

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.

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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* c. 14 und 24,
"*of Agricultural Societies therein.*" "*An Act to amend the* repealed.
10 "*Act for the encouragement of Agriculture by the establish-*
"*ment of Agricultural Societies 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15 are hereby repealed; Provided always, that the County Proviso.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
25 vince shall appoint two Superintendents of Agriculture Superinten-
for Lower Canada, namely: a Superintendent for the dents of
Districts of Quebec, Three Rivers, Gaspé, and the new Agriculture.
District of Kamouraska to be hereafter erected; and a Superintendent for the Districts of Montreal, St. Francis,
30 and the new District 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 proper adviser: 5

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 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.

Superintendents *ex officio* directors of societies.

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

Societies may be got up from 1st Jan., 1852.

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 40 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.

VI. The Directors aforesaid shall be elected at any period after the first of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty, by each County or County Division Society, by the majority of the Members thereof present at a meeting 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 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 and central place.

When election shall take place.

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

Board to make annual report.

VIII. The Secretary Treasurer of each Society shall, on delivering the Superintendent of his District a notice under oath sworn to before a Justice of the Peace (who is hereby authorised to administer the same) that such 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 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 *twenty-five pounds* currency.

The societies to receive a grant on certain conditions.

IX. The sum of *four thousand* pounds shall in every year be placed at the disposal of the two Superintendents of Agriculture for Lower Canada, who shall meet at Quebec in order to apportion the said sum among the different Counties according to their respective population and the 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.

£4000 placed at the disposal of the Superintendents.

X. Each County Society, established as above mentioned, 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 specimens produced, in the manner to be prescribed by the Board

Shows, &c.

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 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.

Model farms. XI. In case the Board of Directors of any County 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 agricultural 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 have been given to the Superintendent of the District at least one month before giving effect to such resolution.

Parish shows. XII. Every Society forming by its subscriptions and the grant above provided, a sum of *two hundred pounds* currency, shall be entitled to establish Parish shows, if it shall deem expedient so to do.

County Division Societies. XIII. Any County of too great an extent to be enabled 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 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 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 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, Her Heirs and Successors, of the due application of the moneys granted by this Act, through the Superintendents of Agriculture, in their respective Districts, in such man-

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

XVI. A premium of *one hundred pounds* is hereby offered for the best elementary treatise on Agriculture, £100 offered for an agricultural treatise.
 5 containing, in a small compass, all the practical notions of 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 as a basis for all calculations which the Superintendents may have to make in conformity with this Act. Census to form basis of calculation.

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

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

30 XXI. The Superintendents shall within the circuits of their Districts, decide upon all difficulties which may arise in the interpretation and carrying into effect of this 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. Further duties assigned to Superintendents.