

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1850. Toronto: Stewart Derbshire & George Desbarats, 1850.

13 & 14 Victoria – Chapter 73

An Act to establish a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada. 10th August, 1850.

Whereas the improvement of Agriculture is an object of the first importance to the people of this Province; and whereas the establishment, by law, of a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada, to collect and disseminate statistical and other useful information concerning the agricultural interests and resources of the country, would greatly promote such improvement: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That a Board of Agriculture shall be established in Upper Canada, and may consist of ten members, of whom five shall be a quorum.

II. And be it enacted. That the Inspector General of the Province and the Professor of Agriculture in the University of Toronto, shall be *ex-officio* members of the said Board.

III. And be it enacted, That the Chairman of the said Board shall be elected annually by the members thereof, which election shall be made at the first regular meeting held after the presentation of the Annual Report hereinafter mentioned: provided that the first Chairman may be elected at the first meeting of the members of the Board.

IV. And be it enacted, That the other seven members of the Board shall be chosen as follows: the Directors of each County Agricultural Society in Upper Canada shall, at their first regular meeting next after the annual meeting of the Society, elect seven persons residing in the vicinity of, or at convenient distances from the City of Toronto, to be members of the said Board of Agriculture, and their names shall be entered in the journal of the Society, and the Secretary of the Society shall, within one week thereafter, transmit to the Provincial Secretary a list of the said names, certified by the President of the Society, or in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents, and also by the Secretary, to be a correct list of the names of the persons so elected to be members of the Board; and the Provincial Secretary shall, in the month of June next after he shall have received six county lists, cause to be made a full list, to be called the "Board List," of all the names upon the several county lists, setting opposite each name the number of county lists on which the same shall be found, and placing those receiving a higher number of votes above those receiving a lower number of votes; and the seven persons who shall have received the greatest number of county votes shall be members of the said Board of Agriculture: and if it shall be necessary in order to fill up the Board to choose between persons having an equality of votes, the Provincial Secretary shall make such choice, and shall immediately notify the several members of their election, and name the day for their first meeting. And the said Board List and County Lists shall, after the election of

the first Board, be transferred to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and together with all future lists shall at all times, during office hours, be open to inspection.

V. And be it enacted, That any person elected to be a member of the said Board, shall be liable to serve during his term, unless he shall signify his refusal to act by written notice to the person who shall have notified him of his election, within ten days after receiving such notice of election, and in case of any such refusal to act, the person next highest on the Board List shall fill the vacancy caused thereby: Provided that if at the first, or any future election, so many refuse to act, that a full Board cannot be had from the persons nominated by the County Societies, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to fill up the Board.

VI. And be it enacted, That the retiring Directors and Officers of the County Societies at the next annual meeting hut one of the said Societies, after the election of the first Board, and at each annual meeting thereafter, shall elect two persons in the same manner as is hereinbefore provided for the election of the first members, and shall transmit a list of their names properly certified to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and the two persons who shall have received the greatest number of county votes, or in case of an equality of votes for more than two persons, the two whose surnames begin with letters standing highest in the alphabet, shall be members of the said Board; and their names placed at the top of the Board List, and the two members of the Board standing lowest on the Board List, shall thereupon retire, unless re-elected.

VII. And be it enacted, That if any member of the Board elected as aforesaid, and who shall not within ten days after notice of his election have refused to act as hereinbefore mentioned, shall neglect to attend the regular meetings of the Board twice in succession, without reasonable excuse, of which the Board shall judge, he shall cease to be a member of the Board.

VIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Board, at any meeting from which the Chairman shall be absent, to appoint one of their number Chairman *pro tempore*; and the said Board may also appoint a Secretary, who need not be a member of the Board, and shall be *ex-officio* Secretary of the Provincial Agricultural Association, and shall have an office in the City of Toronto; and the said Secretary shall have charge of the books and papers of the Board, and shall perform such duties as the Board may direct.

IX. And be it enacted, That the regular meetings of the Board shall be held pursuant to adjournment, or be called by the Secretary upon the advice of the Chairman, or upon the written request of any three members of the Board, in which latter case the special object of the meeting shall be stated by the members requesting a meeting, and in all cases, besides a written notice to each member of the Board, a notice of each meeting shall be published in some public newspaper in Toronto, at least ten days before the day of such meeting; and the Chairman and members elected as aforesaid shall be entitled to be repaid, out of any of the funds at the disposal of the Board, their necessary expenses actually incurred in coming to, attending at, and returning from the regular meetings of the said Board: Provided that the amount paid to any member on account of such expenses shall not exceed the sum of Ten Pounds Currency in any one year.

X. And be it enacted, That the members of the Board elected as aforesaid, and the Presidents of the several County Societies, shall be the Directors of the Provincial Agricultural Association; and the said Board shall be the Council of the Association, and may have and exercise all the powers of the Directors thereof, in the interval between the annual meetings of the said Directors.

XI. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Board to examine into, and collect information upon, such questions as concern the agricultural interests of the Province, and to take such means as they may think best to promote those interests. And they shall prepare yearly a report of their transactions, together with such extracts from the reports of the County and Township Societies, and such of the proceedings of the Provincial Agricultural Association, as the Board may deem interesting and useful to the public: and the said report, with the suggestions and recommendations of the Board, shall, at the Session then next, be laid before Parliament, and published in such manner as the Legislature may direct.

XII. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Board to prepare as soon as practicable, and present to the Legislature, a plan for establishing an experimental or illustrative farm in connection with the Chair of Agriculture in the University of Toronto, or in connection with the Normal School, or otherwise, as they may deem best; and to make any recommendations they may think expedient for extending agricultural education throughout the Province.