

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the fourteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1831.

1 William IV – Chapter 29

An Act to appropriate a certain sum of money therein-mentioned for the encouragement of Agriculture. (31st March, 1831.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

Whereas it is expedient to appropriate a certain sum of money for the encouragement of Agriculture:—May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North-America,' and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province": And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, lieutenant Governor or person administering the Government of this Province for the time being, to advance and pay by warrant or warrants under his hand, a sum not exceeding one thousand two hundred and ninety-five pounds currency, out of the unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, for the encouragement of Agricultural Improvement in this Province for the present year, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, which said sum shall from time to time, be advanced and paid as may be deemed necessary to the Agricultural Societies for the Districts of Quebec, Montreal, Three-Rivers [Trois-Rivières], Saint Francis [Saint-François] and Gaspé, and in the proportions hereinafter stated, for each respectively, as follows, that is to say:— For the District of Quebec, a sum not exceeding three hundred and sixty pounds currency; for the District of Montreal, a sum not exceeding seven hundred and sixty pounds currency; for the District of Three-Rivers, a sum not exceeding fifty pounds currency; for the District of Saint Francis, a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, currency; and for the District of Gaspé, a sum not exceeding twenty-five pounds currency.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that out of the said monies there may be allowed by the said Agricultural Societies respectively, to any County Agricultural Society formed or to be formed in any County or Division, of any County within the District, such reasonable sum or sums as may be deemed expedient, which shall by the said County Agricultural Societies respectively, be expended and applied for premiums awarded by each of the said County Societies, at Public Exhibitions, held and made pursuant to notice given in the most public manner, in the County where such Exhibitions are to take place, under the superintendance of such County Agricultural Societies.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the allowance to be made to any such subordinate or County Agricultural Society, shall be in proportion to the population of such County, and not exceed the amount of the population of the several Parishes, Townships or Settlements, having one or more resident Members in the Committee of Management of such Society, paying an annual subscription towards the Funds thereof, not less than five shillings currency, and that all monies which might be advanced under this, Act for the benefit of any County Division or part of a County, but which, owing to the want of a subordinate or County Agricultural Society therein, shall not therefore be for the, present year advanced but shall remain unexpended, may at any time during the three years next hereafter be, advanced and paid over for the purposes thereof, to any such Society that may in the meantime be, formed in such County, Division or part of a County, in the proportion of the population of such Division or County, but if such Society shall not be so in the meantime formed, then the money that shall have been reserved for such County shall thereafter remain at the disposal of the Legislature.

IV. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no such sum of money shall be advanced or paid over to any such subordinate, or County Agricultural Society, until such Society shall have undertaken to account to the Agricultural Society of the District, for the application of the same pursuant to this Act.

V. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Agricultural Society of the District of Quebec shall be and they are hereby authorized to employ and expend such portion of the said sums as are to be expended and employed in any of the Counties or portions of Counties of the said District, wherein there are no auxiliary Societies established.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said District Societies respectively, may, out of the monies hereby appropriated, allow the expences and disbursements for conveyance only which any of their Members appointed to visit any or all of the subordinate Agricultural Societies in their respective Districts, may incur once a year, for the purpose of aiding or assisting in the formation or arrangement of such Societies but that no compensation or allowance of any kind shall be made from or out of the said monies to any Member or Officer of any such District Society, for any other expences incurred and disbursed, or for any other services, under any pretext whatever than those above mentioned, by any Member or Officer of any such District Society or subordinate Society as aforesaid.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said several District Agricultural Societies, may from and out of the monies hereby appropriated expend for the purposes following; that is to say: for the expences of the management, publication, correspondence, and accounting of the Society, a sum not exceeding an equal amount to the sum raised by-the said Society, by voluntary contribution for and towards those purposes.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Members of the Legislature and the resident Clergy shall be Honorary Members of the District Agricultural Society for the District within which they respectively reside and they shall in like manner be Honorary Members of the subordinate or County Societies, of the County wherein they may respectively reside, and shall as such be notified in writing of the time and place of the meeting of such Societies Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any such Member of the Legislature or resident Clergyman from becoming a Member, if he shall so think proper.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the several District Agricultural Societies for Quebec and Montreal, shall be the only Societies that shall under this Act be acknowledged or recognized as Agricultural Societies for the respective Counties wherein they are respectively established, that is to say; for the County of Quebec and the County of Montreal.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the several District Societies shall report their proceedings with such observations tending to the improvement of the Agriculture of the Province, as they may think proper or useful, and shall account to the Legislature within fifteen days next after the opening-of the next Session, for the manner in which the monies hereby appropriated shall have been applied and expended.

XI. And be it further enacted, that every person to whom shall be entrusted the expenditure of any portion of the monies hereby appropriated, shall make up detailed accounts of such expenditure, showing the sum advanced to the accountant, the sum actually expended, the balance (if any,) remaining in his hands, and the amount of the monies hereby appropriated to the purpose for which such advance shall have been made, remaining unexpended in the hands of the Receiver General, and that every such account shall be supported by Vouchers therein distinctly referred to by numbers corresponding to the numbering of the Items in such account, and shall be made up to and closed on the tenth day of April and tenth day of October in each year, during which such expenditure shall be made and shall be attested before a Justice of the Court of King's Bench or a Justice of the Peace, and shall be transmitted to the Officer whose duty it shall be to receive such account, within fifteen days next after the expiration of the said periods respectively.

XII. And be it further enacted, that the due application of the monies appropriated by this Act shall be accounted for to His Majesty His Heirs and Successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's' Treasury for the time being, in such manner and form as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors shall direct, and that a detailed account of the expenditure of all such monies shall be laid before the several branches of the Provincial Legislature, within the first fifteen days of the next Session thereof.