

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Thursday the Eleventh day of February, 1819, in the Fifty-Ninth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the First Session of the Eleventh General Assembly, convened in the said Province.*

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**An Act for the encouragement of Agriculture, and Rural Economy, in this Province.**

Whereas, the inhabitants of Nova-Scotia, impressed with a conviction of the necessity and propriety of encouraging and promoting a new system of rural economy, have formed agricultural societies in the several counties and districts of this province; and whereas, the inhabitants of the town of Halifax for the purposes of giving permanence to these societies, and for upholding their spirit, and guiding their exertions, by the desire, and under the immediate patronage of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of Dalhousie, the Lieutenant-Governor, have formed a central board of agriculture, in the said town of Halifax, by the name of the Provincial Agricultural Society, and have subscribed, and paid, large sums of money for futhering the objects of such institution; and whereas, it is deemed expedient to grant to the said central board a legal constitution, and to connect the same with such societies as are already formed, or which may be hereafter formed, within this province for the purpose aforesaid:—

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, by letters patent, under the great seal of this province, to incorporate the Honorable Michael Wallace, the Honorable Brenton Haliburton, the Honorable James Stewart, and the Honorable Thomas Nickleson Jeffrey, members of His Majesty's council, Simon Bradstreet Robie, Samuel George William Archibald, William Lawson, Henry Hezekiah Cogswell, Rufus Fairbanks, Peter McNab, John Pryor, John Prescott, Samuel Albro, Thomas Boggs, Matthew Richardson, William Pryor, John Stayner, and Samuel Lydiard, esquires, the committee of the said central board already chosen, and the president of one agricultural society, in each and every county and district in the province, to be designated by a certificate from the custos rotulorum of such county and district, respectively, and all and every other person and persons to be hereafter duly chosen agreeably to the directions of this act, to be one body politic and corporate, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, in all courts and places within the said province; and that they, or the major part of them, shall have power, from time to time, to chuse, from among themselves or otherwise, their president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and other officers, as, by the said letters patent, shall be directed, and to make bye-laws, rules and ordinances, for the regulation and general management of the concerns of the said society, and to assemble together when and where, and upon such notice, as to them shall seem meet for the purposes aforesaid.

II. And be it further enacted, that all and every person or persons, who have already subscribed and paid, or who shall hereafter subscribe and pay, the sum of twenty shillings, yearly, to the said board, shall be and become a member thereof, and be entitled to vote at the general meetings of the said society.

III. And be it further enacted, that the several persons herein before named, except the presidents of the agricultural societies as aforesaid, shall remain in office for and during the period of one year from the date of the said letters patent; at the expiration of which time, and annually thereafter, five of the said members, except the presidents aforesaid, shall go out by seniority, according to such rules as shall be established by the said letters patent, and five others be chosen in their room from the members of the said board. Provided, that nothing herein contained, shall prevent such members, so going out as aforesaid, from being re-elected to the said office after the period of two years from their so going out of office as aforesaid.

IV. And be it further enacted, that there shall be, at least, two stated meetings of the said board, annually, one of which shall always take place, and be held, during the sitting of the legislature; and that all the members of His Majesty's council, and of the house of assembly, shall be honorary members of the said central board.

V. And be it further enacted, that all offices in the said society, excepting the offices of secretary and treasurer, shall be honorary, and discharged without pecuniary compensation.

VI. And be it further enacted, that the secretary and treasurer shall be paid such salary and compensation for their respective services, as shall be allowed by the committee annually, upon consideration of the several duties by them performed.

VII. And be it further enacted, that the funds of the said society, whether the same shall arise from private subscriptions or donations, or from provincial grants, shall be appropriated exclusively, to the agricultural improvement of the province, under the management of directors to be appointed by the said members to be incorporated as aforesaid, agreeably to the votes of the members of the said board in their general meetings; which directors shall inspect the treasurer's accounts from time to time, and shall account to the legislature for the expenditure and application of all such sums of money as may be granted by the province to the said society for the purposes aforesaid. Provided always, that all sums granted to the said board by the province, shall be applied agreeably to the votes of the members of the said board in their annual meeting to be held during the sitting of the legislature.

VIII. And be it further enacted, that the directors, chosen by the said members of the said board so incorporated as aforesaid, and the secretary, shall open and carry on a correspondence with the several agricultural societies already formed, or which may be formed, in this province, for the purpose of communicating to them all important information on the subject of agriculture which the said central board shall obtain by foreign

correspondence, or otherwise, and also for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the state and condition of the several counties and districts and respects their agricultural improvement and other matters connected therewith.

IX. And be it further enacted, that the said persons so incorporated as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, publish such information as they may receive, either from foreign parts or from the proceedings of the several societies with which they are connected in this province, and circulate the same for the purpose of directing the enterprise of the farmers of this province, into that course of proceeding which may appear to them most conducive to the general prosperity; and shall also be at liberty to rouse the emulation, and stimulate the exertions, of all classes, by offering judicious premiums from time to time for agricultural improvement; and shall also, from time to time, make such importation of the most improved implements of husbandry, and also of seeds, and live stock, as may be judged by them best suited to the soil and climate of this province, and to distribute the same among the several counties and districts, to be disposed of in such way as they may order and direct.

X. And be it further enacted, that this act shall continue for the period of seven years, and from thence to the end of the next session of the general assembly, and no longer.