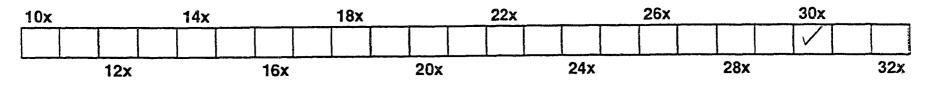
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No. 299.

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

BILL.

An Act for the encouragement of Agriculture in Lower Canada.

Received and read a first time, Wednesday, 13th August, 1851.

Second reading, Thursday, 14th August, 1851.

Mr. TACHE.

1805

BILL.

An Act for the encouragement of Agriculture in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide more effect- Preamble. ually for the encouragement of Agriculture in Lower Canada, and for the purpose to repeal the Acts in force therein; Be it therefore enacted, &c.

- 5 That the Acts passed respectively in the eighth and in the ninth years of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, "An Act 8 Vict c. 53 " to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned, and better to en- and 9 Vict. " courage Agriculture in Lower Canada, by the establishment repealed. " of Agricultural Societies therein," " An Act to amend the
- 10 " 'Act for the encouragement of Agriculture by the establish-" 'ment of Agricultural Socie!ies in Lower Canada," and " 'An Act to allow the formation of more than one Agri-" 'cultural Society in a County in Lower Canada, and for " 'the relief of the Society for the County of Montreal,""
- 15 are hereby repealed; Provided always, that the County Proviso. Societies formed under the above mentioned Acts shall continue to exist until the time hereinafter provided for the formation of new Societies, and that all sums due at the time of the passing of this Act to any Agricultural
- 20 Societies under the said Act. or by such Societies under engagements entered into by them, shall be delivered to such Societies, as provided by the said Acts.

II. And be it enacted, That within a sufficient time Governor to after the passing of this Act, the Governor of this Pro-appoint two Superintendents of Agriculture dents of for Lower Canada, namely: a Superintendent for the Agriculture. Districts of Quebec, Three Rivers, Gaspé, and the new District of Kamouraska to be hereafter erected; and a Superintendent for the Districts of Ottawa to be hereafter erected,

by proclamation; and it shall be the duty of each of the Their duties said Superintendents,

1st. To visit his District once a year :

2nd. To make an annual report of the visit made by 35 him to his District, which said Report shall contain among such other things as the Superintendents shall deem necessary to include therein, a description of the different soils, the character of the surface of the land and its aspect; and the said Report shall point out the defects which exist in the practice of Agriculture, and their remedy:

3rd. To superintend the formation and management of the several County Societies hereinafter established, of which he shall be *ex officio* one of the Directors and the 5 proper adviser:

4th. To audit the accounts of the different County Societies and make a special Report thereon to the three branches of the Legislature:

5th. To enter into an understanding with the proper 10 authorities with a view to the introduction of an elementary treatise on Agriculture into each Common School:

6th. To give at least one lecture on Agriculture in each County when making his annual visit.

III. The Superintendents of Agriculture shall be 15 Members and *ex officio* Directors of every Agricultural Society receiving a grant from the Legislature.

IV From and after the 1st day of January, 1852, an Agricultural Society may be formed for each County in Lower Canada, to be composed of at least twenty-five 20 Members who shall subscribe at least five shillings per annum, and to be called The Agricultural Society for the County of adding the words East or West, North or South division (as the case may be) whenever two Societies shall be formed in the same County as hereafter 25 provided in this Act. The Societies so formed shall be bodies politic and corporate by the name above mentioned, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued; and may acquire movable and immovable property to an amount not 30 exceeding six hundred pounds currency, and exchange or alienate the same; and service of process at the residence of the President or of the Secretary of such Society shall be valid in law.

They shall elect seven Directors. V. Each Society so formed shall elect seven of its 35 Members to be Directors, who shall form the Board of Directors, and be invested with the management of the Society, and with the control of the moneys belonging to the said Society; and shall elect from among their number a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary 10 Treasurer, in whose stead others shall be appointed, when necessary, by the majority of Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors; and the said Directors shall make by-laws, and four of their number shall be a *quorum*; and they shall meet when 45 necessary after public notice to that effect; and in conformity with the rules of the said Board of Directors:

Superintendents ez officio directors of societtes.

Societies may be got up fro n 1st Jan., 1852.

VI. The Directors aforesaid shall be elected at any when rerioil after the first of January one thousand eight hun- election shall take place. dred and fifty, by each County or County Division Society, by the majority of the Members thereof present at a meet-

- 5 ing to be called by three of their number, and presided over by one of the associates then chosen for that purpose. and shall be elected for one year, at the expiration of which seven others shall be elected in their stead, unless they be re-elected, by the majority of the Members of such
- 10 Society at a public meeting called by the President, or in his absence by the Vice-President, and presided over by one or the other of them. The said public meetings shall be called by a public notice posted at the doors of the churches in each parish or township, or in some public
- 15 and central place.

VII. The Board of Directors of each Society shall, Board to before going out of office, make an annual report to the make annual-Legislature of the proceedings of the said Society and report. Legislature of the proceedings of the said Society, and the said report may be accompanied by such remarks upon

20 Agriculture as the Board of Directors shall think fit to make.

VIII. The Secretary Treasurer of each Society shall, The societies on delivering the Superintendent of his District a notice to receive a grant on cer-under oath sworn to before a Justice of the Peace (who tain con-

- 25 is hereby authorised to administer the same) that such ditions. Society is composed of twenty-five Members, and that he has received from each of them the amount of his subscription as above prescribed, be entitled to receive from the Superintendent the sum allotted to his County, in the
- 30 manner provided in the next section : and any Secretary Treasurer who shall swear falsely to any such notice shall be guilty of perjury; and shall for any wilful misconduct in the exercise of his office, be liable to a penalty of twentyfive pounds currency.
- IX. The sum of four thousand pounds shall in every year £4000 placed 35 be placed at the disposal of the two Superintendents of at the dispo-ral of the Agriculture for Lower Canada, who shall meet at Quebec Superinin order to apportion the said sum among the different tendents. Counties according to their respective population and the 40 number of arpents of land occupied; the said number of
- arpents being to the population in the proportion of five to one, each individual being considered in making the division as equal to five arpents.

X. Each County Society, established as above men-shows, &c, 45 tioned, shall be required in each year to hold one or two shows for the exhibition of agricultural produce, farm stock, and all other objects relative to agriculture, in the manner in which they are usually held in Lower Canada, and prizes shall be granted at the said shows for the best speci-⁵⁰ mens produced, in the manner to be prescribed by the Board

of Directors, and notice whereof shall have been publicly posted in each parish of the County; and the said prizes may be distributed in money, books on agriculture, agricultural implements of an improved description, or grain of superior quality, on the award of at least two judges 5 who shall be appointed by the President of the Society, or in his absence by the Vice-President; the said judges shall not be capable of receiving any of the prizes so awarded, and shall not be allowed more than one pound currency for their services as such.

- XI. In case the Board of Directors of any County Model farms. Society shall consider that any other system might be substituted for that of shows, and that the sum allotted to each County might be better applied, either to the establishment of one or two economical model farms or agri- 15 cultural schools, or to any other purpose, it shall be lawful for such Society, through its Board of Directors, so to apply the said sum; Provided notice thereof shall Proviso. have been given to the Superintendent of the District at least one month before giving effect to such resolution. 20
- XII. Every Society forming by its subscriptions and Parish shows. the grant above provided, a som of two hundred pounds currency, shall be entitled to establish Parish shows, if it shall deem expedient so to do.

XIII. Any County of too great an extent to be enabled 25 to derive all the advantages required from one Society alone, may form two County Divisions, which shall share in the sum allotted to such County, on condition that they shall form a Society of twenty-five members, for each such Division, as above provided, and that they shall 30 have obtained permission from the Superintendent of their district, who shall determine the limits of such divisions, and shall divide the grant made to such County, in proportion to their population and superficial extent of occupied land; and all the provisions of this Act relative gs to County Societies shall apply to the County Division Societies.

Salary & contingencies of Secretary-Treasurer.

XIV. No portion of the moneys belonging to any such Society shall be applied to the payment of any salary or allowance; except however that a sum not exceeding 40 seven per cent. shall be allowed to the Secretary-Treasurer on all moneys expended by such Society under this Act, in lieu of salary and allowance for stationery and other contingent expenses.

Accounting clause.

XV. An account shall be rendered to Her Majesty, 45 Her Heirs and Successors, of the due application of the moneys granted by this Act, through the Superintendents of Agriculture in their respective Districta in cuch man-

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County Division Societies.

ner as Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, shall be pleased to direct.

XVI. A premium of one hundred pounds is hereby floo offered offered for the best elementary treatise on Agriculture, for an agricultural 5 containing, in a small compass, all the practical notions of treatise. a good agricultural system; and the said premium shall be delivered to such person as, in the opinion of three persons, chosen as Judges by the Governor in Council, shall have furnished the best treatise. The said Judges 10 shall meet at Montreal in the month of June, one

- thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, to examine the different works submitted to competition, in such manner as shall be prescribed immediately after the passing of this Act, by a proclamation of the Governor offering it to 15 competition, and establishing the rules to be followed in
- the transmission of the works.

XVIII. The last census for the time being shall serve Census to as a basis for all calculations which the Superintendents form basis of may have to make in conformity with this Act.

20 XIX. The two Superintendents appointed under this Salary of Act, shall each receive as their salary, the sum of four Superintenhundred pounds currency, including their travelling expenses and contingencies.

XX. The sum intended by this Act to be applied to Publication 25 the publication of an elementary treatise on Agriculture, of reports of shall in every year thereafter be applied to the publica- dents. tion of the annual Returns of the Superintendents in such manner as shall be prescribed by the Governor in Council.

- 30 XXI. The Superintendents shall within the circuits of Further their Districts, decide upon all difficulties which may arise duties assignin the interpretation and carrying into effect of this intendents. Act, on all questions which shall not come within the province of the Courts of Justice: and this Act shall be
- 35 a public Act and be considered as such, and shall only apply to Lower Canada.

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