much employment as possible, without regard to the actual state of distress in the district, considered it their duty to hold back, and instantly representations were sent to the Castle making strong complaints against the Board's officers.

Where pressing demands have been made for many lines of road to open out a country, on the grounds of great public utility, without regard to the condition of the population of the district through which a road of *ten or twelve* miles would run, the Board believed they acted in accordance with the instructions they had received, in reporting against such lines of road in the absence of all proofs of such a state of distress as required that extraordinary means should be adopted of giving employment to the people.

It is well known, and of daily occurrence (for some baronies are still sending up memorials), that many of the roads applied for are what are commonly designated *jobs*, and that the pressure that has been put upon us to execute works, has (I speak individually) induced us to order some works to be put in hand, which, with less pressure, would not have been done.

There are many works now being executed which cannot be completed within the period in which distress may be expected to continue.

If there was difficulty in the selection, the Board of Works are not to be condemned on that account. The ratepayers were left to present for such works as they considered best. The Board were to use their judgment and discretion in recommending them.

So far from the Board throwing difficulties in the way, where lines have been rejected on the ground of their great extent, in every case where it appeared to them necessary or likely that employment would be required, the Board recommended a sum on account to be advanced, in order to be prepared to meet distress, and to gain time to have the lines carefully examined.

The roads applied for were not based upon actual surveys, but merely upon recommendations made by individuals at the sessions, as being for a road between two places known often only to the persons so asking. It has happened, in many cases, that the termini, or places named in the memorial, cannot be found upon the maps, nor could the inspecting officer find them out.

The necessary and salutary check upon the grants to be made, may be evidenced by a reference to our monthly reports, by which will be seen the amount applied for and the sum recommended.

As the Lord Lieutenant had the power, there was no difficulty in finding employment. In the early part of the season, orders and money were sent from the Castle, without communicating with the Board, to officers employed under them, to set the people to work. Upon this, it was represented that such orders should be sent direct through the Board; which is merely stated to show that Mr. Pennefather had the means at command to order any work to be commenced he thought proper; and in many cases the Board have received authority to expend sums of money advanced by order of the Lord Lieutenant on works in districts from which memorials had not been received.

The Board were bound by the Act of Parliament and their instructions to inquire into and recommend such works only as they were of opinion were proper to be executed.

The memorials were invariably transmitted to the Board from Mr. Pennefather's office, so that he had always the power of examining them, and ascertaining their nature, and he might have returned them to the parties when they appeared objectionable, and directed new presentments to be passed.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Dublin, July 7, 1845.

WE have the honour to forward this our Fourth Monthly Report of our proceedings in affording employment to the distressed districts in Ireland, under the Act 9 Victoria, chap. the 1st.

Up to the 30th of June, the sums applied for by memorial amounted to	£1,187,120 9 3
The sums recommended by us	349,554 13 2
The number of roads examined and reported upon	2,183
The expense incurred in making the examinations and inquiries amounts to	£3,764 11 1
The number of persons employed during the last month was	493,845
Making a daily average of	20,577

As stated in our former Report, we have been enabled to reduce the number of officers who were employed in the examination of the several projects contained in the memorials from the baronies.

We have now the following, viz:—

Officers of Royal Engineers	2	} 12
“ Regiments of the Line	9	
“ Civil Engineers	1	

As inspecting officers of districts, viz:—

Officers of Royal Engineers	4	} 6
“ Regiments of the Line	2	

The memorials from baronies for work are daily decreasing in number. We have to observe that, from some baronies a third set has been received; however, at this advanced period, it may fairly be presumed that very few more works will be presented for under 9 Victoria, chap. 1.

A reference to the annexed return, marked A., will show the number of persons employed in each county and barony for the four weeks ended 27th June; and when it is considered that these large numbers are necessarily broken up into small parties, scattered over the face of the country, their Lordships will readily perceive the extensive and minute arrangement we are required to make, in order to enable the engineers to give employment where required.

It affords us much satisfaction in being able to state that, from the reports we receive, we have every reason to believe that all the works are progressing steadily and with regularity.

Complaints are frequently sent to the Lord Lieutenant against our engineers or officers; but when due inquiry has been made, it generally appears that the irregularity, or grounds of complaint, have been occasioned by the interference of unauthorised parties, or by the inattention of the Relief Committees to the instructions which have been issued to them for their guidance, as well as to dissensions and jealousies among themselves, by forming parochial committees, claiming every work within the parish boundary, and, of course, excluding all located without that line.

This has created a great deal of trouble and dissatisfaction, and interfered materially with the well working of the system.

We regret again to repeat, that the instructions laid down by the Relief Commission have not been attended to. In some districts, no committees have been formed; and in the generality of them, the members of the committee take a certain number of tickets, which they distribute to whom they please, without regard to the arrangements made by the engineer in respect to the number of men that can be employed in each work.

The consequence is, that greater numbers present themselves than can be advantageously employed, which leads to confusion, and, in more cases than one, the men employed have been driven away from these works by holders of tickets, who conceived they had an equal right to work with those that had been put on by the engineer.

This inconvenience would be avoided if the committee would act in concert, and only issue the tickets through their secretary, when signed by two members.

From personal inspections of some of the works in progress, the Board discovered that many individuals were employed who had not been supplied with tickets. Instructions were immediately given to put a stop to such improper and irregular proceedings, which became the more necessary as we experienced the injurious results of it. The great public works of the improvement of the Shannon and drainage were left without workmen; and, strange as it may appear, men who were, by measurement, earning 1s. 6d. and 1s. 7d. a day, quitted these works to take employment on the Relief Roads at 9d. a day.

We regret to be obliged to observe, that the labourers appear to be encouraged to persevere in habits of indolence by those who ought to advise and urge them to due diligence.

We have had great difficulty in getting stone broken by measurement, when offering the highest prices for it.

We are well aware that the amount of work performed is not by any means an equivalent for the money paid, and we are fully prepared, after the works shall be closed, to find the Board of Works attacked for the small quantity of work which will have been executed; and we are free to admit, that this may in many instances be true, and caused either by inattention or ignorance, on the part of those employed to superintend the work, and their Lordships, we feel assured, must be aware of the difficulty, if not impracticability, of the Board controlling such conduct under existing circumstances.

In some districts there appeared such a determination to do as little as possible, that we had printed bills sent to the different works, directing payment to be made in proportion only to the work performed. (Paper B.)

The arrangement of appointing inspecting officers of districts appears to work extremely well.

We have placed officers in the counties of

Galway,
Roscommon,
Tipperary,

Mayo,
Limerick, and
Cork,

and others will be appointed to counties where works are executing extensively, as soon as they can be taken from the duties they are now employed upon.

We experience great benefit by having an officer stationed in a district, with whom we can communicate upon any subject connected with, or having reference to the duties in which we are engaged, and very beneficial results have been derived from the personal communications they have had with the Relief Committees, by inquiring into complaints, or by giving advice where needed.

A copy of the instructions issued to the officers will be found in Paper C.

We are glad to find that the best feeling appears to exist between the inspecting officers and the county surveyors and engineers in charge of the works, who appeared to have viewed the appointment of these officers in a proper light, and have evinced a candid spirit of co-operation with them.

It affords us great satisfaction in being able to notice the very efficient assistance we have received from the county surveyors, who are discharging their duties in a very zealous manner, as are also the engineers in charge.

The arrangements made by Captain Larcom, R.E., for the examination of the memorials, aided by the great facilities afforded by the Ordnance Survey Office for supplying the officers appointed to that duty with the necessary maps of the baronies, and other official information, have worked extremely well, and greatly expedited our duty of reporting upon them.

The arrangement for the regular payment of the labourers is as follows:

The course pursued by the Board for payment of the labourers (on which more information has been called for), may be seen from the following statement of the detail of proceedings.

The weekly labour returns are made out by a check clerk from the overseer's day-books, or by the overseer himself on small detached works. These returns are forwarded to the engineers in charge of the district, who, after examining and signing them, forward them to the district pay clerks, with instructions to pay them.

To enable the Board to put the pay clerk in funds for this purpose, the engineer, some days before, sends up to the Board an estimate of the probable sum that the labour returns will amount to for the week; and on receipt of this estimate, a remittance, in the shape of bankers' post bills or letter of credit, is forwarded to the pay clerk, who, after payment of the returns, sends them to this office, vouched.

This may be described as the general course of proceeding; but, owing to the great extent of works in progress in the counties of Tipperary, Limerick, and Clare, it was found necessary to establish in Limerick a person in the Board's confidence, who has a general control over the whole of the pay clerks in those counties, and to whom all returns are forwarded immediately they are paid, and by him at once audited, before being returned to the Board.

For supplying funds to the pay clerks in the county of Clare, and a greater portion of Limerick, an arrangement has been come to with the Bank of Ireland and the Provincial Bank to fund the pay clerks by order from the auditor on their branches, and so avoid the necessity for remittances from this office on estimate, the auditor having the actual amount stated to him weekly that is required for each payment. The instructions from the banks to their managers of branches, at the Board's desire, only allow the auditor's order to be cashed in favour of the individual pay clerks named to them by the Board, and he cannot himself draw any sum from the bank. The orders of the auditor on the banks in favour of the pay clerks are sent to this office immediately after they are received from the branch banks, and the Board having previously received a return from the engineers of the amount of the several returns of labour, a complete check is established on the sums to be drawn.

The Board were obliged to take this course, as, with such a number of persons conducting works, travelling from one place to another, they could not obtain punctually the estimates of weekly expenditure in time to make the remittances; the consequence was, great irregularity in payments, and consequent discontent among the labourers.

When the auditor is living in the middle of the district before alluded to, he is enabled without delay to have the returns of actual expenditure sent to him. This system is working satisfactorily.

The Board have made use of the branches of the Bank of Ireland, Provincial Bank, National Bank, and Tipperary Bank, who have been most accommodating in keeping supplies of silver for them, without which the payments to a

large amount could not be regularly made in accordance with the rule "to pay every man separately what is due to him."

At Ballinasloe we have also employed a confidential officer to receive all returns, vouched, from the pay clerks, and to exercise control over them by visiting their districts, and seeing that the people are paid regularly; but the payments not being so heavy as in the southern districts, nor the pressure from distress so great, it has not as yet been found necessary to remit the funds otherwise than directly from the office.

(A.)

ABSTRACT RETURN of Days of Labourers employed on Relief Works in Four Weeks ending 27th June, 1846.

ROADS.				ROADS.			
County.	Ranep.	Barney Totals.	County Totals.	County.	Ranep.	Barney Totals.	County Totals.
CLARE . . .	Moyarta . . . Drichan . . . Clonderlaw . . . Bunawry, Upper . . . " Lower . . . Burren . . . Coromroe . . . Islands . . . Inchiquin . . . Tulla, Upper . . . " Lower . . .	85,688 9,469 22,515 1,095 4,175 6,860 6,508 14,092 32,517	160,779	KIN'S . . .	Ballycowan . . . Kilmoney . . .	3,126 71	3,197
CORK . . .	Cork District . . . Barrett and Mus- kerry East . . . Dushlow . . . Fernay . . . Muskerry . . . Southern District, 2nd division.	1,910 49 1,659 3,500 35 301	7,245	KERRY . . .	Cuckagail . . . Chennaurce . . . Inghedonner . . . Kilmoghla . . . Magunihy . . . Southern District, 2nd division. Southern District . . . Traghmacloy . . .	8,662 15,316 6,330 3,566 6,410 9,404 274 1,357	51,768
CORK and KERRY	Southern District 2nd division.	50	50	KILMARTIN . . .	Clare . . . Clare and Carbury	840 432	1,272
DUBLIN . . .	Coolock . . . Dublin . . .	129 265	394	LEMERICK . . .	Connello, Lower . . . " Upper . . . Glenties . . . KERRY . . .	2,554 1,168 84 1,134	4,941
DUBLIN & MEATH	Navy and Knock- sacken.	537	537	LONGFORD . . .	Longford . . .	107	107
GALWAY . . .	Ballymac . . . Clare . . . Drinallan . . . Galway . . . Killyan . . . Kilmoneill . . . Kilmartin . . . Longford . . . Loughrea . . . Lestrane . . . Ross . . . Tinguin . . . Western District . . .	11,568 1,565 1,533 2,822 2,313 166 7,203 1,147 916 185 2,648 3,120 2,920	38,133	LOUTH . . .	Ardoo . . . Farned . . . Dunsalk Upper . . . " Lower . . . Louth . . .	7,412 1,040 7,190 5,221 166	21,029
			227,136	MEATH . . .	Kells Upper . . . " Lower . . . Lisc . . . Morgallion . . . Duna, and Upper Slane . . . Moykearoch, Lower Nobber . . . Navan, Lower . . . Slane, Lower . . .	6,290 11,122 2,095 9,388 8,213 1,489 5,335 2,344 5,931	48,313
			A.				180,657
							B.

(Continued.)

(A.)—continued.

ANNUAL REPORT of Days of Labourers employed on Relief Works in Four Weeks, ending 27th June, 1866—continued.

ROADS.				DRAINAGE.			
County.	Barony.	Barony Totals.	County Totals.	County.	District.	Nature of Work.	No. of Persons.*
MAYO .	Barriskoe . .	4,410	17,450	GALWAY .	Oreahill . .	Drainage	994
	Clannacross . .	3,916			Turloughmore .	Ditto	4,412
	Erris	1,003		LOUTH . .	Ardee	Ditto River Dee .	1,413
	Kilmaine . . .	3,125			Fane	Ditto River Fane .	3,146
ROSCOMMON .	Ballinacorney, North	40,914	40,914	LOUTH, MEATH, CARRIG, and MINAGRAM.	Glyde	Ditto River Glyde .	6,341
		1,688					
SLEGO . .	Co. Sligo . . .		1,688	LONGFORD .	Longford . . .	Ditto	63
				MEATH and KILDARE.	Blackwater . .	Ditto River Blackwater.	2,815
QUEEN'S . .	Ballyduane . .	1,185	1,634	QUEEN'S . .	Borris in Quay	Ditto	1,452
	Clan Malagh . .	1,385					
	Tinchinagh . .	235		ROSCOMMON .	Strabstowna .	Ditto	2,349
TIPPERARY .	Charleville . .	1,814	49,212	TIPPERARY .	Borrisokane . .	Ditto, Rodden Gar- ten.	4,053
	Ellegary . . .	220		WEXFORD .	Cahoon	Ditto Bog ditto . .	1,577
	LEA and OGH, East	1,375			Kilmanock . .	Salt Embankment .	2,689
	" " West	3,710					
	Kilmanamagh .	12,415					
	Madingley . . .	12,726					
	North Riding .	4,552					
	Omeel, Upper .	4,008					
	" Lower .	3,060					
	Owney and Arns	3,403					
	Shere Anagh . .	864					
WATERFORD .	Co. Waterford and	722	7,682	A. 227,138			
	Corkbridge . .			B. 130,657			
	Doris within	5,036		C. 120,343			
	Doris without	1,569		478,138 Total on Roads.			
	Doris	555		31,226 Total on Drainage.			
WICKLOW .	Baldinglass Dis- trict.	1,373	1,373	509,364 Total on Roads and Drainage.			

Office of Public Works, 26th July, 1866.

By Order,
J. C. WALKER.

[Paper B. has been mislaid, and cannot be sent to the Printer in time for the press.]

(C.)

Instructions sent to Inspecting Officers of Counties.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to acquaint you that they are of opinion that it will conduce very much to the satisfactory execution of the important duties entrusted to them if frequent inspections can be made of the work now in progress, and of those that may hereafter be put in hand.

The Board, neither collectively nor individually, can make those inspections so often as they consider necessary; they have, therefore, appointed you to be their "Inspecting Officer" for the county of ———, and of such other districts as they may hereafter deem proper to appoint you, unless you may be of opinion that some more eligible point may be fixed upon.

The town of ——— will be your residence, and to which place all official letters will be addressed unless other post towns should be named by you for that purpose, and which sometimes may be found necessary.

Under all circumstances, you will keep the Secretary constantly informed of the post towns to which your letters should be addressed.

The works intended to be executed in the county of ———, have been placed as follows, viz:—

The Northern Division, under Mr. ———, County Surveyor.
The Southern Division, under Mr. ———, ditto.

Assistants have been placed under the control of each of these gentlemen.

You will communicate personally and by letter whenever you may wish to do so with any of those gentlemen; and it is the Board's particular desire that a cordial feeling and understanding should exist between you and the engineers whose duty it is to have the works executed.

An important part of your duty will be to assist them with your advice in such points as they may require it, and you are to facilitate their operations as much as possible. On no account are you to interfere with the details of the works; but should anything occur to you, in the visits that you may make, which in your opinion calls for alteration, you will direct the attention of the engineer to the subject, and state fully what appears to you necessary to be done.

On inspecting any particular district where a relief committee is established, you will make inquiry of the engineer whether the instructions respecting the issue of tickets to those individuals only who require assistance is attended to, and you are to discontinue as much as possible the delivery of tickets indiscriminately to all who demand them. You will also endeavour to prevent the committees from sending more men for employment than the engineer has arranged can be beneficially or usefully employed at or on any particular road.

It is expected that a fair day's work will be given for a fair day's pay; and as a check upon idleness, where it exists, it would be advisable that the engineer should only pay a quarter or a half day's pay in proportion to the work performed.

You will be very particular at your inspections to ascertain whether the labourers have been regularly paid; if you receive any complaint of irregularity, immediate inquiry should be made; call the pay clerk to explain the cause of irregularity, and if you are not satisfied with his statement, refer to the district pay clerk, whose office is established at Limerick, and whose special duty it is to look after that particular branch. Check the pay lists, and take care that the amounts are regularly remitted to the pay clerks. The rule laid down by the Board is, that the payments should be made once a week, and at no longer intervals.

The Board request that you will send off by post, so as to be in Dublin every Monday morning, a weekly report of your proceedings during the past week, in which you will state the day of the week and month on which you visited any particular work, with such observations as you may think it desirable to offer, so as to afford the Board the fullest information possible as to the state of the work and the progress that has been made.

A communication will be made to the engineer in charge, notifying your appointment and the nature of the duties you are to perform, so as to prevent any misunderstanding on their part.

As an officer employed under the Board of Works, you are to consider yourself as a member of any of the relief committees in your district, and take your seat accordingly.

By order,

J. C. WALKER, Secretary.

RETURN of APPLICATIONS made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Viet. chap. 21, showing the total Number, their Date, Nature, and Amount; also the Amount recommended, and the Date of the Order for the commencement of the Works.

Carried on from the Date of last Return (May 31) to June 30, 1846.

No.	County.	Borough.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.			Amount Recommended.			Works ordered to be commenced.
					£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
				Amount carried forward from last Return	1,564,891	7	5	343,309	0	3	1846
	Carlow	Forth						500	0	0	June 22
	"	Uroon, East						1,400	0	0	" 20
	"	Do. West						1,370	0	0	" 8
	"	Bathville						650	0	0	" 20
	"	St. Malin, Lower						500	0	0	" 20
	Caran	Cushersha						500	0	0	" 18
	"	Clunkan						900	0	0	" 18
	Clare	Burns						3,519	15	6	" 10
	"	Delane						320	0	0	" 20
	"	Islands						1,355	0	0	" 17
	"	Tulla Upper						5,300	0	0	" 17
	"	Do. Lower						560	0	0	" 20
	Cork	Bantry						300	0	0	" 11
	"	Barretts						70	0	0	" 24
	"	Barrymore						2,020	0	0	" 11
	"	Bosc						5,000	0	0	" 24
	"	Carberry, East, W.D.						2,500	0	0	" 24
	"	Cedars and Chagghon						350	0	0	" 22
	"	Coatroy						20	0	0	" 23
	"	Fernoy						500	0	0	" 24
	"	Kinsale						630	0	0	" 18
	"	Kinnatillon						180	0	0	" 16
	"	Monkerry, East						790	0	0	" 11
	"	Orrery and Kilsore						976	0	0	" 24
	Galway	Ballysalinch						5,130	0	0	" 17
	"	Chromacrowen						1,780	0	0	" 12
	"	Galway						1,320	0	0	" 10
	"	Kilmarin						1,950	0	0	" 12
	"	Loughard						343	0	0	" 17
	"	Loughrea						1,080	0	0	" 17
	"	Moyrales						5,425	0	0	" 17
	"	Ross						600	0	0	" 23
	Kerry	Carthageenay						1,330	0	0	" 22
	"	Maginby						1,520	0	0	" 16
	Kilkenny	Cransagh						420	0	0	May 22
	"	Kells						800	0	0	" 15
	"	Galway						350	0	0	" 23
	"	Gowran						350	0	0	" 11
	King's	Ballybeg						590	0	0	" 29
	"	Ballybrat						320	0	0	" 27
	"	Clonak						220	0	0	" 11
	"	Garrycastle						350	0	0	" 26
	"	Onahill						215	0	0	" 26
	"	Philpstown, Lower						380	0	0	" 26
	Leitrim	Carraigallen									"
	"	Doonahair						2,550	0	0	" 26
	"	Leitrim						1,600	0	0	" 10
	"	Mahil						400	0	0	" 27
	"	Rosbeggar						1,400	0	0	" 28
	Limerick	Cornelia Upper						1,350	0	0	" 28
	"	Coanagh						2,227	19	4	" 12
	"	Cashla						2,108	7	0	" 20
	"	Limerick, North						250	0	0	July 3
	"	Liberty									"
	"	Owenybeg						2,730	19	0	June 11
	"	Publickries						846	8	0	" 29
	"	Shanell						332	0	0	" 11
	"	Smallbrook						1,037	3	6	" 26
	Louth	Fernard						650	0	0	June 15

(Continued.)

Return of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict. chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	[Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Recommended.	Works ordered to be executed.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1846
Mayo . . .		Barrishockle . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	650 0 0	June 25
"		Carr . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,300 0 0	July 6
"		Castello . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	550 0 0	June 26
"		Erin . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,000 0 0	" 25
"		Kilmaine . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	870 0 0	" 26
"		Tynawley . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	350 0 0	July 3
Meath . . .		Dohick . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	290 0 0	June 23
"		Fore . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	815 0 0	" 16
"		Lane . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	310 0 0	" 11
"		Mayhemath, Upper . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	220 0 0	" 26
Queen's . . .		Ballynahan . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	750 0 0	" 13
"		Charnalagh . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	150 0 0	" 26
"		Cullinagh . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,300 0 0	" 13
"		Silvermury . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2,800 0 0	" 24
"		Upperwoods . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	240 0 0	July 2
Reconna . . .		Athlone . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	3,450 0 0	June 19
"		Ballintobber, South . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2,035 0 0	" 23
"		Ballymore . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,387 7 0	" 16
"		Cachera . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,737 15 0	" 25
Sligo . . .		Coolewin . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,658 18 6	" 17
"		Carbury . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,690 0 0	" 19
"		Leyney . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,047 0 0	" 20
"		Tynorill . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2,695 0 0	" 24
Tipperary . . .		Kilreemagh, Lower . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	552 9 0	" 20
"		Ormond, Upper . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	435 0 0	" 24
"		" Lower . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	260 0 0	" 20
"		Owney and Arns . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,140 0 0	July 2
"		Slieveardagh . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	150 0 0	June 11
Waterford . . .		Costmore and Cash- bride . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	790 0 0	" 5
"		Middlechild . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	130 0 0	" 26
"		Upperschild . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	310 0 0	" 10
Westmeath . . .		Clonsilla . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	250 0 0	" 19
"		Ferriallagh . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,075 0 0	" 20
"		Moyahel and Mag- heradenon . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	455 0 0	" 12
"		Moygash . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	510 0 0	" 11
"		Rathconrath . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	250 0 0	" 9
Wicklow . . .		Rathdown . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	390 0 0	" 24
"		Talbotstown, Upper . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	353 10 6	" 26
1846							
204	Carlow . . .	Idone, West . . .	June 18	Improving roads . . .	600 0 0	. . .	
205	Cavan . . .	Clackee . . .	" 2	"	5,300 0 0	. . .	
206	"	Loughree, Upper . . .	" 6	"	1,300 0 0	. . .	
207	"	Tollygarry . . .	" 2	"	2,600 0 0	. . .	
208	Clare . . .	Bannary, Upper . . .	" 22	"	1,111 11 0	. . .	
209	"	Clonderlow . . .	" 24	"	5,694 3 0	. . .	
210	"	Coomroe . . .	" 8	"	730 0 0	. . .	
211	"	Islands . . .	" 22	"	4,918 0 0	. . .	
212	"	Moyarta . . .	June 4	"	7,911 10 0	. . .	
213	Cork . . .	Fernoy . . .	" 18	"	3,398 0 0	. . .	
214	"	Kinnatalloon . . .	" 24	"	2,064 0 0	. . .	
215	"	Orrery and Kilmore . . .	" 18	"	3,480 0 0	. . .	
216	"	Carbury, West . . .	" 6	"	8,746 0 0	. . .	
217	Galway . . .	Ballymore . . .	" 18	"	3,960 0 0	. . .	
218	"	Galway Town . . .	" 26	"	7,850 0 0	. . .	
219	Kerry . . .	Glenarough . . .	" 24	"	5,880 0 0	. . .	
220	Kildare . . .	Nass, South . . .	" 6	"	300 0 0	. . .	
221	Kilkenny . . .	Panadine . . .	" 18	"	700 0 0	. . .	
222	King's . . .	Ballybratt . . .	" 16	"	630 0 0	. . .	
223	Lancaster . . .	Mohill . . .	" 2	"	300 0 0	. . .	
224	Limerick . . .	Charvillan . . .	" 4	"	21,370 17 4	. . .	
225	"	Coshlee . . .	" 24	"	7,211 0 0	. . .	
226	"	Kerry . . .	" 19	"	895 0 0	. . .	
227	"	North Liberties . . .	" 11	"	1,312 0 0	. . .	
228	"	Owneybeg . . .	" 11	"	841 0 0	. . .	
229	Mayo . . .	Carrs . . .	" 24	"	4,800 0 0	. . .	
230	"	Clannamris . . .	" 23	"	1,700 0 0	. . .	
231	"	Erin . . .	" 26	"	1,660 0 0	. . .	
232	"	Tynawley . . .	" 5	"	5,233 12 6	. . .	
233	Meath . . .	Fore . . .	" 11	"	90 0 0	. . .	
234	"	Kells, Upper . . .	" 25	"	1,980 0 0	. . .	
235	Monaghan . . .	Omene . . .	" 25	"	1,000 0 0	. . .	
236	"	Monaghan . . .	" 19	"	1,560 0 0	. . .	
237	Queen's . . .	Ballynahan . . .	" 19	"	1,970 0 0	. . .	
238	"	Upperwoods . . .	" 9	"	747 0 0	. . .	

Return of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict. chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Status of Application.	Amount Applied for.			Amount Recommended.			Works ordered to be commenced.
					£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
239	Down	Boyle	1846								
240	Sligo	Curberry	" 33	"	2,280	0	0				
241	"	Tyrone	" 33	"	5,618	0	0				
242	"	Maguires	" 10	"	2,006	0	0				
243	Tipperary	Maguires	" 24	"	750	0	0				
244	"	Mid and Offs, East	" 1	"	900	0	0				
245	"	" West	" 6	"	9,000	0	0				
246	"	Kilmorenagh, Upper	" 11	"	4,138	0	0				
247	Waterford	Decks within Drain	" 27	"	97	10	0				
248	"	Glensheen	" 27	"	642	14	0				
249	"	Midland	" 19	"	250	0	0				
250	Wexmouth	Fennellagh	" 18	"	1,075	0	0				
251	Wexford	Barrow	" 18	"	317	5	0				
252	"	Garry	" 20	"	1,021	19	0				
253	"	St. Michael	" 18	"	440	0	0				
254	Wicklow	Rathdown	" 18	"	86	0	0				
255	"	Tubestown, Upper	" 18	"	764	0	0				
256	"	" Lower	" 4	"	551	0	0				
					£10,187	120	9	3,349	554	13	2

By order,

JOSEPH C. WALKER,
Secretary.Office of Public Works, Ireland,
July 7, 1846.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS TO THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.

Dublin, July 18, 1846.

We feel it our duty to bring under the early notice of the Government the importance of considering the subject, as to when the relief afforded by employment on Public Works shall cease, in order that this Board may be timely furnished with the necessary instructions for their guidance.

It would appear to be necessary to decide this question speedily, the season being advanced, with the prospect of an early harvest.

It will not be possible to fix the precise period for closing the works generally, as this must be regulated according to the circumstances of each locality.

It may be found advisable to reduce the numbers employed gradually, or to reduce the rate of pay.

The latter, in our opinion, would be the most desirable course, as it would not hold out inducements to the farm labourers to prefer employment on the Relief Works, as the rate of pay would be lower than that given by the farmers.

The money advanced by Government being intended solely for the relief of the poor suffering from the failure of the potato crop, it would appear that the proper time to discontinue its issue would be when the new crop and the ordinary employment of the country have afforded a remedy.

To determine this very important point rests with the Relief Commissioners, who should communicate to this Board, or to the Lord Lieutenant, the time when they shall consider relief by employment on Public Works no longer necessary; or, if it should please his Excellency, a discretionary power may be vested in us.

We suggest, then, that this power may be given to the Board of Works, as they have officers with whom they are almost daily in communication, and from whom they could receive current information as to the state of the crops, either of corn or potatoes.

It is very probable that many of the new roads will be found in an unfinished state when the period arrives that the Government aid ought to cease.

There does not appear to be any objection to their being left in an unfinished state. They were undertaken to afford relief, but the recommendations were founded on the fact that they would, when finished, be works or lines of communication of public utility.

Of course, if only a few days' labour were necessary to complete a road, its completion should be permitted.

The unfinished roads may be completed by the Grand Jurors, if they are desirous to benefit by the advantages which such new lines of communication would offer.

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

July 21, 1846.

MY LORDS have before them the fourth Monthly Report of the Board of Works of their proceedings in affording employment in the distressed districts in Ireland, under the Act 9 Vict. cap. 1.

Their Lordships concur in the opinion expressed by the preceding Board of Treasury, that, considering all the difficult and peculiar circumstances of the case, the degree of efficiency and regularity which has been attained in the execution of the numerous works simultaneously carried on in various parts of Ireland, is creditable to the Board of Works and to the officers serving under them; and although it is their Lordships' desire that every complaint which may be made, either in reference to the alleged insufficiency of the work performed, compared with the sums expended, or on any other ground, may be promptly and fully investigated, they will not overlook the distinction which ought to be made between those parts of the undertaking, the regulation of which may fairly be considered to have been within the power of the superior officers, and those in respect to which, owing to the nature of the local agency employed, effectual direction and control was not to be expected.

Their Lordships are deeply sensible that the series of measures by which employment and food have of late been provided for large numbers of persons in Ireland, by the agency of public officers, and in a great degree at the public expense, are at variance with the principles by which the well-being of society is ordinarily regulated; that such measures are liable to abuses which require the utmost vigilance of the Government, and of the officers employed under it, to keep them in check; and that great and permanent evils would be the result of any portion of the people becoming habituated to depend upon the Government for support. This anomalous, and, under other circumstances, highly objectionable mode of proceeding, was justified by the necessity of interposing for the purpose of averting the calamitous effects which would otherwise have arisen from the late extensive failure of the accustomed food of the people of Ireland; but their Lordships feel that it is not less incumbent upon them to be able to show that the operations undertaken for this object are, as far as possible, limited to the exigency of the case, and that every practicable precaution has been taken to bring them to an early termination as soon as the people of the distressed districts can properly be left to their usual resources.

Those parts of the operations for the relief of the people which stand most in need of correction are stated to be connected with the imperfect manner in which some of the Local Relief Committees have executed the duties entrusted to them; and it appears, as well from the Report now before this Board, as from the previous correspondence on the subject, that tickets for employment on the Relief Works have, in numerous instances, been distributed by the members of those committees, without regard either to the real circumstances of the applicants, or to the number of persons who could properly be employed;—that the ordinary resort of Irish labourers to England, for the purpose of participating in the high wages consequent on the getting in of the hay and corn harvest has been in some parts of the country suspended;—that the great public works for the improvement of the Shannon, and for the drainage of the country, have, to a considerable extent, been left without workmen;—and that the people employed on the Relief Works have indulged in habits of indolence, preferring the receipt of an alms allowance under the name of wages, to higher wages proportioned to the labour performed.

Their Lordships feel it to be their imperative duty to apply, in concurrence with the Lord-Lieutenant, a suitable remedy to this state of things; but, at the same time, the utmost care must be taken that the measures intended to pre-

vent the abuse of the means provided by Parliament for the relief of the people in the distressed districts, do not interfere with the substantial and well-regulated administration of that relief during the short period which remains before the new harvest and the employment connected with it will render further precautions unnecessary.

With these objects in view, it is their Lordships' desire that all the works now in progress under the first Act of this Session should be inspected, at the earliest practicable period, by those members of the Board of Works who can, without serious inconvenience, leave their duties in Dublin, or by other officers in whose judgment and experience entire confidence can be placed, and who will be selected for the occasion by the Board of Works from among those now employed by them or co-operating with them; and that the following rules be acted upon by the inspectors, without waiting for any further orders from this Board or from the Irish Government, except in cases (if any such should occur) which are attended with unusual difficulties.

First. The Inspecting Officer will, in every case, revise the lists of labourers employed upon Relief Works, so as to confine the persons to whom wages are, for the future, to be paid to those who are *proved to have no other means of subsistence*; and he will take care that the rule, that tickets are to be signed by two members, and are to be issued only through the Secretary, as well as the other regulations which have been prescribed to the Relief Committees for the purpose of preventing persons who are not really in distress from being employed upon the works, are properly observed.

Secondly. The wages to be paid are also, in every case, according to the rule which has been repeatedly enjoined, to be fixed below the usual rate of wages in the neighbourhood.

Thirdly. If it shall appear, after making full inquiry in the neighbourhood, and communicating with the members of the Local Relief Committee, that there is no such urgent distress as requires the continued adoption of extraordinary measures of relief, or that drainage or other works are being carried on which would afford the people sufficient employment, the Relief Works in progress in that neighbourhood are to be discontinued.

Fourthly. In discontinuing Relief Works, as above directed, care should be taken to leave them, as far as possible, in a serviceable state, *as far as they have gone*—as, for instance, a section of a road actually in progress may be completed to such an extent as will render it of some use, and will admit of its being easily carried on hereafter by a loan secured by Grand Jury Presentation; but it must be clearly understood that the paramount object in every case in which such works are not required for giving relief, is to bring the work to an early close, and that the intention of the slight modification above adverted to is merely that this object may be carried into effect with as little sacrifice as possible of any incidental benefit that may have been expected from the works.

Fifthly. When Relief Works are continued for a time, a date should be fixed by the Inspecting Officer, with reference to the prospects of the harvest and probable means of employment in the neighbourhood, at which the work is to be finally brought to a close, and all payments on account of it are to cease. And

Sixthly and lastly. The members of the Board of Works and other officers employed in this service will keep a journal, in which every material part of their proceedings in the execution of these Instructions is to be clearly recorded, one copy of which journal they will send at the end of each week, through the Board of Works, to this Board, and another copy will be sent by them, through the same channel, for the information of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant.

It was pointed out by the late Board of Treasury, at an early period of these operations, that the sole object for which a fund had been provided by Parliament by the first Act of the present Session for the purpose of carrying on works in Ireland, half at the public expense, and half at the expense of the distressed localities, was to *provide a remedy for the scarcity then impending over that country*; and that works were not to be carried on under the above-mentioned Act, although they might have been presented according to the prescribed form, and have received the sanction of this Board, if it should afterwards appear that the works, or any portion of them, were not required

for the relief of urgent and unusual distress arising from the above-mentioned cause.

Their Lordships entirely concur in this view, and they desire that the Commissioners of Public Works, and the officers employed by them, will impress upon all concerned, that the motive which induced Parliament to give effect, by the first Act of the present Session, to a mode of executing public works in Ireland much more advantageous than any which had, for many years past, been available to the parties interested in the execution of such works, was, not for the sake of any advantages which were expected to be derived from the works themselves, *but solely to assist the proprietors and others in affording employment to relieve the distress of the people, caused by the failure of their ordinary food*; and that as soon as this distress has in any locality been relieved, the object of the Act has been accomplished, and the works, as carried on by that Act, should be discontinued at the earliest practicable period.

If, in such cases, the parties interested desire that the works should be carried on to completion, it is open to them to take the usual steps to provide for this object, either by obtaining loans secured by Grand Jury Presentment, or by other means.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information.

Also transmit a copy to the Secretary for Ireland for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, and request that he will move his Excellency to give his support and assistance to the Board of Works, in carrying into effect the instructions contained therein.

Also request that he will suggest to his Excellency to consider whether it is necessary to continue any longer the functions of the Board of Health, which was constituted in the early part of the present year, for the purpose of providing a remedy for the fever reported to have broken out in some localities, owing to the scarcity of food; and whether it would not be advisable that a day should be named for the discontinuance of donations from the Public Revenue, in aid of subscriptions for the relief of distress arising from the same cause; and also, that a period should be fixed for closing the operations of the Relief Commission.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to Sir R. Routh for his information.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 7, 1846.

My Lords refer to the Act of this Session, cap. 3, authorizing the issue of grants and loans to be applied in the construction of piers, harbours, and other works connected with the Sea Fisheries in Ireland.

The 10th clause of the Act directs that in case the Commissioners appointed under the same Act shall recommend the construction of any such work to the Treasury, and shall report the amount of money which in their opinion might properly be advanced by way of grant for or on account of such work, and the Lords of the Treasury shall think fit provisionally to approve of the work so recommended, or any modification thereof, and the amount of the grant recommended, or any modification thereof, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of the Treasury to signify their provisional approval of the same respectively, and to specify the time to be allowed for the repayment, and the rate of interest to be chargeable upon such sum of money as may be required by way of loan to defray the residue of the total cost of the work so approved by them over and above the amount to be advanced for the same by way of grant; and the 11th clause directs that the Fishery Commissioners shall, on receiving from the Commissioners of the Treasury their provisional approval as aforesaid, cause to be prepared a provisional declaration under their hands, describing, by reference to plans or otherwise, the works proposed to be executed or provisionally approved of, and the estimated cost thereof, with the respective proportions of such cost to be supplied by way of grant and by way of loan, and the time of repayment of the rate of interest on such loan, and the county or counties, or the extent of district or lands which ought, in the

opinion of the said Commissioners, to become chargeable with the repayment of such loan and the interest thereon.

In pursuance of these enactments, my Lords are pleased provisionally to approve of the following work :—The extension of Claddagh pier in the county of Galway, at the expense of 4000*l.*; viz., 2666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to be advanced by way of grant, and 1333*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* by way of loan. Of the loan 888*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* to be repaid by the town of Galway, and 444*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* by the proprietors whose property will be benefited by the reclaimed land; the whole to be repaid in 20 half-yearly instalments, together with interest at the rate of 5 per cent on the sum outstanding.

Communicate their Lordships' provisional approval of these works to the Fishery Commissioners, and desire that they will prepare the provisional declaration required by the Act, and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 7, 1846.

Read again the letter from the Commissioners of Fisheries in Ireland, dated 1st instant, recommending works at different fishery piers in Ireland, to be executed by means of grants and loans under the Act of this Session, cap. 3, and the Minute of their Lordships thereon, so far as relates to the pier at Claddagh, in the county Galway.

My Lords are now pleased to sanction provisionally in the terms of the said Act, the following works, viz. :—

1. The construction of a pier at Carlingford, in the county Louth,
at an expense of £2,000
Two-thirds of the above sum to be granted £1,333 6 8
And one-third raised by loan, viz. :—
To be levied off the proprietors 500 0 0
To be levied off the district 166 13 4
£2,000 0 0
2. The improvement of Rush Harbour at £1,400
Two-thirds to be granted, or 933 6 8
One-third to be contributed by Sir R. Palmer 466 13 4
£1,400 0 0
3. The construction of a pier at Mount Charles, county Donegal,
at the expense of £2,675
One-half to be provided by a grant 1,337 10 0
To be contributed by the Marquis of Conyngham 250 0 0
To be levied off the adjacent District 1,087 10 0
£2,675 0 0
4. The improvement at Greystones Harbour, county Wicklow, at £1,200
One-quarter to be raised by private subscription 300 0 0
And three-quarters to be granted 900 0 0
£1,200 0 0
5. The erection of a pier at Portshannon, county Donegal, at the
expense of £1,500
Three-fourths to be a grant 1,125 0 0
And one-fourth by a loan to be repaid by
Alexander Stewart, Esq. 375 0 0
£1,500 0 0

6. The erection of pier at Dunany, in county Louth, at		£500
Three-fourths to be a grant	375 0 0	
And one-fourth a loan, viz. :—		
To be levied off the proprietor	60 0 0	
And off the district	65 0 0	
	£500 0 0	
7. The construction of a pier at Ballinass, in county Donegal, at		£640
Three-fourths to be a grant, or	480 0 0	
And one-fourth, a loan to be levied off the adjacent district	180 0 0	
	£640 0 0	

The whole of the loans to be repaid by 20 half-yearly instalments, together with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the sums outstanding, except in those cases in which the instalments would be so small that an earlier repayment of the loan would be more convenient to the parties interested; and in such cases the Commissioners are authorized to fix such period for the repayment of the loan as may be mutually agreed.

Communicate their Lordships' provisional approval of these works to the Fishery Commissioners, and desire that they will prepare the provisional declarations required by the Act, and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 10, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, with reference to their Reports to the Lord Lieutenant, dated respectively 3rd and 4th July, on memorials from the barony of Dunmore, county of Galway, and from the county of the town of Galway, making application for the execution of certain works, under the provisions of the Act 1 Vic. c. 21, that the undermentioned works appear to be of a more extensive character than are likely to be required for giving employment in the respective neighbourhoods for the short remaining period during which it will be necessary to carry on public works for the relief of the people; and should such, on inquiry, prove to be the case, their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will submit to the Lord Lieutenant a modified proposition for the execution of only so much of these works as may be wanted to meet the present emergency.

A new line of road from Milltown to Tuam, to avoid the hills of Kildooney £2000

A new line of road to the town of Galway, on the east side, so as to avoid the hills on the present College Road 1200

Subject to these observations, the works included in their two Reports, above adverted to, are approved.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to Mr. Pennefather, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

Dublin, July 13, 1846.

WE have the honour to forward herewith an abstract of an application from Wybrants Olphert, Esq., for a loan of One thousand pounds (£1,000), and a grant of Eight hundred and fifty pounds (£850), in aid of a new road from Falcara Cross to Guidore, in the county of Donegal, under the Act 1st and 2nd William IV., chap. 33; and we beg leave to recommend the same for your Lordships' favourable consideration.

The proposed grant is for an extremely useful line of road, to pass through a district of country now almost shut out from improvement by want of a proper line of communication with the nearest markets. Besides, this line will be of importance, forming part of the general coast line in the north-west of Donegal.

It has already been brought under your Lordships' notice by a memorial from Lord George Hill and others. The subscription will only amount to 150*l.*; the remainder of the estimate it is sought to be obtained by a grant from us, in addition to the sum of 1000*l.*, presented by the grand jury.

We hope that the people in this district will not experience as much distress as in some of the better cultivated parts of the country, but still we apprehend that even in the remote parts, where the crops of potatoes have not suffered comparatively from the prevailing disease, extra employment will be required in consequence of the price of provisions being raised by the demands of adjoining districts.

ENCLOSURE.

APPLICATION FOR A LOAN AND GRANT TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.

Applicant.	Object.	Sum required.	Nature of Security.	Rate of Proposed Repayments.		General Observations.
				Principal.	Interest.	
Wyndesham, Esq.	In aid of a new road from Falcarragh to Gredart, in the County of Donegal.	Estimate, 2500 <i>l.</i> Proposed Loan, 1000 <i>l.</i> Proposed Grant, 1500 <i>l.</i> Private Contribution, 125 <i>l.</i>	Presentment.	10 per Cent.	5 per Cent.	The proposed line of road was inspected on the part of this Board by William Frederick, Esq., C.E. The grant is recommended for their Lordships' sanction, as the employment of the neighbouring poor by the construction of this road would be very advantageous at this distressful period; and also because the district of country through which the road will pass is, from the barren nature of the land, excessively poor, being a land of mountain bog.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
12th July, 1846.

Jos. C. WALKER, Secretary.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 17, 1846.

Inform the Commissioners of Public Works that on considering the remote situation of the district through which the proposed line of road is to pass, and the unimproved state of the communications to the nearest markets, my Lords are pleased to sanction the loan and grant recommended, although the grant bears a larger proportion to the private contribution than it has been usual for my Lords to sanction.

Acquaint the Paymaster of Civil Services with the terms of the loan.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 14, 1846.

Write to Mr. Redington, acknowledging the receipt of Mr. McKenna's two letters, dated 11th instant, enclosing copies of Reports from the Board of Works, recommending the execution of the following works:—

To make a new line of road from Balmullet to Ballina and Killala, between Glenrullen in the Barony of Erris and Gunnamord Bridge in the Barony of Tyrawley, viz. that portion between Sheskin and Gunnamord, with branches from Croaghane to Glenmore, and from Shanestra to Glendough, being in all about 15 miles	£. 2500
A new line of road from Mill-street to Bantry, between the Government road from Macroom to Killarney, and the Bridge of Ballyfenane, four miles	1050

And request that he will state to the Lord Lieutenant, that it appears to their Lordships to be so improbable that works of this magnitude can really be wanted for the purpose of giving employment so near the close of the period during which it has been deemed necessary to have recourse to extraordinary measures of relief in consequence of the late failure of the potato crop, that their Lordships cannot feel that they should be justified in giving their sanction to them; and if some measures of relief should still be indispensably required in the neighbourhood in which the works in question are proposed to be carried on, they would suggest that his Excellency should authorize the execution of

a limited portion of these works, or some other works not more than sufficient to meet the exigencies of the case.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information and guidance.

TREASURY MINUTE.

July 17, 1846.

Write to Mr. Redington, in reply to his letter, dated 14th instant, enclosing a Report from the Board of Works, dated 9th instant, recommending the execution of the following work:—

A new road from Listowel to Castle Island, from Knights- bridge to the old road from Duagh to Rathen near Knock- annbrack	£. 1000
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And state that as no special grounds are urged for undertaking a work of this extent at this late period of the operations for the relief of the people suffering from the failure of the potato crop, and as the work in question, is of a kind which might have been proposed for other purposes than that of giving employment to the distressed poor, their Lordships consider that the observations contained in the letter from this Board dated the 14th instant, are equally applicable to this case, and they would suggest that only such portion of the road should be executed, as may be absolutely necessary for the purpose of relieving urgent distress arising from the above cause.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Commissioners of Public Works for their information.

Lieutenant-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, July 21, 1846.

I ENCLOSE you an abstract of our last weekly return, by which you will perceive that our numbers have greatly increased. What I foresaw early in the year is now verified; every man in the country who wants work, is forced upon us; we cannot help ourselves.

ENCLOSURE.

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS OF MEN EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS, for one week ended 15th July, 1846.

Clare	109,052
Cork	7,403
Downgal	2,132
Dublin	82
Galway	36,097
King's County	1,743
Kerry	27,934
Kilkenny	380
Limerick	41,796
Lekrim	2,896
Louth	8,436
Meath	16,993
Mayo	31,010
Queen's	1,698
Roscommon	23,644
Sligo	5,823
Tipperary	42,937
Waterford	5,237
Wicklow	308
West Meath	401
Total on Roads	366,302
On Drainage	15,852
Great Total on Roads and Drainage	382,164
Shannon Works	3,469
Total	385,633
Showing a daily average	64,272

RETURN showing the additional Assistance at present employed under the BOARD OF WORKS with reference to the SCARCITY, and the further Assistance which has been placed at their disposal, should it be required.

Department.	Name of Officer.	Where Employed.	How Employed.	Observations.
Civil Engineers .	John Macmahon . . . Barry D. Gibbons . . .	In the office or on out-duty, as the occasion may re- quire.	Reporting on or In- specting.	Not solely occupied on duty connected with survey, but generally under Act 9 Vict. c. 3 and 4.
Royal Engineers .	Capt. W. E. D. Broughton Capt. Edmund Ogle Capt. J. S. Hawkins . . Lieut. G. C. Barlie . . Lieut. C. S. Miller . . Lieut. T. Ingles . . .	Dahallow, Cork . . . Gerrycastle, King's County Lehrin, Galway . . . Leitrim, Leitrim . . . Clare, Galway . . . Athens, Galway . . .	Examining Projects " " " " " " " " " "	
Regiments serving in Ireland.	Capt. R. T. Fenton, 41st Capt. J. Lardner, 47th Capt. A. E. Burmester, 59th	Cobles, Limerick . . . Barrishade, Mayo . . Candon and Clangibban, Cork . . .	" " " " " "	
	Capt. H. W. Gordon, 59th Capt. A. L. Poulton, 59th Capt. C. E. P. Gordon, 75th Capt. J. Bolton, 75th . . Capt. H. F. Ainslie, 53rd . Lieut. H. Shum, 30th . . Lieut. T. W. L. Farmer, 41st Lieut. W. Faussett, 44th .	Threabur, Mayo . . . Erris, Mayo . . . Louth, Louth . . . Chenist, King's County Kilnenny West, Westmeath Kilmaroe, Mayo . . . Sherrinagh, Tipperary . Berrin, Tipperary . . .	" " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Employed with reference to Memorials under 9 Vict. c. 1.
Civil Engineers .	Henry Back	Idroo West, Carlow . .	" "	
Ordnance Survey .	Michael Boyan Mr. Griffith and Capt. Lar- com. Lieut. G. A. Leach, R.E. .	Glenquin, Limerick . . Mountjoy, Phoenix Park . Trenchinch, &c., Queen's County. " " Mountjoy, Phoenix Park .	Digesting and Con- sidering Reports. Examining Projects Assisting Lieutenants Leach. Copying Memorials, and Reports, Cor- respondence, &c.	
	Lance Corporal Longland, R. S. and M. Edward Singleton . . .	" " " " Mountjoy, Phoenix Park .	" " " " Copying Memorials, and Reports, Cor- respondence, &c.	
	William Mooney Joseph Mooney George O'Lawlor Anthony Carry William Irvine James G. Douglas Thomas T. Mooney Joseph Carry William C. Ryan	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " Preparing Maps, Tracts, Sections, &c.	Only occasionally em- ployed, principally after their usual office hours.
	Thomas Allen Patrick Nolan Joseph Elliott William Elliott William Murray Robert Murray Richard Griffith, Esq., Com- missioner.	" " " " " " " " " " " " Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin.	" " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Joined 22nd April. Joined 23rd April.
Survey and Valua- tion.	James Moore Patrick Gandy Robert Pardon Patrick Griffin William Jones Thomas Kough Denis Freeman James Lyman Thomas Cox Mr. Hackett	Critloe, Clare, and Cappa- more, Limerick. Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin. " " " " " " " " " " " " " " Secretary's Office . . .	Directing and Over- sawing Labours. Office Duties . . . " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Only occasionally em- ployed, when required.
Public Works,— Extra Employ- ment.	Mr. Mackintosh Mr. Allen Mr. Procter Mr. Tibbende Mr. Woods Mr. Griffin Mr. Powell Mr. Mansueth	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Registering Memo- rials. Clerk and Draughts- man. Clerk " " " " " " " "	Engaged to the general valuation of Ireland, and may be employed as Su- perintendents of Works if required.
				9 Vict. c. 1 and 3, (Fires and Harbours.)
				Ditto, and general business of the Department.

RETURN B. shows the number, &c. of the persons employed on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

Note.—There are no documents in this department showing the strength of the English Service.

Mr. E. RUSSELL to Mr. RADCLIFF.

July 25, 1846.

It not taking too great a liberty, might I ask how long it is intended to continue the works, as I have lately received instructions to proceed with works which will require a considerable time for their execution?

If the works are to be discontinued, I am of opinion that the best time and mode of doing it is to reduce the men gradually after a fortnight, and to cease altogether, or nearly so, within a month, that is, before the 1st of September, and any works that remain to be completed after that period may be reserved for the spring or summer of next year, when it is likely that there will be again a great necessity for employing the people.

The works, considering the materials with which we have to work, are progressing, except in very few instances, satisfactorily; and I may add that the works undertaken have been works of public utility. Distress would at this moment be general throughout the county were it not that the Government have, by means of the public works, rescued the people from the deadly grasp of starvation which threatened them; and I am happy in having it in my power to state, on the best authority, that the poor people of Clare were never so well provided for as they have been this season. There are some localities where distress pressed with some severity, but was in most cases promptly relieved, and I believe I could say with confidence that there has not been a single case of starvation throughout this county, and there are fewer cases of sickness, particularly fever, than for many years past; I have heard this remark made by the Roman Catholic clergy throughout the entire county.

Potatoes will be pretty generally fit for use in a week or ten days, and I may date the termination of all apprehension of famine from that period, at least for the present, and I shall feel myself, as it were, released from a load of responsibility, to support which I was very apprehensive would have required more strength of mind and body than I possessed.

I have taken up this note several times before I could get even so far, and shall resume the subject at some future time.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, July 30, 1846.

THE tide of emigration for England has set in; during the last 10 days a continual stream of men will have been found; it is supposed the number moving this year is larger than usual, but this has not relieved our works, for women and old men are now turned out upon us. At any rate we shall carry you well through the season, although not satisfactorily.

I enclose an abstract of our last weekly employment Return.

ENCLOSURE.

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Number of PERSONS employed in the Under-mentioned COUNTIES for the Week ending 25th July, 1846, viz.:—

Artrim	38	Sligo	8,431
Clare	102,130	Tipperary	42,301
Cork	11,767	Wicklow	593
Cavan	1,167	Waterford	5,403
Dublin	84	Westmeath	3,412
Galway	58,278		
King's	3,750	On Roads	435,694
Kerry	30,390	On Drainage	25,532
Limerick	64,024		
Litrim	7,998	Total	461,026
Louth	10,889	Add Shannon	3,167
Meath	16,153		
Mayo	33,375	Grand Total	464,193
Queen's	208	Gives a Daily Average	77,365
Roscommon	35,363		

Mr. REDINGTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, July 31, 1846.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, I am directed by the Lords Justices to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that their Excellencies will give their support and assistance to the Board of Works in carrying into effect the instructions contained in their Lordships' minute of the 21st instant.

With reference to the continuance of the Board of Health, constituted in the early part of the present year, and fixing a period for closing the operations of the Relief Commission, their Excellencies command me to enclose copy of a letter dated 28th instant from the Commissioners, to whom your letter had been referred, and desire me to express their concurrence in the suggestions therein made.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR,

Relief Commission Office, Castle, July 29, 1846.

We have had the honour to receive your letter of the 25th instant, requesting, by desire of the Lords Justices, our opinion, for their Excellencies' information, on the following inquiries in a letter from Mr. Trevelyan dated the 21st July, 1846.

1. Whether it is necessary to continue any longer the functions of the Board of Health, which was constituted in the early part of the present year for the purpose of providing a remedy for the fever reported to have broken out in some localities owing to the scarcity of food?

2. Whether it would not be advisable that a day should be named for the discontinuance of donations from the public revenue in aid of private subscriptions for the relief of distress arising from the same cause?

3. That a period shall also be fixed for closing the operations of the Relief Commission?

With respect to the Board of Health, we have to state that its arrangements are now in operation only in four Unions; but before offering an opinion as to the expediency of discontinuing these arrangements immediately, we are desirous of consulting Sir Philip Crompton and Sir Robert Kane, who are at present absent from Dublin. But, in the meanwhile, no new case shall be entertained, except under circumstances of urgent and serious necessity; and we have no reason to suppose at present that the operations of the Board may not be terminated at the same time as those of the Relief Commission.

The other inquiries have been fully considered, and we are of opinion that donations from the public revenue to relieve the distress arising from the scarcity caused by failures of last year's potato crop may be discontinued on the 10th proximo, and that the proceedings of the Relief Commission may be closed on the 15th proximo, the day on which issues of meal from the Commissariat depôts are to cease.

We, however, consider that the time from the 15th proximo to the end of the month will be necessary for winding up the office business of the Commission, so that it may be closed in a complete state on the 31st of the month; but we do not contemplate a necessity for assembling as a Board during that time.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) R. J. ROUTH.
E. T. B. TWISLETON.

T. N. Redington, Esq.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

Write to Mr. Redington that their Lordships concur with the Lords Justices in approving of the periods recommended for bringing to a close the several branches of the operations for the relief of the people suffering from the failure of the potato crop; and it is requested that the Lords Justices will cause instructions to be issued to the Relief Commission accordingly.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, August 8, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Right Honourable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a circular issued by the Relief Central Commission, at Dublin, at the suggestion of the Board of Works, drawing the attention of the District Relief Committees to an extract of their Lordships' minute of the 21st July.

ENCLOSURE.

*Relief Commission Office, Dublin Castle,
July 31, 1845.*

SIR,

THE Relief Commissioners desire to draw the attention of Relief Committees to the following extract from a minute made by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, on the 21st instant, which the Committee will be so good as to keep in view, when selecting persons for relief by employment on public works, under the Acts 1 Vic., cap. 21, and 9 Vic., cap. 1; also in the arrangements for bringing such works to a close, when no longer required by the existence of urgent distress.

I have, &c.

To the Secretary of the Relief Committee.

Secretary.

Major SUMMONDS to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Limerick, August 4, 1845.

NOTHING can be finer than the corn crops now being cut, but slowly, I am told, for want of labourers, resulting, it is to be feared, from the injudicious continuance of public works, as well as in the mismanagement of some committees, in not gradually withdrawing relief from persons able to work.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

August 8, 1845.

WE have the honour to forward this our Fifth Monthly Report of our proceedings in affording employment to the distressed districts in Ireland, under the Act 9 Victoria, cap. 1.

Up to the 31st July, the sum applied for amounted to	£1,292,553	8	9	A.
The sums recommended by us amounted to	458,143	13	6	A.
The number of roads examined and reported on is	3,809			
The expense incurred in making the examinations and inquiries is	£4,948	19	0	

The number of persons employed during the last four weeks, viz:—

	Great Number.	Daily Average.	
Week ending 4th July	217,851	36,308	
" 11th July	348,217	58,036	
" 18th July	425,651	70,943	
" 25th July	502,689	83,781	
Total of four weeks	1,494,408		B. C.

It will appear by the statement above, that the number of men employed daily during the past month increased considerably in the third week, and now may be considered as having attained its maximum.

The figures, showing the number of individuals employed, are not an index to the state of distress, or of the amount of employment necessary to be given to afford relief.

The great inattention of the greater number of Relief Committees to the instructions issued for their guidance, has added very much to the difficulties of the engineers in charge of the Works; and that the peace of the country has not been disturbed may be attributed to the sound judgment and discretion of the inspecting officers and engineers employed by the Board, who have experienced great annoyance, opposition, and interference, from individual members of committees.

That your Lordships may form some idea of the nature of the interference, we subjoin a copy of the resolutions which were sent to our engineer from the Relief Committee of Hospital, in the county of Limerick.

This will apply to nearly every district where committees have been formed, but the assistance of such a body would have been highly useful, had they

D.

acted with proper zeal and discretion, not leaving to individuals to select or recommend whom they pleased.

In general, little regard has been paid to the circumstances of an applicant.

Tickets have been distributed by individual members of the committee in the most irregular manner, and in some instances which have come to our knowledge, tickets have been sold and distributed by persons unconnected with committees; thus defeating the object of the Government in their appointment, and causing dissatisfaction and confusion, by sending in upon the works much larger bodies of men than could be usefully employed, or were intended to be so.

In some cases, our officers have been assaulted and grossly ill-treated, by idlers and others, who pressed upon the workmen, either with a mischievous intention, or with a view to obtain employment. This was to be expected when every labouring man in the country was directed to look to the Board of Works for employment; and it is a notorious fact, that the labourers did not get employment this year on those farms where they have usually obtained it, nor did the emigration to England begin to take place until very late in the season.

It is with regret that we have found ourselves compelled, in each succeeding month's report, to bring so prominently forward the misconduct of the Relief Committees, who, instead of affording our officers that support in the difficult duties they had to perform, have, on the contrary, greatly increased them; and should it unfortunately again occur that relief is to be afforded by public works, arrangements of a very different nature must be made for the selection of the individuals who are to be employed, which ought to be confined strictly to those in distress and requiring relief.

Our labours have been greatly augmented by the unfortunate feeling that manifested itself,—that works were to be found for the distressed *in each parish*, overlooking the circumstance that the presentments were baronial, and that parish boundaries were never considered by the Board when reporting upon the memorials.

The consequence has been, that in many cases, where there was abundance of work within a very short distance of the locality where distress existed, yet in consequence of the work being situated in a different parish, its benefits were not allowed to be extended to those actually requiring it, and for whom, perhaps, it was originally intended when the recommendation was made to the Lord Lieutenant.

The results were, that urgent and pressing demands for work, couched in strong language of complaint against the Board of Works, were addressed to the Lord Lieutenant that we had not acted fairly in carrying out the benevolent intentions of Government for the relief of the poor, and this split into divisions by parishes has caused a great deal of invective and ill-feeling where none ought to have been produced.

The number of military officers employed at present in reporting is as follows:—

Royal Engineers . . .	(at present none.)
Of regiments of the line . . .	Four.

Under this branch of our duty we have been able to reduce the number, but not so much as we expected. Memorials are still coming in, and as long as that continues, so long are we obliged to have reports made upon them by officers appointed especially for that duty.

Inspecting officers of districts, eight; viz.,

Royal Engineers . . .	Four
Regiments of the line . . .	Four

The number of officers employed on this duty has been increased from those previously employed in reporting. We have found the advantages of this arrangement, and experienced the benefits anticipated.

Charges of a serious nature are frequently preferred against our officers, but, after being referred to inspectors for inquiry, it generally appears that the animus with which they were written was either malevolence or disappointment.

It is but justice to the inspecting officers to state that they have one and all

shown a most laudable zeal in the discharge of the duties required of them, and evinced, on several trying occasions, great good sense, judgment, and discretion, by which disturbances have been prevented.

The county surveyors have rendered us most efficient aid. The excellent arrangements made by them in general have greatly contributed to the success of our operations.

The payment of the numerous parties employed has occupied a great deal of our attention, and considering the extent of country over which the duties of the pay clerks extend, and the number of works in hand, there has been much greater regularity observed than could reasonably and fairly have been expected; and where such has not been the case, the delay has generally been traced to the period when they first entered upon the duty, and when the pay clerks were probably unacquainted with the localities.

Since the first payments, scarcely a complaint of irregularity has been made.

We have been obliged to make arrangements for a large supply of silver being provided at the different banks throughout the country. This supply has been much greater than was anticipated. We naturally expected that the silver would have circulated freely through the country, and that after the first payments, no difficulty would have been experienced in obtaining it in exchange for notes. But the contrary has been the case; the silver as soon as paid disappears.

This has compelled us, in districts where banks did not exist, to send down, under the charge of confidential clerks, boxes containing silver from 500*l.* to 1000*l.* in amount. These boxes have been taken charge of by gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood. There was a risk attendant on such a mode of proceeding, but it is satisfactory for us to be enabled to state that these arrangements have been carried out with success.

We have great pleasure in bringing under your Lordships' notice the very great assistance and readiness to meet our views, which has been evinced by the Governors and Directors of all the great banking establishments throughout the country, who have not sought for commercial profits, but have been satisfied with merely charging us the actual expenses incurred by their respective establishments in procuring and transmitting the sums required.

It is, however, proper to bring under the notice of your Lordships this fact, that, with all these exertions, the available supply of silver in the country is not sufficient for the occasion, and that if pressed for much further, the managers of the respective banking establishments, who have already made us an intimation to this effect, would be totally unable to meet our demands.

A memorandum (E) is annexed, which shows the exertions obliged to be made by one great establishment (the Provincial), in order to meet those demands.

From this memorandum it appears that of 11,860*l.* issued at Kilrush, only 4760*l.* came back in the ordinary course; and at Ennis only 1930*l.* came back out of 5530*l.* so issued within a certain period.

We would, therefore, suggest for your Lordships' consideration, whether, in the event of a necessity for administering relief in a similar manner, it would not be desirable Her Majesty's Government should be prepared to issue a large portion of the requisite funds in silver coinage.

ENCLOSURE A.

RETURN of APPLICATIONS made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict., chap. 21, showing the Total Number, their Nature and Amount, also, the Amount recommended, and the Date of the Order for the Commencement of the Works.

Carried on from the Date of last Return to July 31, 1846.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.			Amount Recommended.			Date of Order for commencing Work.
					£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
				Carried forward from June . . .	1,187,120	9	3	349,554	13	2	1846.
Antrim		Kilnawar . . .						3,900	0	0	July 27
Callow		Blrora, West . . .						300	0	0	" 17
Clare		Barrowby, Upper . . .						1,680	0	0	" 13
"		" Lower . . .						1,229	0	0	" 31
"		Barrow . . .						50	0	0	" 6
"		Clauderlaw . . .						2,243	15	0	" 24
"		Covecraue . . .						2,311	0	0	" 6
"		Ikretkane . . .						790	0	0	" 13
"		Inchigun . . .						868	9	4	" 22
"		Islands . . .						3,332	0	0	" 18
"		Mayora . . .						2,961	0	0	" 15
"		Tulla, Upper . . .						1,911	5	0	" 6
"		" Lower . . .						855	0	0	" 4
Cork		Barrymore . . .						1,566	0	0	" 13
"		Carberry, East, W.D. . .						609	0	0	" "
"		" West, E.D. . .						1,112	0	0	" 18
"		Crookstown, Clongibdon . . .						2,568	0	0	" 20
"		Dubhalow . . .						1,584	0	0	" 22
"		Ferry . . .						4,902	0	0	" 17
"		Kilnaha . . .						540	0	0	" 13
"		Muskerrey, West . . .						1,209	0	0	" "
"		Orney and Kilnara . . .						860	0	0	" 27
Galway		Athony . . .						200	0	0	" 20
"		Clonsilla . . .						140	0	0	" 21
"		Dunkellin . . .						525	0	0	" 20
"		Dunmore . . .						2,561	0	0	" 21
"		Galway . . .						1,350	0	0	" 6
"		Kiltoran . . .						900	0	0	" 16
"		Loughrea . . .						250	0	0	" 27
"		Moycollin . . .						900	0	0	" "
"		Rae . . .						800	0	0	" 22
Kerry		Glannacree . . .						1,500	0	0	" 27
"		Corkaguiney . . .						464	0	0	" 11
"		Glennarough . . .						1,209	0	0	" 29
"		Traghacree . . .						1,300	0	0	" 16
Kildare		Nana, South . . .						300	0	0	" "
Kilkenny		Galway . . .						150	0	0	" 30
"		Gowran . . .						1,100	0	0	" 16
"		Kilkenny . . .						110	0	0	" "
King's		Ballybeg . . .						100	0	0	" "
"		Ballyhoist . . .						180	0	0	" "
Leitrim		Caerigallen . . .						1,800	0	0	" 20
"		Dromahair . . .						600	0	0	" 29
"		Meikill . . .						200	0	0	" 31
Limerick		Charwilliam . . .						1,119	0	0	" 11
"		Carrolla, Upper . . .						1,450	0	0	" 27
"		Caenagh . . .						527	10	0	" 20
"		Cobles . . .						2,437	0	0	" 17
"		Cashma . . .						830	0	0	" 15
"		Glenquin . . .						2,980	0	0	" 6
"		Kerry . . .						520	0	0	" 20
"		Kilmillock . . .						549	0	0	" 13
"		Smallockney . . .						2,122	0	0	" "
Louth		Anlie . . .						400	0	0	" 22
"		Fernand . . .						600	0	0	" 13
Mayo		Burrisboole . . .						1,410	0	0	" 16
"		Cara . . .						4,850	0	0	" 15
"		Glennorris . . .						1,080	0	0	" 13
"		Castile . . .						500	0	0	" 22
"		Erin . . .						210	0	0	" 25
"		Gillin . . .						3,850	0	0	" 8
"		Kilmarine . . .						500	0	0	" 28
"		Tymwely . . .						4,147	0	0	" 28
Monaghan		Duck . . .						250	0	0	" 6
"		Kells, Upper . . .						1,200	0	0	" 20

Return of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict., chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Recommended.	Date of Order for Commencing Work.
			1846.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1846.
	Meath—cont.	Narrin, Lower					July 17
	"	Slane, Upper				50 0 0	" 16
	Monaghan	Monaghan				500 0 0	" 13
	Queen's	Clonsilla				60 0 0	" 16
	"	Collins				500 0 0	" 6
	"	Timahilly				700 0 0	" 17
	Roscommon	Ballinabber, North				2,075 10 0	" 15
	"	Boyle				3,025 0 0	" 28
	"	Roscommon				1,347 0 0	" 17
	Sligo	Carberry				500 0 0	" 13
	"	Leyney				160 0 0	" 6
	"	Tyrone				1,116 0 0	" 15
	Tipperary	Clanwilliam				404 0 0	" 17
	"	Mid and Offa				220 0 0	" 29
	"	Kilmeashagh, Upper				450 0 0	" 10
	"	Lower				600 0 0	" 15
	"	Middlefield				271 0 0	" 22
	"	Demond, Lower				100 0 0	" 25
	"	Stevenson				1,000 0 0	" 13
	Waterford	Decan within Decan				100 0 0	" 20
	"	Decan without Decan				247 0 0	" 17
	"	Glenahilly				300 0 0	" 28
	"	Middlefield				500 0 0	" 17
	"	Upperfield				300 0 0	" 28
	Westmeath	Moygash				200 0 0	" 17
	Wicklow	Arklow				300 0 0	" 28
	"	Reddown				200 0 0	" 17
	"	Talbotstown, Upper				300 0 0	" 28
	"	Lower				200 0 0	" 17
	Wex	Murrisk				300 0 0	" 28
	Wex	Carberry				200 0 0	" 17
	Wex	Cornan				300 0 0	" 28
	Wex	Egharty				200 0 0	" 17
	Wex	Owney and Arns				160 0 0	" 17
256	Wex	Barrinny, Lower	July 3	New, and repairs of old roads.	2,931 0 0		
257	"	Brickage	" 18	"	500 0 0		
258	"	Islands	" 18	"	350 0 0		
259	"	Tulla, Upper	" 9	"	7,290 0 0		
260	"	Lower	" 16	"	3,008 0 0		
261	Cork	Barnet	" 9	"	900 0 0		
262	"	Carberry, West, E. D.	" 4	"	8,745 0 0		
263	"	W. D.	" 8	"	3,904 4 0		
264	"	Cundons and Clonsilla	" 30	"	1,196 0 0		
265	"	Fernay	" 21	"	280 0 0		
266	"	Monkerris, West	" 9	"	1,620 5 0		
267	Galway	Galway	" 10	"	2,400 0 0		
268	"	Ross	" 9	"	500 0 0		
269	Kerry	Yemagh	" 30	"	250 0 0		
270	Kilkenny	Iverk	" 9	"	1,644 8 6		
271	"	Kilkenny City	" 17	"	1,438 0 0		
272	King's	Ballybeg	" 27	"	320 0 0		
273	Limerick	Clanwilliam	" 29	"	458 0 0		
274	"	Countess, Upper	" 8	"	5,870 0 0		
275	"	Lower	" 9	"	1,300 0 0		
276	"	Coshlin	" 10	"	2,475 0 0		
277	"	Coshlin	" 21	"	545 0 0		
278	"	Glenquin	" 17	"	5,081 0 0		
279	"	Kilmallock	" 2	"	382 0 0		
280	Mayo	Berrishole	" 17	"	705 0 0		
281	"	Cora	" 4	"	2,200 0 0		
282	"	Clonsilla	" 23	"	5,029 10 0		
283	"	Gallen	" 7	"	6,000 0 0		
284	"	Kilmalee	" 16	"	2,680 0 0		
285	"	Tyrone	" 4	"	3,432 0 0		
286	Meath	Margallon	" 17	"	1,119 0 0		
287	"	Fere	" 29	"	200 0 0		
288	"	Kells, Lower	" 16	"	1,700 0 0		
289	Queen's	Clonsilla	" 7	"	380 0 0		
290	Roscommon	Ballynac	" 31	"	1,375 10 0		
291	"	Castles	" 20	"	1,103 0 0		
292	"	Roscommon	" 7	"	4,995 0 0		

Return of Applications made under the Provisions of the Act 1 Vict., chap. 21—continued.

No.	County.	Barony.	Date of Application.	Nature of Application.	Amount Applied for.	Amount Recovered.	Date of Order for Commencing Work.
			1846.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	1846.
293	Roscommon-ven.	Roscommon	" 10	Repairs of old roads.	6,000 0 0	"	"
294	Sligo	Corran	" 29	"	4,115 10 0	"	"
295	Tipperary	Kilcaranagh, Upper	"	"	1,090 0 0	"	"
296	"	" Lower	"	"	879 0 0	"	"
297	"	Ormeau, Upper	" 27	"	790 0 0	"	"
298	"	Slieveadagh	"	"	1,220 0 0	"	"
299	Waterford	Cashmore and Cash- bridge	"	"	1,167 5 0	"	"
300	"	Denies within Dean	"	"	2,147 14 6	"	"
301	Wicklow	Arklow	" 3	"	372 13 0	"	"
302	"	Talbotstown, Lower	" 9	"	140 0 0	"	"
					1,292,853 8	9458,143 13 6	

Office of Public Works,
August 8, 1846.By Order,
JOS. C. WALKER,
Secretary.

ENCLOSURE B.

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Number of Persons Employed on Relief Works, in the under-mentioned Counties, for the four Weeks in July, 1846.

ON ROADS.

County.	July 4.	July 11.	July 18.	July 25.	Total.
Clare	56,513	84,545	109,032	116,653	366,763
Cork	5,157	6,773	7,967	12,777	32,683
Cavan	702	992	1,228	1,167	4,089
Down	"	2,302	2,132	834	3,168
Dublin	84	90	82	84	340
Dublin and Meath	118	134	"	"	242
Galway	17,951	30,602	37,345	64,200	149,998
King's County	718	1,501	4,834	3,750	10,823
Kerry	15,387	25,015	27,964	30,330	98,337
Kildare	177	1,347	3,877	4,136	9,537
Limerick	32,739	58,853	49,437	66,773	207,811
Leitrim	"	5,486	8,408	7,998	19,811
Louth	7,729	8,656	8,456	10,869	35,921
Mayo	13,236	18,566	34,000	33,375	99,197
Meath	11,064	17,130	16,264	16,183	60,611
Queen's	804	811	8,726	2,158	7,569
Roscommon	7,541	21,622	27,856	39,088	96,177
Sligo	2,809	5,413	7,663	8,749	24,634
Tipperary	26,935	33,841	42,987	42,391	146,017
Waterford	2,951	4,379	5,237	5,403	17,970
Wicklow	260	524	568	593	1,965
Westmeath	288	1,307	3,020	5,555	10,170
Wexford	1,392	"	3,602	2,686	7,680
	266,185	337,894	403,562	475,664	1,413,305

ON DRAINAGE.

	11,666	20,323	22,089	27,025	81,103
	217,851	348,217	415,651	502,689	1,484,408

Office of Public Works, 6th August, 1846.

MEMORANDUM.—The following Return, in full detail, of persons employed in relief work, is sent as supplemental to that in abstract for the four weeks, included in the Report, and shows the number employed in the work which immediately preceded, viz., to 1st August.

August 8, 1846.

By Order,
J. C. WALKER, Secretary.

ENCLOSURE C.

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Number of Men, Women, Boys, &c., employed in the under-mentioned Districts for Week ending 1st August, 1846.

ROADS.				ROADS.			
County.	Barony.	Barony Totals.	County Totals.	County.	Barony.	Barony Totals.	County Totals.
ANTRIM	3,252	KING'S . . .	Ballycowan . . .	159	4,921
KILKENNY . .	Cranagh . . .	1,689			Gearyville . . .	922	
	Galway . . .	1,215			Kilcomney . . .	824	
	Gowran . . .	1,818			Coolish . . .	710	
	Kells . . .	1,030			English . . .	1,628	
CLARE . . .			162,728		Ballybritt . . .	626	
	Mayetta . . .	33,228		KERRY . . .	Cannawiza . . .	3,474	36,131
	Ibricken . . .				Corkagney . . .	3,673	
	Clodertan . . .				Feragh . . .	1,858	
	Bussary, Lower . . .	5,060			Irishicconer . . .	2,826	
	Ditto, Upper . . .	3,718			Killegilla . . .	1,734	
	Burren . . .	5,048			Magashly . . .	2,837	
	Cocconne . . .	8,099			Southern District, 2nd division . . .	4,326	
	Isachquin . . .	5,935			Traghannery . . .	2,729	
	Islands . . .	4,598			Glacough . . .	1,998	
	Tulla, Lower . . .	20,697			Dunkerron . . .	1,176	
	Ditto, Upper . . .	16,151					
CORK . . .	Imakilly . . .	788	24,762	LOREDOCK . .	Cooagh . . .	4,297	77,044
	Kinsela . . .	1,901			Owoybeg . . .	3,446	
	Barris . . .	365			Kerry . . .	1,859	
	Maskerry, East . . .	12			Conello, Upper . . .	7,324	
	Maskerry . . .	23			Ditto, Lower . . .	2,666	
	Dehallow . . .	5,401			Chawillan . . .	2,826	
	Ferney . . .	13,467			Kilmallock . . .	1,491	
	Orrery and Kilmore . . .	22			Limerick County . . .	1,147	
	Southern District, 2nd division . . .	33			Glacquin . . .	8,741	
	Candon and Clongibban . . .	2,798			Pabbie Brins . . .	9,248	
CAYAN . . .	Clonken . . .	1,344	1,844		Shank . . .	3,757	
DONEGAL . .	Donaght . . .	160			Small County . . .	3,788	
			160		Cashla . . .	23,561	
DUBLIN . . .	Coolock . . .	20	100	LEITHEN . . .	Rosslogher . . .	3,538	10,708
	Dublin . . .	80			Carrigallen . . .	1,610	
	Nethercross . . .	20			Dromshaire . . .	8,523	
			100		Mohill . . .	1,356	
					Leithen . . .	679	
GALWAY . . .	Loughrea . . .	1,691	47,130	LOUTH . . .	Ardee . . .	3,914	9,942
	Ballynahinch . . .	7,287			Dundalk, Lower . . .	1,368	
	Athcary . . .	414			Ditto, Upper . . .	2,159	
	Ballymo . . .	5,361			Fernad . . .	1,683	
	Clare . . .	1,806			Louth . . .	1,566	
	Clonsacoon . . .	548					9,942
	Dunmore . . .	8,596					128,740
	Galway Town . . .	2,390					B.
	Kilconnell . . .	2,223					
	Longford . . .	1,478					
	Moyculkin . . .	6,610					
	Ross . . .	847	181,478				
	Thaghtin . . .	5,366					
	Killyon . . .	3,774	A.				

ENCLOSURE C.—continued.

Abstract Return of the Number of Men, Women, Boys, &c.—continued.

ROADS.				ROADS.					
County.	Roads.	Roads Totals.	County Totals.	County.	Roads.	Roads Totals.	County Totals.		
MEATH . . .	Duleek, Lower . .	63	18,139	SLIGO . . .	Carberry . . .	2,584	9,285		
	Duho, Upper . .	462			Cashlin . . .	3,968			
	Kells, Lower . .	4,585			Leyney . . .	1,660			
	Duho, Upper . .	1,901			Tyrrell . . .	1,078			
	Lane . . .	1,485		TIPPERARY . .	Clonwilliam . .	3,130	42,387		
	Mongallan and Up- per Slane . .	540			Ellogarty . . .	2,240			
	Mongallan . .	2,021			Ida and Olla, East .	597			
	Moylenath, Lower .	224			Duho, West . .	4,166			
	Duho, Upper . .	254			Ilerrine . . .	1,254			
	Navan, Lower . .	1,612			Kilnamam, Lower .	4,041			
	Duho, Upper . .	374			Duho, Upper . .	2,826			
	Nabber . . .	..			Middlethird . .	3,553		
	Slane, Lower . .	2,750			Ormond, Lower . .	6,027			
	Duho, Upper . .	231			Duho, Upper . .	5,625			
	Sirens . . .	217			Owney and Arns .	7,294			
	Fore . . .	1,210			Slieveadagh . .	1,244			
MAYO . . .	Barrishook . .	6,775	28,024	WATERFORD . .	Coshmore and Cosh- bride . .	1,138	3,623		
	Cara . . .	5,687			Deedes within Dram .	644			
	Clonsilla . . .	1,995			Duho without Dram .	1,104			
	Erris . . .	435			Upperthird . .	742			
	Gallen . . .	1,491		WICKLOW . .	Talbotstown, Upper .	505	505		
	Kilmaine . . .	5,037			Rathdown . . .	..		
	Murrah . . .	5,154		WESTMIDLANDS .	Rathcormack . .	3,063	10,640		
	Castello . . .	1,297			Brinsley . . .	..		
MONAGHAN . .	Tynarley . . .	630	1,736		Clonloman . . .	1,805			
	Moneghan . . .	1,726			Corkaree . . .	..		
QUEEN'S . . .	Charwellagh . .	1,077			Delvin . . .	..		
	Trabinch . . .	..			Fortallagh . .	636		
	Upperwood . .	409			Farrell . . .	..		
	Slievearigna . .	189			Fore . . .	..		
	Ballydams . . .	442			Kilkenney, West . .	1,655			
ROSCOMMON . .	Athlone . . .	5,432	34,223		Moygoish . . .	1,617		66,440	
	Ballinabbar, North .	11,059			Moycashell . . .	1,630			
	Duho, South . .	4,422			Moycashell and Ma- herlesmon . .	722			
	Ballymore . . .	2,363			Balliniskillan . .	174			
	Castlerea . . .	3,680			Ballinamaddy . .	136			
	Moyman . . .	972	C.	D.	10,640	66,440			
	Roscommon . . .	5,262							
	Boyle . . .	104							
	Frenchpark . . .	..						

ENCLOSURE C.—continued.

DRAINAGE.

District.	County.	Work.	Labours.	Artificers.	Boats.	Total.
Blackwater.	Meath and Kildare .	River Blackwater. .	1,961	†	15	1,991
Ardee	Meath and Louth .	River Dee	374	..	..	374
Fane	Louth	River Fane	544	..	64	608
Glyde	Meath, Louth, Monaghan, and Cavan.	River Glyde	2,519	80	..	2,539
Barriekane	Tipperary. . . . .	. . . . .	601	40	8	649
Orenhill	Galway . . . . .	. . . . .	46	8	..	54
Tedloughmore	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	2,204	7	2	2,213
Cappagh	Ditto	River Danury . . .	484	..	..	484
Killamer	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	342	..	2	344
Ditto	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	361	..	3	364
Ditto	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	589	6	..	595
Ditto	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	9	..	..	9
Cahore	Wexford	Bog Drainage . . .	428	..	10	438
Kilmanock	Ditto	Shed Embankment .	515	27	20	562
Burris in Ousey	Tipperary and Queen's	. . . . .	331	13	15	359
Lorcha	Tipperary. . . . .	. . . . .	573	..	..	573
Templemore	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	180	13	1	194
Srookstown	Roscommon . . . . .	. . . . .	936	37	5	1,008
Longford	Longford . . . . .	. . . . .	525	..	4	529
Ditto	Ditto	Ballinacree	140	..	4	144
Ditto	Ditto	Ballykenney	672	18	1	691
Red Bog	Meath.	River Boyne	337	6	..	343
Boyne	Meath and Kildare .	New Ragged Weir .	41	6	3	50
Ditto	Meath and King's	. . . . .	805	2	2	809
Ballinacree and Ballyconnel	Cavan, Leitrim, and Fermanagh.	. . . . .	2,410	..	..	2,410
Mayno	Mayo . . . . .	. . . . .	569	..	..	569
Owensbecks	Ditto . . . . .	. . . . .	332	..	..	332
Old Bridge	Meath.	Lower Boyne Navigation.	13	9	2	24
Shrule	Mayo . . . . .	. . . . .	506	21	..	527
Dungelman	Westmeath and Longford.	. . . . .	1,636	6	4	1,646
Nobber	Meath . . . . .	. . . . .	66	..	2	68
Total Drainage .			21,097	236	145	21,498

SUMMARY OF ENCLOSURE C.

Total Roads.	A. 181,476
	B. 128,760
	C. 85,120
	D. 66,440
<hr/>	
Drainage	461,776
<hr/>	
Total	488,184

Office of Public Works, August 4, 1846.

Revised on 6th August, 1846.

ENCLOSURE D.

At a Meeting of the Hospital Relief Committee held on the 27th July,

The O'GRADY in the Chair,

It had been resolved,—

1st. That no farmer should get employment for horses while the poor who earned their maintenance as public carmen were unemployed.

2nd. That the county surveyor should employ but one confidential steward, vested with power to direct and superintend the others, for use *vide* on every line of road, and that the committee alone, or any three of them should nominate and appoint every other steward.

3rd. That no steward should presume to disemploy either man or horses when once employed without the sanction of the Committee, or, at least, a quorum of them.

4th. That no person or Committee is empowered to lay out work and give employment to labourers from another parish in this district, without consulting and procuring the approbation of the Hospital Committee.

5th. That we hereby appoint Rev. Mr. Ryan, Mr. Greaves, and Mr. James Barry to inspect the Works, and ascertain whose horses are employed in the parish of Knockary, and forthwith dismiss them if their owners be not really and truly in want, and that the Rev. Mr. Hayden and Rev. Mr. Hayes be appointed for the parish of Hospital, with similar powers and privileges, and also that the said Rev. Mr. Hayes, Mr. Michael Barry, and Thomas Power, of Killenlane, be hereby invested with special authority to dismiss men and horses employed in the Herbertstown district, on the same principle acted on in the Knockary and Hospital lines.

6th. Resolved, that a copy of the foregoing resolutions should be served on the county surveyor and his assistant.

A true copy,

T. HAYDEN.

O'GRADY, C. M.

ENCLOSURE E.

STATEMENT of SILVER supplied by the PROVINCIAL BANK of IRELAND for use of the COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS, with the Expense attendant.

	£.	£.
1. To Kilrush.—Amount of silver issued to the Commissioners of Public Works at Kilrush, from 12th March to 25th July, 1845 . . . . .	..	11,360
Of this sum there has been carried to Kilrush from other parts of Ireland, at an expense of 5s. 10d. per cent. . . . .	..	6,600
Come back in the receipts of the Bank at Kilrush . . . . .	..	4,760
		<hr/> 11,360 Both.
2. Silver issued at Ennis . . . . .	..	5,530
Of this sum there has been carried to Ennis from other places in Ireland, at an expense of 5s. 10d. per cent. . . . .	..	3,600
Come back in the receipts of the Branch at Ennis . . . . .	..	1,930
		<hr/> 5,530 Both.
3. To Dungarvan.—Sent from other parts of Ireland at 5s. 10d. per cent. . . . .	..	2,000
4. To Mallow, at 5s. 10d. per cent. . . . .	..	300

Abstract of Silver, expenses of supply paid for.

	£.
At Kilrush	6,600
At Ennis	3,600
At Dungarvan	2,000
At Mallow	300
	<hr/> £ 12,500

Cost at 5s. 10d. per cent. £36 9s. 2d.

A STATEMENT of the MEASURES which have been adopted for ensuring the Recovery of Advances from the CONSOLIDATED FUND in IRELAND.

In 1835, it having been represented that large sums had been in the course of several years preceding advanced from the Consolidated Fund for various services in Ireland, of the disposal of which no clear account could be given, Commissary-General Haines was deputed by the Treasury to examine into the matter; and he, after a very laborious investigation, submitted a statement to the Treasury, from which it appeared that there was an excess of advances, on the several heads of service above the repayment, of four millions; but that of this sum, one half, on the conditions of the advances, was not to be repaid.

This account has been continued ever since, and is printed annually in the finance accounts.

The state of this account on 5th January, 1846, was to be found in the finance accounts of last year (74 E).

Of the sum of 2,013,916*l.* stated in this account to be due to the Consolidated Fund, a part consists of irrecoverable debts, and the remainder of balances in the course of repayment.

For the purpose of ensuring the repayment of these balances, and of the future advances by way of loan, with the interest accruing thereon, according to the terms on which the advances were made, Mr. Kennedy, soon after his appointment as Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland in 1837, instituted a system of account in his office by which the claims against the several counties, &c. of Ireland, were recorded in a ledger, so that the precise claim against any county, &c., for instalment of principal of any loan, or for interest, might at any time be immediately ascertained; and this system of account was, in a short time, brought to such a state of efficiency, that, ever since, there has been no difficulty in ascertaining the precise sum to be claimed from each county at each assizes; and, with a very few exceptions, these sums have been punctually presented, and all the sums presented punctually paid when they became due; as will appear from the periodical returns sent by Mr. Kennedy to this office.

The few exceptions above alluded to consist chiefly, if not entirely, of cases in which the boundaries of cities and boroughs have been altered by the operation of the Irish Corporation Act; and in which doubts have, in consequence, arisen as to the liability of the districts which have been taken from, or added to, the old cities or boroughs.

This system has worked extremely well up to the present time, so far as relates to advances made to counties or baronies; the claim is made on the grand jury, who must present the sum if correct; and it is raised in the usual manner by the county collectors, who pay it over to the treasurers, who are obliged to remit the proper sums to the Paymaster of Civil Services, their accounts being under the strict control of the Chief Remembrancer.

But the case is different when the sums are due from small districts or individuals, in the collection of which the services of the county officers are not available.

As the Government have no establishment of officers who could be employed in making collections from individuals, except the Collectors of Excise, who have already duties sufficient to employ the whole of their time, it is very doubtful whether the payment of such debts in Ireland can be strictly enforced.

As examples of the difficulties attending the operation, the following are instances:

Under the Tithe Composition Acts, 4 Geo. IV., c. 99, and 2 and 3 Will. IV., c. 119, advances to the amount of 279,451*l.* were made for paying the expenses of the Commissioners for applotting the several parishes, which were to be repaid by the parishes, of which sum 51,724*l.* has been repaid, and the remainder, or 227,726*l.*, may now be considered as irrecoverable.

Under the Tithe Act 1 and 2 Vic., c. 109, the landlords' arrears which were to be recovered in the name of Her Majesty amounted to 120,000*l.*; but 45,000*l.* only were recovered, at an expense, in law costs, of upwards of 7,000*l.*

These instances of the difficulty of recovering, on behalf of the Government, debts from individuals in Ireland, make it doubtful whether it will be possible to recover the rent charges upon the estates of proprietors to whom it is intended to make advances under the General Drainage Bill, now before Parliament, in the manner proposed in that Bill.

As the Act of the 1 Vic. c. 21, which was not brought into operation until the present year, and the 1st and 2nd Acts of the present session, contained enactments

affecting the advances and repayments to the Consolidated Fund which varied considerably from those inserted in former Acts, it was necessary for the Treasury to give some special instructions, for the purpose of ensuring the due accounting for, and the repayment of those advances.

The first of these Acts requires that the application for advances from the special meetings under that Act shall be made to the Lord Lieutenant, who may refer the applications to the Board of Works, and transmit them, and the Reports of the Board of Works thereon, to the Lords of the Treasury, who may issue their warrants sanctioning the execution of the works, which warrants are to specify the total amount of money to be expended on the work, the moiety to be repaid, the number and amount of the instalments by which that moiety is to be repaid, and the rate of interest to be charged on the portion of the moiety outstanding.

The Treasury therefore directed that the Applications, and the Reports of the Board of Works, sent to this Office by the Lord Lieutenant, should be annexed to the warrants, and that they should be transmitted in the first instance to the Paymaster of Civil Services, in whose office they should first be recorded as charges against the counties or baronies from which the applications had proceeded, and which had made themselves by those applications liable to the repayments, by the instalments and with the interest specified in the warrants; and that they should then be forwarded to the Commissioners of Public Works, as their authority for executing the works.

The Treasury also directed that the moiety lent should always be issued before the moiety granted, in order that the applicants should be made liable for the repayment of the loan before they received any portion of the grant. If, however, the whole of the sum authorised for the work was not expended, the instalments specified in the warrants should still be claimed and repaid until a moiety of the sum actually expended shall be paid, when the other moiety may be carried to the account of grants.

The Act of 9 Vic., cap. 2, also contains special directions as to the manner in which advances and repayments are to be made. The sums required by the Extraordinary Presentment Session are to be certified to the Treasury, who are to fix the number and amount of the advances to be made; and the sums so advanced are to be repaid by compulsory presentment, by the instalments, and with interest on the sums outstanding at the rate to be fixed by the Treasury. The Treasury have, accordingly, in their authorities to the Paymaster of Civil Services to make these advances, fixed all these particulars; and the same when recorded in the office of the Paymaster of Civil Services form the charge against the baronies and counties, which the said baronies and counties become liable for, having assented to the same in the original application.

The principle which the Treasury had in view in all these regulations is, that the record of all charges against counties or other districts in Ireland is to be kept at the office of the Paymaster of Civil Services.

In consequence of the conflicting nature of several of the enactments on these matters, it has been difficult to carry the principle out completely; but it is submitted that, in future, it should be clearly understood that the management of the accounts of advances and repayments should be left entirely to the Paymaster of Civil Services; that all advances and all repayments should be made, in the first instance, to him; and that his certificate, or an extract from his ledger, should be made conclusive as to the amount of a debt due to the public; that the Board of Works should be relieved entirely from this part of the business; that the accounts entrusted to them should be confined to the accounts of the expenditure of the money which may be placed in their hands; that if this expenditure is incurred on behalf, and on the liability, of the Government, the account should be rendered to the Commissioners of Audit; but if on behalf, and on the liability of any county, district, or town, the account should be rendered to any authority such county, district, or town, may appoint; and a certificate from such authority should be considered as a sufficient voucher to the Commissioners of Audit for passing the account.

S. M. LEAKE.

Treasury, August 8, 1846.

Copy of a Register which has been kept at the TREASURY OF GRANTS AND LOANS authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works						Description of Work.	Contributions.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.			Sanctioned.				
1855	1856		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		
11 Feb. .	17 Feb. .	Barony of Moyarta, Clare .	1,550	0	0	1,550	0	0	Roads; levelling ground, &c.	. . .
18 Feb. .	20 Feb. .	Notber, Meath	4,100	0	0	4,100	0	0	Roads . . . .	. . .
28 Feb. .	3 March	Barony of Moyarta, Clare .	4,420	0	0	4,420	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
7 March	10 March	Barony of Lower Kells, Meath.	520	0	0	520	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
9 March	"	Barony of Faetallogh, Westmeath.	300	0	0	300	0	0	Levelling . . .	. . .
12 March	13 March	Barony of Idrickane, Clare	2,310	0	0	2,310	0	0	Roads; fencing, levelling, &c.	. . .
16 March	17 March	Barony of Ballinabber, Roscommon.	909	0	0	909	0	0	Roads . . . .	. . .
18 March	20 March	Barony of Fernard, Louth .	120	0	0	120	0	0	Levelling . . .	. . .
21 March	24 March	Barony of Clonsilla, Caran	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	Roads . . . .	. . .
"	"	Barony of Corkagory, Kerry	3,350	0	0	3,350	0	0	Roads; fencing, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Clonderlaw, Clare	2,811	0	0	2,811	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Lower Kells, Meath.	5,100	0	0	5,100	0	0	Roads . . . .	. . .
25 March	27 March	Barony of Idrickane, Clare	1,710	0	0	1,710	0	0	Roads; fencing, &c.	. . .
26 March	31 March	Barony of Upper Kells, Meath.	1,900	0	0	1,900	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
27 March	"	Barony of Lower Tolls, Clare.	1,930	0	0	1,930	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Majunsky, Kerry	2,610	0	0	2,610	0	0	Roads . . . .	. . .
28 March	"	Barony of Kilmasson, Tipperary.	510	0	0	510	0	0	Roads; clearing, and levelling.	. . .
30 March	"	Barony of Kilsoway, Antrim.	350	0	0	0	0	0	Works on road .	. . .
"	3 April	Barony of Upper Dunloe, Antrim.	1,950	0	0	1,950	0	0	Improving roads	. . .
"	"	Barony of Cary, Antrim .	5,500	0	0	Nil.			Roads . . . .	. . .
"	"	Barony of Lower Slane, Meath.	2,100	0	0	100	0	0	Levelling and road	. . .
"	"	Barony of Feenagh, Kerry	2,020	0	0	Nil.			Roads . . . .	. . .
1 April	"	Barony of Ardce, Louth .	5,610	0	0	2,170	0	0	Roads and levelling	. . .
"	"	Barony of Barnrath, Clare .	1,012	0	0	1,012	0	0	Levelling, &c. .	. . .
2 April	"	Barony of Ballinabber, North, Roscommon.	688	8	0	688	8	0	Roads, &c. . .	. . .
"	"	Barony of Lower Barnrath, Clare.	3,029	10	0	3,029	10	0	Levelling, &c. .	. . .
"	"	Barony of Castlerea, Roscommon.	4,959	10	0	900	0	0	Roads and levelling	. . .
3 April	7 April	Barony of Lower Dendalk, Louth.	2,895	0	0	1,495	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Ballymac, Galway	2,810	0	0	420	0	0	Roads and extensions	. . .
"	21 April	"	"	"	"	2,390	0	0	"	"
4 April	7 April	Barony of Upper Tolls, Clare	2,460	10	0	310	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	21 April	Barony of Dunberron (South), Kerry.	3,500	0	0	Nil.			Roads . . . .	. . .
7 April	11 April	Barony of Lower Navan, Meath.	1,745	0	0	745	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Killyan, Galway	3,110	0	0	50	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
"	"	Barony of Tynagh, Galway	4,905	0	0	550	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
9 April	"	Barony of Galway Town, Galway.	1,700	0	0	1,500	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
8 April	"	Barony of Upper Ormand, Tipperary.	3,285	0	0	1,285	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
18 April	21 April	Barony of Kiltartan, Galway	982	0	0	982	0	0	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .
14 April	17 April	Barony of Lower Slane, Meath.	2,000	0	0	2,000	0	0	New road . . .	. . .
20 April	21 April	Barony of Lower Navan, Meath.	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	New road . . .	. . .
18 April	"	Barony of Lower Kilmasson, Tipperary.	1,247	15	0	1,247	15	0	Levelling, draining, &c.	. . .
21 April	24 April	Barony of Pukhishree, Limerick.	1,330	14	8	1,330	14	8	Roads; levelling, &c.	. . .

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works				Description of Work.	Contributions, &c.	
Letter.	Month.		Recommended by Board of Works.		Sanctioned.				
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1846	1846								
21 April	24 April	Barony of Glanmaire, Kerry.	3,100	0	0	3,100	0	0	Widening and fencing roads. . . .
"	"	Barony of Lower Castella, Limerick.	1,600	0	0	1,600	0	0	Improving roads. . . .
22 April	"	Barony of Iveragh, Kerry .	500	0	0	500	0	0	New line of road 125 <i>l.</i> from the Marquis of Lansdowne. . . .
"	"	Barony of Iffa and Offa (East), Tipperary.	1,610	0	0	1,610	0	0	Levelling, &c. . . .
"	"	Barony of Inaghkeeney, Kerry.	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	Roads and levelling
"	"	Barony of Slrhan, Meath .	170	0	0	170	0	0	Levelling
"	"	Barony Kilnasoolagh, Galway.	1,155	0	0	1,155	0	0	Levelling, &c. . . .
"	"	Barony of Glencarought, Kerry.	2,200	0	0	2,200	0	0	New roads
"	"	Barony of Iffa and Offa (West), Tipperary.	1,210	0	0	1,210	0	0	Levelling, &c. . . .
"	"	Barony of Ashdown, Roscommon.	350	0	0	350	0	0	Road
"	"	Barony of Ballykeel, King's County.	505	0	0	505	0	0	Levelling, &c. . . .
"	"	Barony of Coolerin, Sligo .	900	0	0	900	0	0	Roads, &c. . . .
23 April	"	Barony of Clonsilla, Tipperary.	780	0	0	780	0	0	Levelling, &c. . . .
24 April	28 April	Barony of Bellinacorney, King's County.	595	0	0	595	0	0	Levelling
25 April	"	Barony of Fartullagh, Westmeath.	600	0	0	600	0	0	New road
"	"	Barony of Middlethird, Tipperary.	2,710	0	0	2,710	0	0	Levelling
Date of		District.	Cost of Works				Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Month.		Recommended by Board of Works.		Sanctioned.		Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1846	1846								
25 April	April	Barony of Orney and Anze, County Tipperary.	1,850	0	0	1,850	0	0	6 4 Proprietors have been applied to.
28 April	1 May .	Barony of Loughrea, Galway.	900	0	0	900	0	0	6 1 No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Glanwilliam, Limerick.	1,474	0	0	1,474	0	0	5 .. Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Bellinabber (North), Roscommon.	2,100	0	0	2,100	0	0	.. 3 The Marquis of Westmeath will contribute.
29 April	"	Barony of Shann, Limerick	200	0	0	200	0	0	1 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Ardee, Louth .	200	0	0	200	0	0	1 ..
"	"	Barony of Trillick, Kerry.	2,300	0	0	2,300	0	0	.. 3 The Ventry Family and Sir A. Stansfield applied to without success.
30 April	"	Barony of Upper Slane, Meath.	160	0	0	160	0	0	4 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
1 May .	5 May .	County of City of Limerick	200	0	0	200	0	0	.. 1 The proprietors have refused to contribute.
"	"	Barony of Darkerona (North), Kerry.	320	0	0	320	0	0	.. 1 The proprietors have been applied to.
"	"	Barony of Inaghkeeney, Kerry.	700	0	0	700	0	0	.. *1 Ditto.
2 May .	"	Barony of Coshma, Limerick	2,474	9	0	2,474	9	0	7 1 Ditto.
4 May .	"	Barony of Carrigrohane, Clare	2,022	0	0	2,022	0	0	6 5 Application will be made to proprietors.
5 May .	8 May .	Barony of Lower Ormond, Tipperary.	2,665	0	0	2,665	0	0	17 1 Applicants have been made.
"	"	Barony of Lane, Meath .	1,140	0	0	1,140	0	0	3 1 Lord Dunsley 75 <i>l.</i> , Sir M. Chapman 20 <i>l.</i>
"	"	Barony of Upper Dandak, Louth.	2,290	0	0	2,290	0	0	5 .. No proprietors specially benefited.

* This work is substituted for the new road between Croaghmore Cross and Brule Street, 600*l.*, already approved, unless the district should be such as to require that both should be undertaken.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Viet., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works		Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
1846	1846						
5 May .	8 May .	Barony of Islands, Clare .	299 0 0	200 0 0	5	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Ballynac, Galway.	856 0 0	856 0 0	..	1	The usual applications have been made.
1 May .	5 May .	Barony of Cary, Anttrim .	3,500 0 0	3,500 0 0	..	1	
6 May .	8 May .	Barony of Lifftrim, Galway	2,235 0 0	2,235 0 0	1	3	Applications have been made.
"	"	Barony of Rathconradh, Westmeath.	875 0 0	875 0 0	14	1	Done.
7 May .	8 May .	Barony of Arden, Leath .	4,300 0 0	4,500 0 0	..	3	
"	"	Barony of Killyen, Galway	350 0 0	350 0 0	..	1	
"	"	Barony of Shanid, Limerick	320 0 0	320 0 0	..	1	Mr. Yilding, 40l.
"	"	Barony of Kilmallock, Limerick.	270 0 0	270 0 0	8	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Fermoy, Cork .	1,790 0 0	1,790 0 0	11	..	Done.
"	"	Barony of Small, County Limerick.	4,752 0 0	4,752 0 0	8	3	Applications have been made.
"	"	Barony of Upper Navan, Meath.	650 0 0	650 0 0	6	..	Done.
"	"	Barony of Clonderlaw, Clare	4,214 8 1	4,214 8 1	31	6	Usual applications have been made.
"	"	Barony of Clare, Galway .	550 0 0	550 0 0	..	1	Done.
"	"	Barony of Upper Bannaty, Clare.	2,500 0 0	2,500 0 0	..	1	Usual applications have been made, but hitherto without success.
"	"	Barony of Lower Mayberragh, Meath.	250 0 0	250 0 0	4	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
8 May .	"	Barony of Tynagh, Galway	1,125 0 0	1,125 0 0	..	3	
"	"	Barony of Upper Ormond, Tipperary.	1,050 0 0	1,050 0 0	..	5	
11 May .	15 May .	Barony of Inchiquin, Clare	2,907 3 5	2,907 3 5	42	1	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Lower Ormond, Tipperary.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	..	1	Necessity urgent. Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Ousey and Arna, Tipperary.	3,820 0 0	3,820 0 0	1	5	Mr. Walker 50l. Applications made to others.
"	"	Barony of Ellagarty, Tipperary.	1,400 0 0	1,400 0 0	19	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Lower Tuile, Clare.	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	..	1	Necessity urgent. Applications made to proprietors.
12 May .	"	Barony of Garry-Castle, King's County.	2,095 0 0	2,095 0 0	28	1	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Shanid, Limerick	680 0 0	680 0 0	..	1	
"	"	Barony of Dunkeldin, Galway.	2,215 0 0	2,215 0 0	7	6	Of a most urgent nature.
"	"	Barony of Glaswilliam, Limerick.	1,985 5 0	1,985 5 0	..	1	Applications have been made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Clannamroe, Kerry.	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	..	2	Lord Listowel will not contribute, as he has originally executed another work.
14 May .	"	Barony of Upper Kilmarnagh, Tipperary.	540 0 0	540 0 0	8	..	
"	"	Barony of Kilmartin, Galway.	219 15 0	219 15 0	..	1	Proprietors have been applied to.
"	"	Barony of Upper Cossello, Limerick.	1,632 0 0	1,632 0 0	6	3	Proprietors have been applied to: one will contribute.
13 May .	"	Barony of Upper Ormond, Tipperary.	650 0 0	650 0 0	1	..	Urgent necessity.
16 May .	19 May .	Barony of Shanid, Limerick	600 0 0	600 0 0	..	1	Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Clannallagh, Queen's County.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	..	1	Mr. Fitzpatrick, 100l.
"	"	Barony of Coonamroe, Clare	701 10 0	701 10 0	2	2	Applications will be made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Ibrideane, Clare	600 0 0	600 0 0	..	1	
"	"	Barony of Kcary, Limerick.	600 0 0	600 0 0	..	2	Applications made to proprietors.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works			Number of		Contributions, &c. ¹
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Imposed.	Imposed.	New Roads.	
1846	1846		£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
18 May.	19 May.	Barony of Upper Sane, Meath.	90 0 0	90 0 0	1	..	1	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Kilmaine, Mayo.	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	1	1	1	Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Iffa and Odh West, Tipperary.	1,617 0 0	1,617 0 0	..	1	1	Done.
"	"	Barony of Clareville, Limerick.	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	2	..	2	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Conna, Sligo.	650 0 0	650 0 0	..	1	1	Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of English, King's County.	604 0 0	604 0 0	13	..	13	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Kilmory West, Wexmouth.	630 0 0	630 0 0	16	..	16	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Costello, Mayo.	490 0 0	490 0 0	5	..	5	Done.
"	"	Barony of Glenties and Cloughbane, Cork.	1,456 16 0	1,456 16 0	4	1	1	Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Cobham, Limerick.	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	..	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Cennamoon, Clon.	270 0 0	270 0 0	..	..	..	" " "
18 May.	"	Barony of Frenchpark, Roscommon.	2,237 3 2	2,237 3 2	..	3	3	Lord Lorton will contribute 500 <i>l.</i> towards such roads in Roscommon and Sligo as will benefit his property. Other proprietors have been applied to.
"	"	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clon.	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0	..	1	1	Applications made to proprietors.
19 May.	22 May.	Barony of Ballintober, North, Roscommon.	631 10 0	631 10 0	1	5	5	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Cuthary, Kildare.	521 4 6	521 4 6	..	1	1	Mr. Dobbs, 50 <i>l.</i>
"	"	Barony of Trillick, Kerry.	450 0 0	450 0 0	..	1	1	Mr. Roe, 50 <i>l.</i>
"	"	Barony of Kilmacall, Galway.	500 0 0	500 0 0	..	1	1	Applications have been made.
"	"	Barony of Clane, Kildare.	897 15 0	897 15 0	..	1	1	Misery and poverty caused. Sir G. Abney, 100 <i>l.</i>
20 May.	"	County of City of Limerick, Limerick.	445 0 0	445 0 0	..	1	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Mosker, West, Cork.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	1	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Slinodagh, Tipperary.	280 0 0	280 0 0	4	..	4	Done.
"	"	Barony of Kilmacall, King's County.	158 0 0	158 0 0	2	..	2	Done.
"	"	Barony of Langford, Galway.	1,697 0 0	1,697 0 0	..	3	3	Proprietors have been applied to.
"	"	Barony of Adewy, Galway.	200 0 0	200 0 0	3	..	3	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Upper Sane, Meath.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	..	1	1	Proprietors have been applied to.
21 May.	25 May.	Barony of Duhallow, Cork.	600 0 0	600 0 0	..	1	1	Done.
22 May.	"	Barony of Lower Tulla, Clon.	2,600 0 0	2,600 0 0	7	5	5	Done.
"	"	Barony of Erin, Mayo.	500 0 0	500 0 0	..	2	2	Done.
"	"	Barony of Berin, Tipperary.	800 0 0	800 0 0	9	..	9	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	City of Cork, Cork.	4,500 0 0	4,500 0 0	1	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Berisfield, Mayo.	1,250 0 0	1,250 0 0	1	2	2	Proprietors have been applied to.
23 May.	"	Barony of Fermil, Louth.	1,350 0 0	1,350 0 0	4	..	4	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Cobles, Limerick.	4,678 5 0	4,678 5 0	12	5	5	Applications made to proprietors.
"	"	Barony of Ballintober, Roscommon.	580 0 0	580 0 0	1	5	5	Done.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Viet., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works				Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.		Sanctioned.		Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1846	1846								
25 May.	28 May.	Barony of Dacies-within-Drum, Waterford.	1,700	0	0	1,700	0	0	1 3 Lord Stuart de Decles and Sir W. Bacon, each £50. (usual applications made to other proprietors).
"	"	Barony of Clonknan, Westmeath.	610	0	0	610	0	0	10 1 Usual applications have been made.
25 May.	"	Barony of Chamorro, Mayo.	2,575	0	0	2,575	0	0	1 1 Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Chao, Galway.	2,435	0	0	2,435	0	0	" 5 Ditto.
8 May.	12 May.	Barony of Dunmore, Galway.	5,150	0	0*	2,150	0	0	3 6 Ditto.
25 May.	26 May.	Barony of Inchiquin, Clare	"	"	5 0 0	(Amounts corrected.)			
"	"	Barony of Upper Kilsannagh, Tipperary.	"	"	75 0 0				
27 May.	29 May.	Barony of Lower Tulla, Clare.	900	0	0	900	0	0	3 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Moycashel, Westmeath.	510	0	0	510	0	0	19 .. Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Clonwilliam, Tipperary.	530	0	0	530	0	0	3 .. Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Duhallow, Cork	1,080	0	0	1,080	0	0	1 .. One proprietor, 240l.
"	"	Barony of Upper Bannatyne, Clare.	2,625	0	0	2,625	0	0	13 1 Applications made to proprietors.
28 May.	"	Barony of Decles-without-Drum, Waterford.	750	0	0	750	0	0	" 2 Great distress.
"	"	Barony of Tinnahinch, Queen's County.	450	0	0	450	0	0	2 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Kerry, Limerick	900	0	0	900	0	0	" 2 Applications have been made to proprietors.
29 May.	2 June.	Barony of Rathcandradh, Westmeath.	280	0	0	280	0	0	3 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	1,267	14	0	1,267	14	0	" 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Morgallion, Meath.	125	0	0	125	0	0	" 1 No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Upperthird, Waterford.	310	0	0	310	0	0	3 .. Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Galen, Mayo.	800	0	0	800	0	0	1 ..
30 May.	"	Barony of Coshma, Limerick.	240	0	0	240	0	0	" 1
"	"	Barony of Louth, Louth.	1,220	0	0	1,200	0	0	8 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Ballinabber, North, Roscommon.	495	0	0	495	0	0	" 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Middlethird, Tipperary.	500	0	0	500	0	0	1 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Cashmore and Cashbrede, Waterford.	700	0	0	700	0	0	2 1 No proprietors specially benefited. Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Small County, Limerick.	150	0	0	150	0	0	1 .. No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Ross, Galway.	300	0	0	300	0	0	" 1 Board of Works recommended that on account of the wealth of proprietors, a moderate amount only of employment should be distributed over the surface of the barony, which would be sufficient.
"	"	Barony of Moycra, Roscommon.	1,011	0	0	1,011	0	0	6 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Murrisk, Mayo.	2,100	0	0	2,100	0	0	1 3 Ditto.
1 June.	"	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	1,525	0	0	1,525	0	0	5 2 Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Loughrea, Galway.	550	0	0	550	0	0	" 1 Applications made to proprietors for one-fourth of the expense.
"	"	Barony of Carrigallen, Leitrim.	1,300	0	0	1,300	0	0	" 2 Applications made.

* If the Lord-Lieutenant should consider it absolutely necessary.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works		Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Bonds.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
1846	1846						
1 June .	2 June .	Barony of Moyglash, Westmeath.	510 0 0	510 0 0	11	1	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Mahill, Leitrim	875 0 0	875 0 0	3	3	Applications made.
"	"	City of Kilkenny, Kilkenny	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
3 June .	5 June .	Barony of Shanik, Limerick	332 0 0	332 0 0	..	1	Distress great.
"	"	Barony of East Muckerry, Cork.	790 0 0	790 0 0	..	2	Ditto.
"	"	County of Town of Galway	620 0 0	620 0 0	..	3	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Leitrim, Leitrim.	1,600 0 0	1,600 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Gowran, Kilkenny.	350 0 0	350 0 0	1	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Clonlak, King's County.	220 0 0	220 0 0	6	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Bantry, Cork .	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	" " "
5 June .	9 June .	Barony of Coneybeg, Limerick.	2,739 19 0	2,739 19 0	7	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Burren, Clare .	1,255 10 0	1,255 10 0	6	4	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Shiverdungh, Tipperary.	150 0 0	150 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Lons, Meath .	310 0 0	310 0 0	4	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Cullinagh, Queen's County.	1,390 0 0	1,390 0 0	..	2	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Coonagh, Limerick.	3,927 19 4	3,927 19 4	6	3	Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Barrymore, Cork	2,920 0 0	2,920 0 0	9	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kiltoran, Galway.	1,650 0 0	1,650 0 0	..	5	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Cloonsheen, Galway.	1,760 0 0	1,760 0 0	2	1	Ditto.
"	"	Barony of Ourloughan, Cavan.	500 0 0	500 0 0	1	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Moyshel and Magheradarrow, Westmeath.	455 0 0	455 0 0	8	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ballynane, Queen's County.	740 0 0	740 0 0	..	1	" " "
6 June	"	Barony of Idroon, West, Carlow.	1,370 0 0	1,370 0 0	..	2	" " "
28 May	29 May	Barony of Tynagh, Galway	950 0 0	950 0 0	..	1	Lord Fitzgerald 1901.
Board of Works.							
10 June	12 June	Barony of Kells, Kilkenny	800 0 0	800 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Galway, Kilkenny	350 0 0	350 0 0	2	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of East Carbery (West Division), Cork.	2,500 0 0	2,500 0 0	..	2	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Kinstalloon, Cork.	180 0 0	180 0 0	4	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Majaniky, Kerry	1,520 0 0	1,520 0 0	..	4	" " "
"	"	County of Town of Galway	700 0 0	700 0 0	2	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ballymore, Roscommon.	1,487 7 0	1,487 7 0	12	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Slinsangan, Queen's.	2,800 0 0	2,800 0 0	..	2	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ferns, Leith	650 0 0	650 0 0	2	..	No proprietors specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Ballyshinch, Galway.	5,150 0 0	5,150 0 0	1	2	" " "
"	"	Barony of Loughrea, Galway	480 0 0	480 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Fore, Meath .	815 0 0	815 0 0	13	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kilsoway, Antrim.	2,300 0 0	2,300 0 0	1	..	" " "
12 June	"	Barony of Lower Ormond, Tipperary.	250 0 0	250 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Athlone, Roscommon.	3,450 0 0	3,450 0 0	23	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Moycullen, Galway.	3,455 0 0	3,455 0 0	..	5	" " "
"	"	Barony of Rathfrilly, Carlow	650 0 0	650 0 0	2	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Idroon, East, Carlow.	1,400 0 0	1,400 0 0	..	2	Applications made.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act I Viet., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works.				Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.		Sanctioned.		Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1865	1866								
12 June	16 June	Barony of St. Mellins, Lower Carlow.	200	0	0	200	0	0	.. 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Islands, Clare.	402	0	0	402	0	0	10 .. Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	1,400	0	0	1,400	0	0	.. 1 Applications made.
"	"	Ditto	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	.. 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Ballynashinch, Galway.	1,020	0	0	1,020	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Kilsennagh Lower, Tipperary.	460	0	0	460	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Coshluran, Westmeath.	250	0	0	250	0	0	2
13 June	"	Barony of Clonlara, Caran.	900	0	0	900	0	0	.. *1 ..
"	"	Barony of Barm, Clare.	2,214	5	6	2,214	5	6	8 12 No proprietor specially benefited.
"	"	Barony of Coolavin, Sligo.	978	18	6	978	18	6	.. 5 Lord Lorton 20d. Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Longford, Galway.	343	0	0	343	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Corkingaly, Kerry.	600	0	0	600	0	0	.. 1 ..
15 June	16 June	Barony of Lysney, Sligo.	1,047	0	0	1,047	0	0	5 .. Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Kilturban, Galway.	300	0	0	300	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Coshlin, Limerick.	1,129	12	0	1,129	12	0	3 1 ..
16 June	19 June	Barony of Overy and Kilmore, Cork.	976	0	0	976	0	0	3 2 ..
"	"	Barony of Bear, Cork.	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Kilsken, Cork.	630	0	0	630	0	0	1 3 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Lower Tulla, Clare.	560	0	0	560	0	0	4
"	"	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	800	0	0	800	0	0	2 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Drickane, Clare.	250	0	0	250	0	0	.. 2 ..
"	"	Barony of Islands, Clare.	349	0	0	349	0	0	3
"	"	Barony of Forth, Carlow.	600	0	0	600	0	0	1 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Castles, Roscommon.	1,727	15	0	1,727	15	0	10 2 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Ennis, Mayo.	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Moycullen, Galway.	2,000	0	0	2,000	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Chermallagh, Queen's.	150	0	0	150	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Upper Ormond, Tipperary.	200	0	0	200	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Gashill, King's.	215	0	0	215	0	0	6
"	"	Barony of Burrisheale, Mayo.	650	0	0	650	0	0	4
17 June	"	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	1,250	0	0	1,250	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Corkingaly, Kerry.	460	0	0	460	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Barretts, Cork.	70	0	0	70	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Upper Connella, Limerick.	950	0	0	950	0	0	.. 1 ..
"	"	Barony of Rathdown, Wicklow.	300	0	0	300	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Courcy's, Cork.	20	0	0	20	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Upper Delect, Meath.	290	0	0	290	0	0	6
"	"	Barony of Clondara and Clongibban, Cork.	350	0	0	350	0	0	1
"	"	Barony of Drinahane, Leitrim.	2,550	0	0	2,550	0	0	2 2 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Middlethird, Waterford.	130	0	0	130	0	0	.. 1 ..
18 June	"	Barony of Twinnill, Sligo.	945	0	0	945	0	0	5 2 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Upper Talbotstown, Wicklow.	383	10	8	383	10	8	3
"	"	Barony of Ballinabber, South, Roscommon.	2,025	0	0	2,025	0	0	5 5 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Galmeo, Kilkenny.	300	0	0	300	0	0	.. 1 Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Tubberlin, Limerick.	846	8	0	846	8	0	.. 2 ..
"	"	Barony of Corkingaly, Kerry.	250	0	0	250	0	0	.. 1 ..
20 June	23 June	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	660	0	0	660	0	0	4
"	"	Barony of Lower Philipstown, King's.	380	0	0	380	0	0	3

* For which 1,262. had already been granted.

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works.						Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Month.		Recommended by Board of Works.			Sanctioned.			Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			
1846	1846										
20 June	23 June	Barony of Moyfenneth, Meath	250	0	0	250	0	0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilsuir, Mayo	870	0	0	870	0	0	..	2	..
"	"	Barony of Roscommon, Leitrim.	1,400	0	0	1,400	0	0	1	2	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Carberry, Sligo.	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	3	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Fermoy, Cork.	500	0	0	500	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Islands, Clare	404	0	0	404	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Connello, Limerick.	1,353	0	0	1,353	0	0	5	2	..
"	"	Barony of Small County, Limerick.	185	3	6	185	3	6	1	..	..
25 June	26 June	Barony of Ross, Galway.	600	0	0	600	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Ballyboy, King's	500	0	0	550	0	0	8	..	..
"	"	Barony of Cobles, Limerick	112	15	0	112	15	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Mohill, Leitrim	400	0	0	400	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Ceshlin, Sligo	680	0	0	680	0	0	6	..	..
"	"	Barony of Fartullagh, Westmeath.	1,075	0	0	1,075	0	0	1	1	..
24 June	"	Barony of Crammogh, Kilkenny.	420	0	0	420	0	0	6	..	..
25 June	"	Barony of Costello, Mayo	950	0	0	950	0	0	1	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Small County, Limerick.	853	0	0	852	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Cashes, Limerick.	875	0	0	875	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Beikins, Clare	100	0	0	100	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Islands, Clare	250	0	0	200	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Twinn, Sligo	1,150	0	0	1,150	0	0	1	3	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Ballybrit, King's	120	0	0	120	0	0	..	1	..
27 June	30 June	Barony of Oway and Arra, Tipperary.	1,140	0	0	1,140	0	0	11	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Ormond, Tipperary.	225	0	0	225	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Woods, Queen's.	260	0	0	260	0	0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Tynawley, Mayo	360	0	0	360	0	0	1	2	..
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo	1,300	0	0	1,300	0	0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of North Liberty, Limerick.	250	0	0	250	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Talla, Clare.	50	0	0	50	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmennagh, Lower, Tipperary.	152	9	0	152	9	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Garrycastle, King's.	350	0	0	350	0	0	..	1	..
29 June	"	Barony of Burren, Clare	50	0	0	50	0	0	..	2	..
30 June	3 July	Barony of Galway Town, Galway.	200	0	0	200	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Decies-without-Drum, Waterford.	3,250	0	0	3,250	0	0	1	6	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Kilmennagh, Lower, Tipperary.	200	0	0	200	0	0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Chawellman, Tipperary.	80	0	0	80	0	0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Tinnakinch, Queen's.	200	0	0	200	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmallock, Limerick.	40	0	0	40	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of South Naas, Kildare.	300	0	0	300	0	0	..	1	..
1 July	3 July	Barony of Fermoy, Cork	1,562	0	0	1,662	0	0	9	2	..
"	"	Barony of Carrigrohilly, Kerry.	175	0	0	175	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Duhallow, Cork	1,284	0	0	1,284	0	0	4	3	..
2 July	"	Barony of Condons and Cloghishan, Cork.	1,472	0	0	1,472	0	0	4	2	..
"	"	Barony of Carrigrohilly, Clare	2,811	0	0	2,811	0	0	..	7	..
"	"	Barony of Burrenmore, Cork	320	0	0	320	0	0	5	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kiltinan, Galway.	200	0	0	200	0	0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo	2,600	0	0	2,600	0	0	5	1	..
"	"	Barony of Galien, Mayo	1,700	0	0	1,700	0	0	1	..	..

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21-- continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works.			Number of		Contributions.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.		Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£. s. d.	£.	s. d.			
1846	1846							
2 July	3 July	Barony of Bantry, Wexford	60 0 0	50	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	200 0 0	200	0 0	1	1	..
3 July	7 July	Barony of Iffa and Offa, West, Tipperary	1,750 0 0	1,750	0 0	14	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Kilsannagh, Upper, Tipperary.	1,116 0 0	1,116	0 0	13	..	..
4 July	"	Barony of Clonderlaw, Clare	1,255 0 0	1,255	0 0	7	2	..
6 July	"	Barony of Clowhilliam, Limerick.	1,119 0 0	1,119	0 0	6	..	..
7 July	10 July	Barony of Fernsey, Cork	520 0 0	520	0 0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Glenquin, Limerick.	2,950 0 0	2,950	0 0	..	7	..
"	"	Barony of Small County, Limerick.	2,122 0 0	2,122	0 0	7	1	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Duleek, Meath.	250 0 0	250	0 0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	701 10 0	701	10 0	..	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Clannamoon, Galway.	40 0 0	40	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Carrigallen, Leitrim.	1,200 0 0	1,200	0 0	..	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of West Carbery, E. D., Cork.	446 0 0	446	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Monaghan, Monaghan.	370 0 0	370	0 0	2	1	..
"	"	Barony of Moyginish, Westmeath.	100 0 0	100	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	260 0 0	250	0 0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Tuila, Clare.	1,206 0 0	1,206	0 0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Inchiquin, Clare	133 0 0	133	0 0	1	..	..
8 July	"	Barony of Upperland, Waterford.	1,000 0 0	1,000	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Fernard, Louth.	600 0 0	600	0 0	..	1	..
7 July	"	Barony of Denmore, Galway.	2,501 0 0	2,501	0 0	..	2	..
"	"	County of Town of Galway	1,350 0 0	1,350	0 0	..	2	..
9 July	"	Barony of Castletown, Roscommon.	1,118 0 0	1,118	0 0	..	1	Sir A. Crichton, Bt.
"	"	Barony of Kilsoway, Antrim.	1,000 0 0	1,000	0 0	..	1	Mr. G. Wells, SOL.
"	"	Barony of Tiverrill, Sligo.	100 0 0	100	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmallock, Limerick.	150 0 0	150	0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Coshlee, Limerick.	1,000 0 0	1,000	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Callenagh, Queen's	500 0 0	500	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Barrymore, Cork	1,186 0 0	1,186	0 0	1	2	..
"	"	Barony of Fernsey, Cork	1,200 0 0	1,200	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of East Carberry, W. D., Cork.	600 0 0	600	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Heickane, Clare	50 0 0	50	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Bursary, Upper, Clare.	120 0 0	120	0 0	2	..	..
"	14 July	Barony of Dacien-without Dean, Waterford.	600 0 0	600	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Coshma, Limerick.	80 0 0	80	0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilsannagh, Lower, Tipperary.	294 0 0	294	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	750 0 0	750	0 0	3	..	..
"	"	Barony of Corkaguiny, Kerry.	250 0 0	250	0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Moyarta, Clare	2,061 0 0	2,061	0 0	14	6	..
10 July	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo	200 0 0	200	0 0	1	..	..
9 July	"	Barony of Iversagh, Kerry	880 0 0	880	0 0	..	3	..

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Viet., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District	Cost of Works		Number of		Contributions.
Letter.	Month.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Roads.	
1846	1846		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
11 July	14 July	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	630 0 0	630 0 0	..	1	—Mahan, 200l.
"	"	Barony of Lower Talbotstown, Wicklow.	150 0 0	150 0 0	4	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Upper Slane, Meath.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Tyrone, Mayo	2,500 0 0	2,500 0 0 (Conditionally.)	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kinalee, Cork	50 0 0	50 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of W. Muskerry, Cork.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	..	1	Sir G. Colthurst, 300l.
10 July	"	Barony of Berrisboole, Mayo.	810 0 0	810 0 0	8	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Idroo, West, Carlow.	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kilnash, Galway.	700 0 0	700 0 0	..	1	Proprietors, 70l.
9 July	"	Barony of Trillick, Kerry.	1,300 0 0	1,300 0 0 (Conditionally.)	..	1	" " "
10 July	"	Barony of Gowran, Kilkenny.	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	" " "
13 July	"	Barony of Lower Nass, Meath.	50 0 0	50 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Leynce, Sligo	250 0 0	250 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Coshin, Limerick.	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Coshin, Limerick.	330 0 0	330 0 0	3	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	220 0 0	220 0 0	1	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Fermoy, Cork	370 0 0	370 0 0	2	..	" " "
14 July	17 July	Barony of W. Carbery, E D., Cork.	656 0 0	656 0 0	..	1	" " "
15 July	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	600 0 0	600 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ross, Galway	800 0 0	800 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Gowran, Kilkenny.	800 0 0	800 0 0	..	1	" " "
15 July	"	Barony of Cooagh, Limerick.	347 10 0	347 10 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kinalee, Cork	490 0 0	490 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Bannaty (Upper) Chee.	910 0 0	910 0 0	7	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ards, Wicklow	287 1 0	287 1 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Coshin, Limerick.	147 0 0	147 0 0	2	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Carrigallen, Leitrim.	400 0 0	400 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Ballybrit, King's.	130 0 0	130 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Athery, Galway	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	Applications made.
"	"	Barony of Clonsilla, Galway.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	" " "
16 July	"	Barony of Ballinabber, North, Roscommon.	650 0 0	650 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Upper Slane, Meath.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Kery, Limerick.	500 0 0	520 0 0	..	2	" " "
"	"	Barony of Dunkella, Galway.	525 0 0	535 0 0	3	..	" " "
"	"	Barony of Oudoon and Clonghla, Cork.	700 0 0	700 0 0	..	1	" " "
"	"	Barony of Fermoy, Cork	490 0 0	450 0 0	..	1	" " "
15 July	"	Barony of Coshin, Limerick.	620 10 0	620 10 0	6	1	" " "
16 July	"	Barony of Upper Kella, Meath.	600 0 0	600 0 0	1	1	" " "
17 July	21 July	Barony of Ardee, Louth	400 0 0	400 0 0	1	..	" " "
18 July	"	Barony of Upper Talbotstown, Wicklow.	247 0 0	247 0 0	2	..	" " "

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Viet., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works		Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
17 July .	21 July .	Barony of Glenshing, Waterford.	271 0 0	271 0 0	1	1	.. ..
18 July .	"	Barony of Decies-within-Deem.	67 10 0	67 10 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Middlethird, Tipperary.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	254 0 0	254 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Castella, Mayo	500 0 0	500 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Cuckagully, Kerry.	30 0 0	39 0 0 (Additional)	..	2	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Berrishole, Mayo.	400 0 0	400 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Clannorris, Mayo	1,080 0 0	1,080 0 0	4	2	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Dechalew, Cork	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Banetty, Upper, Clare.	400 0 0	400 0 0	3	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Inchiquin, Clare	246 9 4	246 9 4	5	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Lower Tuils, Clare.	444 0 0	444 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Tynquin, Galway.	..	..	..	1	.. ..
20 July .	24 July .	Barony of Islands, Clare .	3,282 0 0	3,282 0 0	27	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Middlethird, Waterford.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Carberry, Sligo	1,347 0 0	1,347 0 0	8	2	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Leyney, Sligo	85 0 0	85 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Boyle, Roscommon.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Trawley, Mayo	1,647 0 0	1,647 0 0	6	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Eric, Mayo	210 0 0	210 0 0	1	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Berrishole, Mayo.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	.. ..
21 July .	"	Barony of Fermoy, Cork .	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	1,133 0 0	1,133 0 0	4	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Lower Tilbotstown, Wicklow.	50 0 0	50 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Inckane, Clare	500 0 0	500 0 0	2	5	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Murriah, Mayo.	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Kilmaine, Mayo	500 0 0	500 0 0	..	1	.. ..
14 July .	17 July .	Barony of Clannorris, Kerry.	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0 (Conditionally.)	..	1	.. ..
25 July .	28 July .	Barony of Upper Tuils, Clare.	250 0 0	250 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Galmev, Kilkenny.	150 0 0	150 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Clonderlaw, Clare.	958 15 0	958 15 0	1	6	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Upper Tuils, Clare.	105 0 0	105 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Condons and Cloughiban, Cork.	396 0 0	396 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Glanscough, Kerry.	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0	..	3	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Coonagh, Limerick.	80 0 0	80 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Coshla, Limerick.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Do.	170 0 0	170 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Coonagh, Limerick.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Galles, Mayo .	2,150 0 0	2,150 0 0	4	3	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Roscommon, Roscommon.	850 0 0	850 0 0	3	..	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Lower Ormond, Tipperary.	120 0 0	120 0 0	..	1	.. ..
"	"	Barony of Shieveragh, Tipperary.	450 0 0	450 0 0	2	..	.. ..
July 27 .	"	Barony of Banratty, Lower, Clare.	283 0 0	283 0 0	5	..	.. ..

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works		Number of		Contributions, &c.
Letter.	Minute.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
July 27.	July 25.	Barony of Drumahaire, Leithrim.	400 0 0	440 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Carrig, Mayo.	1,400 0 0	1,400 0 0	8	1	..
"	"	Barony of Mahoff, Leithrim.	200 0 0	240 0 0	..	1	..
July 23.	July 24.	Barony of Rathbrother, North, Roscommon.	130 0 0	130 0 0	..	1	Contributions promised.
"	"	Barony of Inchiquin, Clare.	489 0 0	489 0 0	8	1	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Connello, Limerick.	350 0 0	350 0 0	1	3	..
"	"	Barony of Orery and Kilmaree, Cork.	785 0 0	785 0 0	5	1	..
"	"	Barony of Longhina, Galway.	250 0 0	250 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Connello, Limerick.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Carrig, Mayo.	150 0 0	150 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmallock, Limerick.	359 0 0	359 0 0	6	1	..
J. 28.	July 31.	Barony of Carberry, Sligo.	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Bricklane, Clare.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Dehallow, Cork.	400 0 0	400 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Orery and Kilmaree, Cork.	30 0 0	30 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Eliogarty, Tipperary.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Omond, Tipperary.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Osney and Arns, Tipperary.	100 0 0	100 0 0	3	..	..
July 30.	"	Barony of Otty and Kilmaree, Cork.	50 0 0	50 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of West Muskerry, Cork.	150 0 0	150 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Barrymore, Cork.	60 0 0	60 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Connello, Limerick.	150 0 0	150 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Eliogarty, Tipperary.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Talbotstown, Wicklow.	90 0 0	90 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Tulla, Clare.	121 0 0	121 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Bunratty, Clare.	150 0 0	150 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Islands, Clare.	350 0 0	350 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Kells, Meath.	630 0 0	630 0 0	5	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilkenny, Kilkenny.	110 0 0	110 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Coshman, Limerick.	420 0 0	420 0 0	5	1	..
"	"	Barony of Corran, Sligo.	560 0 0	560 0 0	1	2	..
August 1.	August 4.	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	150 0 0	150 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Bunratty, Clare.	796 0 0	796 0 0	9	2	..
"	"	Barony of Ballyboy, Kings.	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Ballybri, Kings.	30 0 0	30 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Leyney, Sligo.	165 0 0	165 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Bunratty, Clare.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	..
August 3.	"	Barony of Islands, Clare.	300 0 0	300 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Moyarra, Clare.	40 0 0	40 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Tulla, Clare.	150 0 0	150 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Ferny, Cork.	180 0 0	180 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Drumahaire, Leithrim.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Coobles, Limerick.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Clonsilla, Queens.	60 0 0	60 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Glenshary, Waterford.	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..

Grants and Loans authorized under the Act 1 Vict., cap. 21—continued.

Date of		District.	Cost of Works.		Number of		Contribution, &c.
Letters.	Minutes.		Recommended by Board of Works.	Sanctioned.	Improvements.	New Roads.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
August 3	August 4	Barony of Goscy, Wexford	150 0 0	150 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Rathdown, Wicklow.	86 0 0	80 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Talla, Clare.	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Barrymore, Cork	60 0 0	60 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Moyculken, Galway.	900* 0 0	..	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Ormond, Tipperary.	100 0 0	100 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Dacin-without-Drum.	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Arklow . . .	85 13 0	85 13 0	1	..	..
August 4	August 7	Barony of Castleshan, Caran.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmair, Mayo.	1,100 0 0	1,140 0 0	12	..	..
August 5	"	Barony of Condons and Cloughan, Cork.	119 0 0	119 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Ballybern, King's	30 0 0	30 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Publicanien, Limerick.	250 0 0	250 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Mospillon, Meath.	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Lower Slane, Meath.	60 0 0	60 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Kilmair, Mayo	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Shannal, Limerick	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Ballinabber (North), Roscommon.	75 0 0	75 0 0	..	1	Mr. Flanagan, 42d.
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo .	45 0 0	45 0 0	..	1	..
Aug. 6	Aug. 11	Barony of Carr, Mayo .	700 0 0	700 0 0	1	1	..
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo .	500 0 0	500 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Kiltartin, Galway	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Burrishoole, Mayo	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Tinawley, Mayo	475 0 0	475 0 0	4	1	..
"	"	Barony of Glenquin, Limerick.	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Glen, Galway .	180 0 0	180 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Aghery, Galway	120 0 0	120 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Barrymore, Cork	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	1	..
			£151,037 14 8				
"	Deduct	Barony of West Minkerry, Cork (modification of work).	..	750 0 0			
			£150,287 14 8				
August 7	"	Barony of Islands, Clare .	200 0 0	200 0 0	..	2	..
"	"	Barony of Moyarta, Clare	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Upper Talla, Clare	80 0 0	80 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo .	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Tyroneley, Mayo	100 0 0	100 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Carr, Mayo .	115 0 0	115 0 0	2	..	..
"	"	Barony of Gorman, Kilkenny	300 0 0	300 0 0	..	1	..
"	"	Barony of Cremoene, Monaghan.	335 0 0	335 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Monaghan, Monaghan.	200 0 0	200 0 0	1	..	..
"	"	Barony of Burrishoole, Mayo	100 0 0	100 0 0	..	1	..
Total . .			..	£152,017 14 8			

* In addition to 1892, recommended in Letter of 12th June.