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Official Circulars.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

Instructions for the organisation and management of Farmers' Clubs.

OBJECT.—The clubs shall have all the powers of the agricultural societies. They are intended to encourage the improvement of agriculture, of horticulture, and of forestry.

- 1. By holding meetings for discussion and for the hearing of lectures on subjects relating to the theory and practice of improved farming;
2. By encouraging the circulation of the "Journals of Agriculture."
3. By offering prizes for essays on questions concerning theoretical and practical agriculture;
4. By importing or otherwise procuring cattle of the best breeds, new varieties of plants, and seeds of the best kinds;
5. By organising ploughing-matches, competitions of growing-crops, and competitions for the best cultivated farms;

- 6. By holding exhibitions;
7. By obtaining for the use of the members books, reviews, and papers relating to agriculture;

8. By inciting people to write essays on cultivation and manures.

Article 1675h allows every club to cause to be sold, by auction or otherwise, by a person not holding a licence, and without payment of the dues demanded by the law, animals of improved breeds, provided that the purchasers bind themselves to keep them within the territorial bounds of the club, during the period and in accordance with the conditions to be fixed by the club. The conditions of sale to be laid down in writing. By buying and selling improved stock in this way, the clubs can greatly encourage the improvement of cattle.

The club cannot be too careful in the purchase of breeding stock, even if they are of pure breed. When it buys a bull, it should not only attend to the shape of the beast, but investigate especially the qualities of its dam and its ancestors.

The use of a bad bull, or other male, is likely to do great damage to the herds and flocks.

INCORPORATION.—In order to form a club, there must be at least 25 persons, subscribing at least \$30.00. They must sign the declaration mentioned in the annexed law, and send it at once to the Commissioner of Agriculture, who, if he approves of the formation of the club, shall give notice of his approval in the Official Gazette.

No more than one club can be formed in each parish. If there be no parish erected into a municipality, a club may be formed by a township or canton, or even a club by each of the incorporated municipalities in each canton. Any one may become a member on payment of an annual subscription of one dollar. 1175 a. b. c.

NAME.—If the club is organised in a parish erected into a municipality, that is, having a municipal council (whether it make part of a canton or not), it shall bear the name of "The Farmers' Club of the parish of" In an incorporated municipality (other than parish making part of a canton), it shall bear the name of "The Farmers' Club of the municipality of" In a canton forming a municipality, it shall bear the name of "The Farmers' Club of the municipality of the canton of".....

It is of the greatest importance that the name of the club be correctly entered in the declaration; otherwise, the proceedings will have to be begun over again 1675d.

ELECTION OF THE DIRECTORS.—As soon as the Commissioner shall have approved of the creation of the club, the department will send a notice to that effect, and also blank notices convoking a general meeting of the members of the club for the election of the board of directors.

The board shall be composed of seven directors to be elected at a meeting called together by a notice, published a week in advance, by the Mayor or by a councillor of the municipality in which the club is formed.

This notice may be in the following form:

Province of Quebec
County of.....
Farmers' Club of the
Parish of.....

Public notice is given by these presents that a meeting of the members of the "Farmers' Club of the parish of" or of the municipality of" will be held in the municipality (or in some other place to be mentioned in the notice) in the parish of..... on

the day of..... inst. or following, at o'clock A. M. or P. M. for the purpose of electing seven directors to form the board of directors of the club.

Dated this... ..the.....day of.....18.....

(Signed).....
(Mayor or Councillor.)

This first meeting, until a president shall be chosen, shall be held under the chairmanship of the officer calling the meeting.

The subsequent meetings for the election of directors shall be convoked and presided over by the president of the club and shall be held the second Wednesday in December after notice has been given according to the law.

To enable them to vote, the members must have paid their subscription, which is never less than one dollar.

After the election of the directors, if they are all present, they may meet at once and elect a president, a vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, the last of whom is to be chosen from non-members of the board of directors. These officers (the president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer) are to be appointed by the board, and not by the general meeting of the members. Art. 1675 c. n. o. p. q. r.

GRANT.—To enjoy a right to the clubs for the present year (1893), the first general meeting of the members for the election of directors must take place, this year, on the 29th April next, and the notices convoking the meeting must be affixed to the church-door, or other public places, on or before the 29th of next April. An affidavit, showing the amount of the subscriptions, must be sent to the department on or before the first of September. The maximum grant for the counties not divided for agricultural purposes, will be \$800.

Up to the present time out of the amount offered to the Agricultural Societies, a deduction has been made of 18% for the benefit of the Council of Agriculture and agricultural instruction, but in virtue of the new law, only 12% will be deducted in future: this will give to each \$704 instead of \$654.

As in the case of the clubs, each agricultural society has a right to an annual grant equal to twice the amount subscribed and paid by its members (less the 12% mentioned above), provided the amount do not exceed the maximum of the grant appertaining to the division in which the society is established.

In the case in which the clubs and the agricultural society of a territorial division shall have subscribed a greater amount than that required to establish a right to the whole of the grant offered to that division, the sum shall be divided between the society and the clubs, in proportion to the respective subscriptions of each association. In all cases, the agricultural society shall receive the whole of the allotted sum which it has a right to in proportion to its subscriptions: the sum that may be wanting to pay this grant to the society shall be taken from the non-expended balance of the fifty thousand dollars, and not from the grant appertaining to the division. 1675 ii. j. k. l. m. n.

PROGRAMME.—The regulations and programme of the operations of the club must be approved by the Commissioner before they become effective.

It is important that the programme of the club be arranged at the earliest meetings of the board of directors, in order that it may be approved by the Commissioner without delay. 1675 bb.

LECTURES.—To establish a right to the grant, a club must hold, every year,

at least two meetings for the study and discussion of the interests of local agriculture, or to listen to lectures on agriculture. Within 15 days of the said meeting, the president and the secretary shall sign and forward to the Commissioner a report mentioning the date of the meeting, the name or names of the lecturer or lecturers, the subject treated, and an approximate estimate of the members present. 1675 w.

THE SALARY OF THE SECRETARY.—The secretary may receive, as his salary, a sum not exceeding 7% on the amount expended by the club. 1175 aa.

JOURNAL.—Besides the other advantages offered by the system of clubs, each member of these associations who has paid his subscription of \$1.00 shall receive gratuitously the Journal of Agriculture. The department will retain from the grant 30 cents for the subscription of each member. Should any one be a member of the club and of another agricultural association too, the department should be informed of the fact.

The secretary of the club shall send to the Department of Agriculture, as often as necessary, a list of new subscribers as soon as their subscription shall have been paid, in order that the Journal may be sent to the new members without delay. And, every year, a fresh list of those members of the club who shall have paid their subscriptions must also be sent without delay.

(Signed) ED. A. BARNARD,
Sec. of the Council of Agriculture and Director of the Journal of Agriculture.

Quebec, Feb 28th, 1893.

(From the French.)

CANADA,
Province of Quebec,
County of

AGRICULTURAL CLUB
of the parish, or municipality of

SCHEDULE D.

MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 1675c.

We, whose names are subscribed here-to, agree to form ourselves into a club, under the provisions of the law respecting Agriculture and Colonisation, to be called The Agricultural Club of the parish (or municipality, as the case may be) of

; and we hereby severally agree to pay to the treasurer yearly, while we continue members of the club, the sums opposite our respective names, and we further agree to conform to the rules and by-laws of the said club.

Dated at this day of 189

Table with columns for NAMES, \$, and cts.

Department of Agriculture and Colonisation

Quebec, March 1st 1893.

To the Officers and Directors of the Agricultural Societies and Farmers' Clubs of the Province of Quebec.

GENTLEMEN,

The position of trust that you occupy in your association implies an obligation on your part to place at the service of the cause of agriculture in your district all your experience and good will. I am emboldened to hope that you will acquit yourself with success of the task incumbent upon you.