

THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

VOL. 1.

HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE, 1841.

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TO THE FARMERS OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

GENTLEMEN,

The Legislature of this Province, by the passage of the Law which is printed below, seems to contemplate a general and combined movement, on your part, towards the elevation of our Provincial Agriculture. It would appear to be the design to call into existence, and endow with adequate funds, at least one Agricultural Society in each County, while encouragement is held out for even a still further extension of these very useful Institutions. Should you feel disposed to meet the views and expectations of your Representatives, and should those Societies spring up, it is more than probable that they will require some means of public communication with each other—some vehicle for the circulation of their Quarterly and Annual Reports—some Repository of the facts and information which may be furnished, from time to time, by the experience of their members. To meet what I conceive will become a somewhat urgent want on the part of the great body of my countrymen, engaged in the cultivation of the soil, I intend to issue, once a month, such a periodical, as will combine and diffuse that description of information which will be most likely to aid you in the prosecution of your arduous and honorable labours, and which, it is admitted on all hands, can best be furnished through the medium of cheap and well conducted Agricultural publications.

The present sheet has been prepared as a specimen number, and although it may be in many respects inferior, it is hoped that it may be fostered and cherished by you, not for what it is, but for what it may become. To the Agricultural Societies throughout the Province I look for much of that support which is necessary to place the "Colonial Farmer" beyond the possibility of failure, and for that support, free access to its pages at all times, for the publication of their reports and statistics, would seem a sufficient return; and should it be as extensively patronized as I have reason to hope, it is my intention to so improve it, from time to time, as to make it equal if not superior to any similar publication in British America. The work will be edited by Mr. Titus Smith, a Gentleman of standard reputation and extensive practical experience, and will be placed at so low a price as to put it within the reach of every Farmer in Nova Scotia, however limited may be his means.

RICHARD NUGENT.

An Act for the encouragement of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the Province.

Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Executive Council, to appoint and commission a central Board of Agriculture, at Halifax—consisting of eleven fit and proper persons—of whom seven shall be resident in Halifax, or its vicinity, and one selected from the Eastern, Western and middle divisions of Nova Scotia, and one from Cape Breton, four of whom shall be a quorum—and from time to time as vacancies occur in the Commissioners composing such Board, by revocation, death, resignation, or continued absence from the Province, to supply such vacancies, by new appointments.

And be it enacted, That there shall be granted and paid to the

said Commissioners, out of the public funds of this Province, the sum of Five Hundred Pounds annually, for four years, from and after the passing of this Act—whereof the said Board shall be at liberty to expend a sum not exceeding One Hundred Pounds annually, for the Salary of a Clerk or Secretary, to be appointed by them, and removed at pleasure; and a further sum for their incidental expenses; and shall lay out and expend the balance, during the aforesaid period of four years, in the importation from abroad, of the most improved implements of Husbandry and also of Seeds and Live Stock of various kinds, in the encouraging and circulating of Agricultural Publications, and the diffusion of knowledge on the different branches of Husbandry, and in such other objects, for the Agricultural Improvement of the Province, as the said Board may, from time to time, approve; and that the said Board shall be at liberty to expend the balance on any one or more of such objects, in every year, as their experience and judgment may, from time to time, suggest; and shall exhibit an account of such expenditure to the Legislature in each year, verified by the oath of one of the Members of the said Board, and by proper Vouchers in that behalf.

And be it enacted that the said Board shall be at liberty to dispose of all Implements, Seeds or Live Stock, imported by them, from time to time, in such way as may appear to them most conducive to the general improvement of the Province, either by offering such importations or any of them, for sale in such counties, and on such terms as they may direct, or by distributing the same, or any of them, gratuitously, or placing the same under the charge of any Societies or individuals, whom they may select and on such conditions as they shall from time to time prescribe; and in case such importations or any of them, shall be offered for sale, all instruments or Bonds, that may be directed by the said Board to be taken in respect thereof, shall be in the names of the Commissioners for the time being, and shall be valid and binding on the parties executing the same, for the purposes to be therein declared; and the net proceeds of such sale shall be applied and accounted for by the said Board in manner aforesaid; and until such sales shall be had, all implements, seeds, live stock, or other articles imported by the said Board, shall be accounted the property of the Commissioners for the time being, and be held by them for the purposes of this Act.

And be it enacted, That the said Board shall open and carry on a correspondence with the several Agricultural Societies already formed, or which may be hereafter formed in this Province, and shall aid and direct them, as far as may be required, in prosecuting their several objects, and shall import for the said Societies, out of funds to be provided by them, such implements, seeds, or live stock, as they may respectively want from abroad; and shall likewise inspect and audit the accounts, to be rendered by the several Societies, of the application and expenditure of their funds, as hereafter mentioned, and from the reports to be furnished by the said Societies, and from such other sources of information as may be accessible to the said Board, shall furnish to the Legislature, at every Session, a general Report of the progress of Agriculture throughout the Province, and of the expenditure of all monies granted therefor.

And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, to grant his warrant on the Public Treasury of this Province, annually, for the period of four years, from and after the passing of this Act, for the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy-five Pounds, being at and after the rate of seventy-five pounds for each of the seventeen counties in this Province, to be applied and expended as hereafter mentioned.

And be it enacted, That the said Board, in each and every year, shall ascertain whether Agricultural Societies that now are, or hereafter may be formed in the several Counties, ought to receive a proportion, and shall likewise determine what proportion, if any, each one of such Societies shall receive out of the aforesaid grant of seventy-five pounds, such proportion to be regulated by the said Board, with reference to the numbers and contributions of the members of each Society, and to its local position and