

**A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT FOR REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA.**

**CHAPTER "OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE."**

1. The Governor in Council shall annually appoint a Central Board of Agriculture, consisting of seven persons, of whom one shall be selected from among the Members of the Executive Government of the Province, and the remaining six shall be selected from the six districts mentioned in Schedule B., in the manner hereinafter provided. Five of such Board shall be a quorum, and they shall be a body corporate under the name of the Board of Agriculture.

2. It shall be the duty of the Officers of every Agricultural Society, immediately after their election at the Annual Meeting in December, to nominate a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board, and the Secretary of every Society shall forthwith transmit to the Secretary of the Central Board the name and address of the person so nominated.

3. The Governor in Council shall select six from among the persons so nominated to be members of the Central Board, one being chosen from each of the districts specified in Schedule B., and the preference being given, for each district, to the person nominated by the greatest number of Societies. In case of an equality of votes for any number of the persons so nominated for any district, the Governor in Council shall determine who of the number shall be the member.

4. In case the Officers of the Agricultural Societies for any district shall neglect or refuse to nominate any person for appointment to the Central Board, or if the Secretaries of the Societies shall transmit no such name and address, the Governor in Council shall appoint a member of such Central Board for such district.

5. All members of the Board shall retire annually on the thirty first day of January, but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

6. When vacancies occur in the Board from other causes than the annual retirement of Members on the thirty first day of January, the Governor in Council may at once appoint new members without reference to nominations by Societies.

7. The first meeting of the Board shall be held at such time and place as the Governor in Council shall direct, when they shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

8. There shall be held in each year at least one general meeting of the Board, which shall take place at Halifax, in the month of March, during the sitting of the Legislature, and of which at least ten days notice shall be given. Special meetings may be called by the Secretary at the instance of the President, or upon the written request of three members, and may be held at such times and places as the President or such three members shall determine.

9. The Board shall not pay or allow any sum to a member thereof, for acting as such member, except the amount of his actual hotel expenses, and necessary travelling expenses, in attending such meetings, which shall not in any case exceed six cents a mile

for the distance actually travelled in going to and returning from such meetings.

10. It shall be the duty of the Board,—  
(I.) To take measures for the formation of County or District Societies, and for infusing new vigour and efficiency into those already in existence.

(II.) To receive the accounts and reports of such societies and before granting the certificates hereinafter mentioned to entitle them to participate in the Provincial grant, to see that they have complied with the provisions of this chapter.

(III.) To publish a monthly journal for the diffusion of agricultural and horticultural information adapted to the condition and circumstances of the country, and to cause the same to be distributed as generally as possible.

(IV.) To take measures to obtain from other countries animals of new or improved breeds, new varieties of grains, seeds, vegetables, plants, or other agricultural productions, for general and equitable distribution throughout the several counties, and to adopt every measure in their power generally to promote improvement in the agriculture and horticulture of the Province.

(V.) To hold every third year, or oftener, if the Board should deem it advisable, in some central and suitable locality, a general provincial exhibition of agricultural and horticultural products, animals and domestic manufactures, and to fix the time, articles of competition, and list of prizes to be awarded, and the regulations under which such exhibitions shall be held, of which due notice shall be given at least twelve months before the same shall take place; and in holding the same due regard shall be had to the just claims of the several counties.

11. The Board may at any time appoint a person to inspect the books and accounts of any Society in the Province receiving Government aid in connection with agriculture, and all officers of every such Society, whenever required so to do, shall submit its books and accounts to such inspection, and truly to the best of their knowledge answer all questions put to them in relation thereto, or to the funds of the society.

12. For the purposes of this Act the Board shall be entitled to draw from the Provincial Treasury annually such sum not exceeding eight thousand dollars, as the Governor and Council may authorize, out of which they may expend a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars for the salaries of their officers and a further sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for stationery; other incidental expenses, and they shall exhibit to the Government for the information of the Legislature every year an account of the expenditure of the same with proper vouchers, and a full report of their proceedings.

13. Agricultural Societies may be organized in each of the counties wherever forty persons or more shall have become members thereof, by signing a declaration in the form of Schedule A to this Act, and paying each not less than one dollar annually to the funds thereof, and a true copy of the said declaration shall, within one month after the money has been so paid, be transmitted to the Secretary of the Central Board.

14. When any society shall be so organized, such society shall be entitled to draw annually from the Board, by warrant in favor of its president, and on the certificate of the secre-

tary of the Central Board, not more than double the amount of the subscriptions so raised and paid; the payment of such subscriptions to be certified upon oath by the secretary or treasurer of the society, but no county society shall be entitled to draw more than two hundred and fifty dollars in any one year.

15. In counties where more than one agricultural society exist, the government allowance shall be given on the principle in section fourteen, not exceeding for any county the sum of four hundred dollars in any one year; and the same shall be apportioned among such societies by the Central Board in a rateable proportion to the amount of the subscriptions raised and paid by each society for the year in which such allowance shall be claimed, but no society shall draw more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

16. In case of any difficulties arising as to the boundaries of any such societies, the Central Board shall define the same.

17. The object of such agricultural societies shall be to encourage and promote the introduction of improved stock, seeds, fruit, implements, methods of culture, drainage, orchard cultivation, and improvement in farm buildings and domestic manufacturers, to hold shows and exhibitions, to award premiums for excellence, and to diffuse information concerning agriculture and horticulture. The funds of such societies, derived from the subscriptions of members or the public grant, shall not be expended for any object inconsistent with those above mentioned.

18. The annual meetings of the societies shall be held on the first Tuesday of December in each year, when they shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and not more than five directors.

19. The officers appointed at the formation of such societies shall, until the election of their successors at the annual meeting, exercise all the powers vested in the society by this Act.

20. They shall hold special meetings pursuant to adjournment, or on written notice from the secretary, which shall be given one week before the day appointed for such meeting, and at such meetings five shall be a quorum.

21. The said officers and directors may at any such meetings make, alter, and repeal bye-laws and rules for the management of of such society, copies of which shall within one month thereafter be forwarded to the secretary of the Central Board for its approval.

22. The said officers and directors shall, in addition to the ordinary duties of management, present at the annual meeting in December a report of the proceedings of the society during the year, in which shall be stated the names of all the members of the society, the amount paid by each, the names of all persons to whom premiums were awarded, with the name of the animal, article or thing in respect of which the same was granted, together with such remarks upon the agriculture of the county as they may be enabled to offer, and a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the society during the year, which report and statement, if approved by the meeting, shall be entered in the journal of the society, and a true copy thereof certified by the president and secretary to be correct, shall be sent to the Central Board within one month thereafter.