

## AN ACT

To LEGALIZE CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN LOWER-CANADA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

[Assented to 4th May, 1859.]

WHEREAS certain irregularities have occurred in the election of the Officers of Agricultural Societies in Lower Canada, Which took place at the period indicated by the Act twentieth Victoria, chapter forty-nine: And whereas an erroneous interpretation of the Act twentieth Victoria, chapter thirty-two, has caused certain Agricultural Societies in Lower Canada composed of more than forty persons, contributors to an amount exceeding twenty pounds currency, to be of opinion that the said Act rendered it unnecessary for them to subscribe to the declaration and form contained in Schedule A of the Act first above cited: And whereas it is expedient to extend the term limited for the organization of Agricultural Societies where such Societies have not already been organized in Lower Canada, and in consideration of the advantages which result from the proper working of the said Agricultural Societies: Therefore, Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, declares and enacts as follows:

1. Elections of officers of Agricultural Societies which have taken place in the different counties in Lower Canada at the period enacted by the Act twentieth Victoria, chapter forty-nine, are hereby declared valid, and the said officers shall be entitled to exercise all the powers, and to discharge all the duties, conferred and enumerated by the Act last cited and by the Act twentieth Victoria, chapter thirty-two, with reference to Agricultural Societies in Lower Canada; If however, in any County in which but one Agricultural Society ought to exist, two Societies have been organized in opposition one to the other, that Society which has been admitted by the Board of Agriculture shall be the legally organized Society, and shall enjoy all the rights and privileges conferred upon Agricultural Societies.

2. The said Agricultural Societies organized as aforesaid in conformity with the provisions of this Act, shall nevertheless subscribe to the declaration in the form contained in the said Schedule A of the said Act twentieth Victoria, chapter forty-nine; and the said declaration shall then be deemed to be subscribed to in conformity with the provisions of the Act last above cited.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act twentieth Victoria, chapter forty-nine, which enacts and provides that the election of the President, Vice-President and Directors should take place within the three first weeks of the month of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, for the current year, it shall be lawful for the inhabitants of any County in Lower Canada, upon conforming to the other provisions of the Act last above cited, to organize an Agricultural Society, and to elect the President, Vice-President and Directors, at any meeting called for that purpose by the Warden or a Justice of the Peace in the County, upon the requisition of at least three persons entitled to vote at the election of the officers aforesaid.

4. If on the day and at the hour and place at which such meeting is to be held, the said Warden or Justice of the Peace be absent, any person selected by the majority of the persons present and entitled to vote at such election shall preside, and shall discharge, in so far as concerns the said election and the Acts relating thereto, all the duties imposed upon the President of any such meeting.