

lawfully organized or established under the said Acts, or any, or either of them, shall continue as if the said Acts were still in force, except in so far as such Societies, Associations or Boards, may be altered or effected by this Act.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

II. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to establish and organize a Bureau of Agriculture, which shall be attached to one of the Public Departments, and the Head of such Department shall be charged with the direction of the said Bureau, and shall in respect thereof be known as the Minister of Agriculture.

III. The said Minister shall be *ex officio* Member of all Boards of Agriculture which now are or hereafter may be established in this Province. [It shall and may be lawful for the Members of the Board of Agriculture, to elect from among themselves a President and Vice-President at their first meeting and every annual meeting thereafter.]

IV. The said Minister shall also receive all applications, drawings, descriptions, specifications and models for or relating to Patents for Inventions in this Province, and shall keep the records thereof; and all Acts now in force relating to Patents for Inventions, and which direct anything to be done by or through the Provincial Secretary, shall be held to have directed the same to be done by or through the said Minister.

V. The said Minister shall also be a Member of the Board of Registration and Statistics, in the place of the Inspector General, and shall be the Chairman thereof, and shall, under the general direction of the said Board, have charge of the Census and other Statistical Returns.

VI. It shall be the duty of the said Minister to institute inquiries and collect useful facts and statistics relating to the Agricultural interests of the Province, and to adopt measures for disseminating or publishing the same in such manner and form as he may find best adapted to promote improvement within the Province, and to encourage immigration from other countries; and he shall annually prepare and submit to Parliament, within ten days after the opening of each session thereof, a detailed and succinct Report of his proceedings.

VII. All Boards of Agriculture, Agricultural Societies, Associations, Municipal Councils, Mechanics' Institutes, Public Institutions, and Public Officers in this Province, shall promptly answer official communications from the said Bureau of Agriculture, and shall make diligent efforts to supply correct information on all questions submitted to them respectively; [and any Officer of any such Board, Society, Association, Council, or other Public Institution, who shall refuse or wilfully neglect to answer any question, or to furnish any information relating to the Agricultural interests, or the Statistics of this Province, whenever required so to do, either by the said Minister, or by any person duly authorised by such Minister in that behalf, shall for every such offence incur a penalty of ten pounds currency, which penalty shall be recoverable by any person suing for the same before any Court

of competent jurisdiction, and shall be paid to Her Majesty.]

BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE.

VIII. Whereas a Board of Agriculture has been established in Upper Canada under the authority of an Act of the Legislature of this Province, intitled, *An Act to establish a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada*, and it is expedient to provide for the establishment of a similar Board in Lower Canada, and to simplify and reduce into one Act all provisions for the future operation and management of the said Boards respectively—Be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to constitute and appoint a Board of Agriculture for Lower Canada, to be composed of eight Members, exclusive of the *ex officio* members thereof; and it shall be the duty of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society established under and by virtue of the Act tenth and eleventh Victoria, chapter sixty, hereby repealed, to take immediate steps to wind up its affairs, and so soon as the said Board shall be constituted, all the property moveable and immovable which may remain and belong to the said Society after payment of its just debts, shall be transferred to and become the property of the said Board, and all actions or suits now pending or which may be brought by or against the said Society before the said Board shall be constituted, shall proceed to termination as if the said Act tenth and eleventh Victoria had not been repealed.

X. The Presidents, for the time being, of the Agricultural Associations hereinafter mentioned, and all Professors of Agriculture in chartered Colleges, Universities, and other public educational institutions, shall respectively be members *ex officio* of the Board for that section of the Province in which they reside.

X. Four Members of each Board shall annually retire and cease to be Members thereof, unless re-elected; and the names of the first four Members who shall so retire, shall on or before the first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, be ascertained by lot in such manner as the said Boards may respectively determine, and the names of the retiring Members shall forthwith be published in the Agricultural Journals of the section of the Province in which they reside.

XI. The remaining Members (except *ex officio* Members, who shall be exempt from the operation of this and the previous section) shall vacate their seats at the expiration of a year from the retirement of the said first four Members, and so on in rotation, each seat being vacated every alternate year, but retiring Members may continue to exercise all their functions until their successors have been duly elected as hereinafter provided.

XII. The County Agricultural Societies in Upper and Lower Canada respectively shall, at their annual meeting in February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and at each annual meeting thereafter, nominate four fit and proper persons to be Members of the said Boards of Agriculture respectively, and shall forthwith transmit the names of the persons so nominated to the Bureau of Agri-