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No. 238.

2nd Session, 7th Parliament, 26 Victoria, 1863.

BILL.

An Act to amend chapter thirty-two of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada respecting the Bureau of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies.

Received and read, first time, Thursday,
16th April, 1863.

Second reading, Monday, 20th April, 1863.

Mr. FOURNIER.

QUEBEC:

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An Act to amend chapter thirty-two of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, intituled "An Act respecting the Bureau of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make more stringent enactments to de- Preamble.
termine and fix the purposes to which Agricultural Societies in
Lower Canada may devote the moneys placed in their possession from
time to time for the encouragement of agriculture: and whereas it is
5 important that the said Act should be amended in other respects:

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. From and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for
any Director or officer of an Agricultural Society in Lower Canada to
10 obtain any money or article from the said Society out of the moneys
which shall have been thereto subscribed either by himself or by other
subscribers, or out of the moneys allowed by the Government to such
Society, so long as he shall continue to be a Director or officer thereof,
under any pretext or in any manner whatsoever, either directly or in-
15 directly, for his own advantage or the advantage of any member of his
family; provided always that any officer or Director of an agricultural
society may take prizes at the exhibitions of the County Agricultural
Societies, of which he is at the time an officer or director, by conform-
ing strictly to the same conditions as other competitors at such exhibi-
tion, and not otherwise: provided also that the Secretary-Treasurer
20 may receive his per centage of the amounts really subscribed and the
amount of the Government grant really received by him, and no more.

2. All By-laws, restrictions or other acts passed by the majority of
the officers and directors of such societies, in contravention of the pre-
ceding section, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes

3. Any officer or director of an Agricultural Society who shall here-
after on conviction before a court of competent jurisdiction, be found
guilty of the offence or offences above set forth, shall be liable to a fine
of not less than ten dollars nor more than twenty dollars, and shall
further be disqualified to act as President, Vice-President, Secretary-
30 Treasurer or Director of any Agricultural Society, or to be re-elected
to such offices for the future, and such fact shall render such election
null.

4. The first paragraph of the seventy-ninth section of the chapter
above cited is repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:
35 "The said Societies shall hold an annual meeting for the election of
the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and seven Direct-
ors whose term of office is expiring, as provided by the next paragraph
of this Act, who may nevertheless be re-elected; the meeting for such
election shall be holden on Monday in the third, or at latest on Monday

in the fourth week of January in each year and shall be convened by the President, Vice-President or Secretary-Treasurer whose term of office is expiring as aforesaid, by a notice appointing the day, hour and place when and where such meeting shall be holden, which notice shall be read and posted up at the doors of the churches or chapels of all the parishes in the County, and when there is no church or chapel then in the most public places in such parish or township, or in a newspaper, if one be published in the County, at least eight days before the day of holding such meeting for the purpose of such election, which notices shall be given by, or under the direction of the said Secretary-Treasurer and on his responsibility. 5 10

Meeting, how presided over. 5. Such meeting may be presided over by the President or Vice-President retiring from office, who may nevertheless be re-elected, or by the Warden or a Justice of the Peace; or if none such be present, then by a person appointed by a majority of the meeting. 15

Right of voting. 6. No one who is not a subscriber to the said society and who has paid his subscription, or who having subscribed his name to the list in schedule C of the said Act, and has been accepted as being indebted to the said society for his share of the subscription by the Secretary-Treasurer, shall be entitled to vote at such election: the certificate of the Secretary-Treasurer binding himself for such subscriber for the payment of his subscription shall be sufficient proof in favor of the voter in case his vote be objected to. 20

Application. 7. This Act shall form part of the Act hereby amended, but it shall apply to Lower Canada only. 25