CABINET.

STATEMENT TO BE MADE IN PARLIAMENT ON
THE QUESTION OF GRANTS TO NECESSITOUS AREAS.

No. 371-(23) MEMORANDUM BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH. COPY NO. 13.

With reference to Cabinet 41 (23), Conclusion 4,

I circulate for the consideration of my colleagues the following
draft of a statement which the Committee recommend that I should
make in the House of Commons before the House rises:

"After very full consideration, the Government have
come to the conclusion that they are unable to accede to the
request to make free grants to poor law authorities in aid of
expenditure on relief. They recognise, however, that some
further assistance is necessary to enable the authorities to
relieve the immediate rate burden in areas where the distress
has been prolonged and is still serious, and they have decided
to make further financial provision for the extension of the
existing facilities under which advances by way of loan are made
by the Ministry of Health and the Scottish Board of Health on the
recommendation of the Committee presided over by Sir Harry Goschen.

Under existing arrangements advances are only made
to authorities who satisfy the Committee that they are unable
to borrow in the market. It is proposed to authorise the
Committee in future to recommend the granting of loans, by the
Departments in the case of the more heavily burdened authorities
where they are satisfied that some immediate relief in the
current rate burden is essential, of such amount and for such period
as the circumstances require. The Committee will be authorised
in suitable cases to recommend that payment of interest and
repayment of the loans should be postponed for a period and that
before the expiry of that period the terms of repayment should be
reviewed in consultation with the local authority in the light of
the circumstances then prevailing".

Ministry of Health,
31st July, 1883.