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FOR RELIEF

OF NEBRASKA'S DESTITUTE AND SUFFERING.

Bills Passed by Both Houses and signed by the Governor.

HEADQUARTERS
NEB. STATE RELIEF COMMISSION
LINCOLN, NEB. FEB. 2, 1895.

DEAR SIR—Your representative has suggested the need of aid to your citizens, before such request can be entertained it will be necessary for organization under the law. For which purpose if you think best to do so, we enclose blank, instructions and copy of the bill, please advise us as to what action may be had and oblige.

Yours very truly,
N. W. NASON, Pres.
To L. H. FORT, Red Cloud, Neb.

How To Get Aid.
THE NEBRASKA STATE RELIEF COMMISSION
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

GENTLEMEN:—At a public meeting of the citizens of _____ County, Nebraska, the undersigned were by them selected as the County Central Relief Committee for _____ County, in accordance with the laws of the state of Nebraska, under the direction of the Nebraska State Relief Commission, in compliance with the demands made upon us.

We do each and severally promise to receive and faithfully distribute all relief supplies consigned to us among the needy.

We further certify that we have read the law and the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Relief Commission, and understand its import and meaning and will do all in our power to prevent the practice of fraud or duplication of supplies to individuals, and will do everything in our power to prevent imposition being practiced upon us.

Very respectfully,
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NOTICE TO COUNTY CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.
The law under which this commis-

sion operates, requires that there be a County Central Relief Committee appointed in each county receiving aid, and that said committee shall be named at a public meeting. The committee shall consist of at least two members of the county board, clerk and from five to seven other citizens as the meeting shall determine. Said County Central Relief committee are held responsible to the Nebraska State Relief Commission for all supplies furnished their county. They shall appoint by and with the consent of the State Relief Commission a sub-committee of three in each voting precinct or school district, where destitution exists in their county. This sub-committee is a visiting committee whose purpose shall be to visit homes and investigate the conditions, and to distribute supplies to families, taking proper receipt for all supplies delivered.

If the organization as it now exists in your county does not conform to this plan, please make it so at the earliest possible date, and furnish us the data on the enclosed blank. No funds in the present bill can be made available until this is done in every county that receives supplies from this commission. See also, Section 5, H. R. 113

Lincoln, Neb., Jan., 25, 1895.
W. N. NASON, Pres.
LUTHER P. LUDDEN, Sec.
State Relief Commission.
HOUSE ROLL NO. 113.

An act for the relief of the people in the drouth stricken districts of Nebraska, to aid in feeding and clothing said people, and to provide a method for the distribution of the aid herein provided for the drouth stricken inhabitants, and to provide a penalty for the abuse of the provisions of this act.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska:

SECTION 1. For the purpose of caring for the people in this state reduced to a condition of want and dependence by the dry weather and hot winds, for the procuring of fuel, food, and clothing, until such time as another harvest may be secured, and to defray the necessary expenses thereof, and for the transportation of such supplies as have already been donated or

may hereafter be donated or procured for the purpose, there be and is hereby appropriated from the state treasury from the funds not otherwise appropriated the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be found necessary for the relief of the people in the drouth stricken counties of the state of Nebraska.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of carrying into effect this act and to the end that the aid thereby appropriated may reach those in destitution and want, the State Relief Commission appointed by the governor, under its present organization, consisting of nine members, from which have been elected a president, secretary and treasurer is hereby empowered to take charge of said work and prosecute it to completion, and into the hands of said commission shall be placed the funds hereby appropriated from the state treasury, and they shall and are hereby required to procure and distribute to the several counties in need the necessaries of life for the relief of the suffering inhabitants. This distribution shall be in and through the channels hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. It is hereby made the duty of the auditor of public accounts to draw his warrant on the state treasurer on the requisition of the commission, approved by the president and secretary, as the same shall be necessary to furnish the supplies and necessaries of life to carry out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 4. It is hereby made the duty of said commission in the requisition for the funds set forth therein to state the purpose for which said money to be paid by the treasurer is to be used, with an itemized statement of the amount to be paid for transportation and the several articles and supplies to be procured, and to file with the secretary of state an itemized invoice of all articles by them procured for the relief of the drouth sufferers.

SEC. 5. It shall be and it is hereby made the duty of the said relief commission to appoint in each of the several drouth stricken counties, a county central relief committee, who shall have charge of all supplies delivered to their respective counties, and a sub-relief committee of three in

every voting precinct. Two or more of the county commissioners, together with the county clerk, shall be members of the county central relief committee. All relief supplies for distribution among the needy, procured by the commission or donated to the commission, shall be delivered to the county central committee and their receipt given for said supplies. Said receipts, together with all vouchers for supplies furnished, to be filed by said relief commission with the secretary of state. In counties under township organization the board of supervisors shall designate at least two of their number to serve on the county central committee.

SEC. 6. The said county central committees of relief of the respective counties in the drouth stricken districts shall be and are hereby made responsible for the faithful and proper distribution of all funds or supplies coming into their hands through the agency of the state relief commission, or by donation from private sources. And it is further made the duty of the said county central relief committee to keep a full, complete, and itemized record of all supplies, funds, merchandise, and articles of every kind, name or nature distributed by them to the suffering people, to whom distributed in what quantity and the date of distribution. They shall also report at least once in two weeks by an itemized statement all the funds received by them, and of all supplies of every kind for the relief of the suffering to the state relief commission. They shall take receipts from every individual furnished with supplies of any kind and forward the same to the commission at least every fourteen days, and said receipts shall form a part of the monthly report of the commission hereafter required to be made to the secretary of state.

SEC. 7. Said state relief commission is authorized to use in paying the actual expenses for the carrying into effect the provisions of this act not to exceed five per cent of amount of money drawn by them from the treasury and hereby appropriated for the relief of the sufferers hereinbefore referred to.

SEC. 8. It is hereby made the duty of said relief commission to keep an

itemized and accurate account of all moneys and funds by them received from the state, or from any other source, for the relief of the sufferers hereinbefore mentioned. Their records shall at all reasonable hours be open for public inspection.

SEC. 9. The said state relief commission shall keep an itemized account full and correct record of all supplies by them procured, to whom disbursed, and file proper vouchers therefor with their report hereinafter required to be made. They shall also report the disposition of all moneys by them received, whether from the state or private individuals. They shall also keep a record of all supplies, provisions, food, clothing of every kind, name and nature, by them received from private sources, and also what disposition was made of the same. And they shall, from month to month, or as soon as may be practicable, file a full itemized report of their acts and doings under the provisions of this bill, with the secretary of state.

SEC. 10. All officers mentioned in this bill shall be and are hereby held personally responsible for all items of property, money, or anything of value coming into their hands for the relief of the sufferers provided for in this bill.

SEC. 11. The secretary and treasurer of the said relief commission shall each give a good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$20,000, to the state of Nebraska, for the faithful performance of their duties, under the provisions of this act, and for the faithful and proper accounting for all funds, property and money coming into their hands, for the sufferers in accordance with the provisions of this act. Said bonds to be approved by the governor, auditor of public accounts and secretary of state.

SEC. 12. When sworn complaint shall be made to the state relief commission that supplies are improperly distributed, it shall be the duty of said commission to immediately investigate such complaint, and if sustained they are hereby empowered to place the distribution of relief in the hands of such county officers or other person as they may deem best.

(Continued on page 6.)

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