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IRISH RELIEF ACT,

10 VIC., c. 7.

GENERAL ORDER.

The LORD LIEUTENANT has been pleased to order that the under mentioned parties shall be members of each Relief Committee, to be constituted under the Act 10 Victoria, c. 7, entitled "An Act for the Temporary Relief of Destitute Persons in Ireland :"—

1. The Justices resident in the Electoral Division or Divisions for which the Committee is constituted. (Sec. 3.)
2. The Guardians of the Poor for such Electoral Division or Divisions. (Sec. 3.)
3. The Relief Inspector of the Union in which the Electoral Division or Divisions is or are situate.
4. The Archbishops or Bishops of the Established and Roman Catholic Churches, resident in the Electoral Division or Divisions.
5. Justices of the Peace, being proprietors of land, or of any estate or interest therein, in such Electoral Division or Divisions.
6. Persons appointed by Justices of the Peace, with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant, to act in their place.
7. The Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Union in which such Electoral Division or Divisions may be situated.
8. The principal officiating Clergyman of the Established and Roman Catholic Church for each parish, any part of which is situate in the Electoral Division or Divisions, and the senior officiating Clergyman of the Presbyterian Church in the Electoral Division or Divisions; or such of their assistants, as with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant, they may name to act in their place.
9. The three highest Poor Rate-payers resident in the Electoral Division or Divisions, not included in any of the foregoing heads.

By His Excellency's Command,

T. N. REDINGTON.

DUBLIN CASTLE,

4th March, 1847.

IRISH RELIEF ACT.

18 VICT. c. 1.

GENERAL ORDER.

The Board of Directors has been pleased to order that the

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By the Board of Directors, Command.

T. W. REDINGTON.

Deputy Clerk.

1861.

Part VI.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS OF DISTRICTS, UNDER THE ACT 10 VIC., CAP. 7.

1. The duty of the Inspectors is to direct and stimulate the several Committees within their districts to a correct and energetic course of proceeding, in accordance with the spirit of the Act of Parliament, and of the various instructions which they have received : the object being, first, to afford relief to the greatest number of the present really destitute population, under the most economical arrangements, and with the smallest amount of abuse ; and, secondly, to encourage such principles of feeling and action as shall prospectively tend rather to the improvement of the social system, and consequently of Ireland itself, than by admitting of proceedings on false principles, to introduce permanent and perhaps irremediable injuries into the country.

2. With regard to immediate relief, the extent in which it is required is become of such magnitude, that manifestly unless the greatest vigilance is exerted to limit the issues of provisions most strictly to the persons absolutely requiring them, and in quantities not exceeding what are defined in the instructions, the distress and suffering of the people will be greatly increased, notwithstanding the vast sacrifices that are making for the alleviation of the calamity.

3. The Inspectors will consequently, at frequent visits which they will make to the Electoral Divisions, narrowly examine the course of their operations, introducing to the notice of any that may have adopted imperfect arrangements, improved systems pursued by others ; and above all, they will, by the most careful observation and inquiry into the particulars of the lists of persons to be supplied gratuitously, satisfy themselves that at least every precaution is adopted, and every means taken by the Committees and their servants to prevent the introduction of any but such individuals as have no present means of subsistence, and to those strictly under the regulated conditions.

4. It is in this part of their duty, namely, to prevent or correct abuses that have notoriously been practised in a great

degree under preceding measures, that the energies of the Inspectors are chiefly to be directed, and their credit to be chiefly acquired.

5. Whenever it may seem to be practicable, they will cause a remedy to be applied to any injudicious or incorrect proceedings. But should cases occur, of the Committees, either through neglect or otherwise, perseveringly admitting of abuses, the circumstances must be fully reported to the Commissioners.

6. The regularity of the proceedings of the Committees, and of their books and accounts, will be an object also of special inquiry.

7. Although the responsibility of procuring and regulating the general supplies of provisions for the district rests with the Committees, and particularly with that of Finance, still it will be incumbent on the Government Inspector to make himself acquainted with the regulations and arrangements entered into, so as to be able to form a judgment, and to give opinions as to their sufficiency, or how they might be improved; and generally to suggest and urge when necessary effective measures for the purpose.

8. The Inspectors will understand that every object referred to in the Regulations issued to the Finance and Relief Committees will require their attention, and their utmost energies must be exerted to cause them to be carried out in the most effective manner.

9. The Inspectors will communicate their instructions to the Finance Committee, and endeavour to obtain an active co-operation.

10. It is intended that every representation that any of the Committees may be desirous of making, or any opinion required by them, should be direct to the Government Inspector, who will afford the explanations that, from his knowledge of the measures and of the intentions of Government, or of this Board, as explained in the various documents in his possession, he knows to be correct; and in all cases of doubt or continued difference of opinion with any Committee, he will refer, with full explanations, to the Commissioners.

11. As a general maxim, the Commissioners would recommend the Inspectors to interfere as little as possible with Relief Committees working zealously and correctly.

12. Tenants having moderate holdings of land in extent or quality, must be admitted with caution in the class of destitute; but the mere offer of a sum by landlords or agents for their tenure must not be deemed so conclusive a proof of available means as to justify their being struck off the lists.

13. The Inspectors should inform themselves, by every pos-

sible means, of the state of each Electoral Division within their Districts ; communicate with the members of Committees, and men of all classes, possessed of intelligence, with a view to urge the adoption of the most effective, prompt, and just measures of relief for the present suffering, and what is perhaps of greater consequence, to stimulate the progress of cultivation of the lands, on which must depend, in a great degree, the providing for the people during the next, and for succeeding years.

14. They will notify to the Commissioners how far the tillage is going on, and where defective, whether from culpable neglect where means exist, or from other causes.

15. The Inspectors will report weekly, generally and concisely upon the state of the Electoral Divisions *seriatim* in the Union in which they are stationed, adverting to any of the subjects referred to in their several Instructions that may be worthy of notice.

16. The following duties, expressly defined by the Act, are to be attended to, and in all cases with as little delay as possible :—

1. To receive propositions for Clerks or other establishment demanded by the Relief Committees, and to forward them with his observations to the Commissioners. Clause 4.

2. To sign the lists of the Relief Districts after they shall have been examined and amended, and to sign an abstract of amounts required on all the lists. Clause 8.

3. To certify to the Commissioners the amount of the sums mentioned in the allowed estimates of Relief Committees ; and also the several amounts for the levy of which the Guardians shall have proceeded towards making a rate, and the actual amounts which shall have been paid pursuant to the warrants. Clause 14.

4. To certify under their hands to the Relief Commissioners that a resolution has been passed by the Board of Guardians to make the necessary rates, and that to the best of their belief the Guardians are proceeding with all despatch to levy such rates. Clause 16.

By Order,

W. STANLEY,
Secretary.

Relief Commission Office, Dublin Castle,
10th March, 1847.

Houses of the Oireachtas