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No. 205.

4th Session, 3rd Parliament, 14 & 15 Vict., 1851.

BILL.

A Bill to provide for the better organization of Agricultural Societies in Upper Canada.

Received and read a first time, Thursday, 3rd
July, 1851.

Second reading, Tuesday, 8th July, 1851.

Hon. Mr. PRICE.

BILL.

An Act to provide for the better organisation of
Agricultural Societies in Upper Canada.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Legislature passed Preamble.
during the now last Session, provision was made
for the establishment of a Board of Agriculture in Upper
Canada; And whereas to enable the said Board to ac-
5 accomplish the objects for which it was established, it is
necessary to reorganise the Agricultural Societies of Up-
per Canada, and to provide a uniform system for their
more efficient working: Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

That the Act of the Legislature passed in the eighth 8 Vict. c. 54,
10 year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, "*An Act for the* repealed.
encouragement of Agricultural Societies and Agriculture
in Upper Canada," be and the same is hereby repealed.

COUNTY SOCIETIES.

15 II. And be it enacted, That a County Agricultural So- County
ciety may be organised in each of the Counties of Upper Societies how
Canada, whenever *fifty* persons shall become members organized.
thereof, by signing a declaration in the form of the Sche-
dule A, to this Act annexed, and subscribing each not
less than *five shillings* annually to the funds of the said
20 Society.

III. And be it enacted, That the object of the said So- Objects of
cieties, and of the Township or Branch Societies in con- County and
nection therewith, shall be to encourage improvement in of Branch
Agriculture, by holding meetings for discussion, and for or Township
25 hearing lectures on subjects connected with the theory Societies.
and practice of improved husbandry; by promoting the
circulation of the agricultural periodicals published in
the Province; by importing seeds, plants and animals of
new and valuable kinds; by offering prizes for essays on
30 questions of scientific inquiry relating to agriculture; and
by awarding premiums for excellence in the raising or
introduction of stock, the invention or improvement of
agricultural implements and machines, the production of
grain and all kinds of vegetables, and generally for excel-
35 lence in any agricultural production or operation; and
it shall not be lawful to expend the funds of the Societies,
derived from subscriptions of members, or the public
grant, for any object inconsistent with those above men-
tioned.

Annual meetings, and officers.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said Societies shall hold their Annual Meetings in the month of February in each year, and shall, at such meeting, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, and five Directors.

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Presidents of Township Societies to be Directors.

V. And be it enacted, That the Presidents of the several Township Agricultural Societies, within the County, shall, in addition to those before mentioned, be *ex officio* Directors of the County Society, and the said officers and Directors shall and may, for the year next following the annual meeting, exercise all the powers vested in the County Society by this Act.

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Meetings how called, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That the meetings of the officers and Directors shall be held pursuant to adjournment, or called by written notice to each, at least one week before the day appointed; and at any such meeting five shall be a *quorum*.

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Annual report to be made and what it shall contain.

VII. And be it enacted, That the said officers and Directors shall, in addition to the ordinary duties of management, cause to be prepared, and shall present at the Annual Meeting, a report of the proceedings during the year, in which shall be stated the names of all the members of the Society, the amount paid by each being set opposite his name, the names of all persons to whom premiums were awarded, the amount of such premiums respectively, and 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, the improvements which have been, or may be made therein, as the Directors shall be enabled to offer. There shall also be presented to the said Annual Meeting, a detailed 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 Society's journal, to be kept for such purposes, and signed by the President or a Vice-President, as being a correct entry; and a true copy thereof, certified by the President or Secretary for the time being, shall be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, on or before the first day of April following.

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Statement of accounts.

Report and statement when approved to be sent to the Board of Agriculture.

County Society to receive and transmit reports of Township Societies.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the County Society shall receive the Reports of the Township or Branch Societies, and shall transmit them, along with its own Report, to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, with such remarks thereon as may enable the said Board to obtain a correct knowledge of the progress of agricultural improvement in the County.

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Officers and Directors to answer queries

IX. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said officers and Directors to answer such queries,

and give such information, as the Board of Agriculture may, from time to time, by circular letter or otherwise, require, touching the interests or condition of agriculture in their County; and generally to act, as far as practicable, upon the recommendations of the said Board.

TOWNSHIP SOCIETIES.

X. And be it enacted, That a Township or Branch Agricultural Society may be organised in each Township of any County, or in any two or more Townships together, whenever a sufficient number of persons shall become members, by signing a declaration in the form of the Schedule A, to this Act annexed, and subscribing, each, not less than five shillings annually to the funds thereof, to raise an aggregate amount of not less than seventeen pounds ten shillings.

XI. And be it enacted, That the said Societies shall hold their Annual Meetings in the month of January in each year, and shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and three or not more than nine Directors.

XI. And be it enacted, That the said officers and Directors shall prepare and present to the Annual Meeting of the Society, a Report of their proceedings during the year, in the same manner as hereinbefore directed for County Societies, and containing the same particulars; and shall transmit a true copy thereof, certified by the President or Vice President, to the Secretary of the County Society, in time for the annual meeting thereof in the month of February.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

XII. And be it enacted, That when a County Society and Township Societies are organized in any County, it shall be lawful for the Directors of the County Society, if they think proper, to appoint the Exhibition of the County Society to be held in any Township in the said County; and the Society of the said Township (or, if such Township be united with another or others, to form a Society, the Society of such Townships), shall not hold a show for that year, but the same shall merge in the exhibition of the County Society, and the funds of the Township or Branch Society, for that year's exhibition, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the County Society; Provided that the said Township or Branch Society shall not forfeit any right to a share of the Public Grant for not making a full report for such year.

XIII. And be it enacted, That when the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture shall certify to

County
Society on
certificate of
Secretary of
Board of
Agriculture.

the Governor of this Province, that any County Society has sent to the said Board Reports and statements as required by this Act, 'for the year then last previous, and shall also certify that the Treasurer or other officer of the said Society, has transmitted to the said Board an affidavit (which may be in the form of the Schedule B, to this Act annexed, and may be sworn to before any Justice of the Peace, who is hereby authorised to receive the same), stating the amount subscribed for that year, and paid to the Treasurer of the County Society by the members thereof, and by the several Township Societies of the said County, it shall be lawful for the Governor to issue his warrant in favor of such County Society, for a sum to be taken out of any unappropriated moneys in the hands of the Receiver General, equal to three times the amount appearing by the said affidavit to be then in the hands of the Treasurer: Provided, that no grant shall be made unless *twenty-five pounds* be first subscribed and paid to the Treasurer; and provided that the whole amount granted to any County Society shall not exceed *two hundred and fifty pounds* in any year.

Proviso:
amount
limited.

Share of
Township
Societies
regulated.

XIV. And be it enacted, That every Township or Branch Society, organized according to this Act, and sending a Report of its proceedings to the County Society, as hereinbefore required, shall be entitled to a share of the grant to the County Society, in proportion to the amount which shall have been subscribed by the members of such Township or Branch Society, and deposited with the Treasurer of the County Society, on or before the first day of May in each year; and the sum so deposited by any Township or Branch Society shall be repaid, along with its share of the public grant, so soon as the said grant shall have been received by the County Society; Provided always, that not more than three-fifths of the sum granted to any County Society shall be subject to division among Township or Branch Societies.

Proviso.

Penalty on
officers
certifying
untruly.

XV. And be it enacted, That the Treasurer or other officer of any County, Township or Branch Society, who shall certify that a subscription, or any sum of money has been paid to him for the Society, when it has not been so paid, or who shall pay back any such subscription before the public grant is divided, shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of *ten pounds* for every such offence, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

13 & 14 Vict.
c. 73.

XVI. And whereas, to carry out the objects of the Board of Agriculture, established by the Act passed in the session held in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled "*An Act to establish a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada,*" a public grant is necessary: And whereas the said Board are in and by the said Act constituted the Council of the Agricultural As-

sociation of Upper Canada, and it is expedient that the aid heretofore given to the said Association should be granted through the said Board, and accounted for in its annual report; be it therefore enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor of this Province; upon the application of the Chairman of the said Board of Agriculture, to issue his warrant in favor of the said Board for the payment out of the unappropriated moneys in the hands of the Receiver-General, of such sum or sums as may from time to time, by resolution of the said Board, be declared necessary for effecting the lawful objects thereof, and for aiding the said Agricultural Association; Provided that the sums so granted shall not in the whole exceed the sum of per annum; and provided also that a detailed account of the expenditure thereof shall be stated in the annual Report of the Board.

Grant made for the Board of Agriculture.

Proviso.

Proviso.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That for, and notwithstanding any thing in the tenth section, or any other part of the Act last above cited, the Vice President, or in his absence the Secretary or Treasurer of any County Society, may, in the absence of the President of such County Society, act in his stead as a Director of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada.

Word "County" interpreted.

XIX. And be it enacted, That the word "County" in this Act shall mean and include

Section 10, of 13 & 14 Vict. c. 73, amended.

SCHEDULE A.

We, whose names are subscribed hereto, agree to form ourselves into a Society, under the provisions of the Act of the Legislature, (*Title and date of this Act*) to be called the "County (*Township or Branch, as the case may be,*) Agricultural Society of the County of " (*or Township of*) and we hereby severally agree to pay to the Treasurer yearly, while we continue members of the said Society, (any member being at liberty to retire therefrom, upon giving notice in writing, at any time before the Annual Meeting, to the Secretary of his wish so to do) the sums set opposite to our respective names, and we further agree to conform to the rules and by-laws of the said Society.

Names.	£	s.	d.

SCHEDULE B.

County of } I, A. B., of the Township of
to wit: } Treasurer of the County Agricultural Society
of } , make oath and say, that the sum of
has been paid into my hands since the first day of February last, by
the Township Agricultural Societies of the said County, as and for
the members' subscription for this year ; and that the sum of
has been paid into my hands, as subscriptions for this year, by mem-
bers of the said County Society; and that the said sums, making in
the whole the sum of , now remain in my hands, ready
to be disposed of according to law.

A. B.

. Sworn to before me this day
of A. D. 185

Justice of the Peace for
the County of