

March (continued): By this time, there were 47,403 inmates in Irish workhouses. They were still less than half full. Many were beginning to feel the effect of the potato shortages. The cumulative credit balances of all unions was £52,115.

May: On the 3rd, a report by the Treasury condemned the payment of people on public works regardless of their results. It recommended that food should be given instead of wages, and if money wages were paid, they should only be sufficient to prevent starvation. This report had been written personally by Trevelyan and had not been reviewed before publication.

June: By the end of the month, corn supplies were already low. The government purchased another 3000 tons of corn. This was not intended to feed all the starving, but to discourage private traders from hoarding supplies and then overcharging. It was also designed to encourage the import of grain, which did in fact increase.

August: At the end of this month, a mob of up to 4000 people in Westport forced labourers on the public works to leave them and listen to 'inciting addresses'. The local priest defused the situation. Over the next six months, 140 instances of violence or threats of violence were reported, and works were sometimes suspended in response to violence.

October: At the end of the month, prices of wheat, flour and oatmeal in Cork shot up by 50% in one week alone.

November: Demand for food relief rocketed and panic spread. Skibbereen became internationally notorious for its death rate. The government refused to open the food depots.

December: On the 2nd, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Wood blamed the famine on [the Irish people's] 'habit of depending on government. [The solution is] to force them upon their own resources'. He was worried about 'having the whole population of Ireland upon us'.