

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1851. York: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1851.

14 & 15 Victoria – Chapter 127

An Act to provide for the better organization of Agricultural Societies in Upper Canada. 30th August, 1851.

Whereas by an Act of the Legislature passed during the now last Session, provision was made for the establishment of a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada; and whereas to enable the said Board to accomplish the object for which it was established, it is necessary to re-organize the Agricultural Societies of Upper Canada, and to provide a uniform system for their more efficient working: 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, and 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 the Act of the Legislature passed in the eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for the encouragement of Agricultural Societies and Agriculture in Upper Canada*, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

County Societies.

II. And be it enacted, That a County Agricultural Society may be organized in each of the Counties of Upper Canada, whenever fifty persons shall become Members thereof, by signing a Declaration in the form of the Schedule A, to this Act annexed, and subscribing each not less than Five Shillings annually to the Funds of the said Society.

III. And be it enacted, That the object of the said Societies, and of the Township or Branch Societies in connection therewith, shall be to encourage improvement in Agriculture, by holding Meetings for Discussion, and for hearing Lectures on subjects connected with the theory and practice of Improved Husbandry; by promoting the circulation of the Agricultural Periodicals published in the Province; by importing or otherwise procuring Seeds, Plants and Animals of new and valuable kinds; by offering Prizes for Essays on Questions of Scientific Inquiry relating to Agriculture; and by awarding Premiums for Excellence in the raising or introduction of Stock, the invention or Improvement of Agricultural Implements and Machines, the production of Grain and all kinds of Vegetables, and generally for excellence in any Agricultural Production or Operation, and also by the acquisition and cultivation by any such County Society of a Model Farm, if deemed advisable by such Society; and it shall not be lawful to expend the Funds of the Societies, derived from subscriptions of Members, or the Public Grant, for any object inconsistent with those above mentioned, and that the Directors of every such County and Township Society, shall have full power from time to time to make, alter and repeal By-laws and Rules for the regulation of such Society and the carrying out of its objects.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said Societies shall hold their Annual Meetings in the month of February in each year, and shall, at such Meeting, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer and five Directors.

V. And be it enacted, That the Presidents of the several Township Agricultural Societies, within the County, shall, in addition to those before mentioned, be ex officio Directors of the County Society, and the said Officers and Directors shall and may, for the year next following the Annual Meeting, exercise all the powers vested in the County Society by this Act.

VI. And be it enacted, That the Meetings of the Officers and Directors shall be held pursuant to adjournment, or called by written notice to each to be called by authority of the President, or in his absence the Senior Vice-President, at least one week before the day appointed; and at any such Meeting five shall be a quorum.

VII. And be it enacted, That the said Officers and Directors shall, in addition to the ordinary duties of Management, cause to be prepared, and shall present at the Annual Meeting, a Report of the proceedings during the year, in which shall be stated the names of all the Members of the Society, the amount paid by each set opposite his name, the names of all persons to whom Premiums were awarded, the amount of such Premiums respectively, and the name of the animal, article or thing in respect of which the same was granted, together with such remarks upon the Agriculture of the County, the Improvements which have been, or may be made therein, as the Directors shall be enabled to offer; there shall also be presented to the said Annual Meeting, a detailed Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Society during the year; which Report and Statement, if approved by the Meeting, shall be entered in the Society's Journal, to be kept for such purposes, and signed by the President or a Vice-President, as being a correct entry; and a true copy thereof, certified by the President or Secretary for the time being, shall be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, on or before the first day of April following.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the County Society shall receive the Reports of the Township or Branch Societies, and shall transmit them, along with its own Report, to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, with such remarks thereon as may enable the said Board to obtain a correct knowledge of the progress of Agricultural Improvement in the County.

IX. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Officers and Directors to answer such queries, and give such information, as the Board of Agriculture may, from time to time, by Circular Letter or otherwise, require, touching the interests or condition of Agriculture in their County; and generally to act, as far as practicable, upon the recommendations of the said Board.

Township Societies.

X. And be it enacted, That a Township or Branch Agricultural Society may be organized in each Township of any County, or in any two or more Townships together, whenever a sufficient number of persons shall become Members, by signing a Declaration in the form of the Schedule A,

to this Act annexed, and subscribing, each, not less than Five Shillings annually to the Funds thereof, to raise an aggregate amount of not less than Seventeen Pounds Ten Shillings.

XI. And be it enacted, That the said Societies shall hold their Annual Meetings in the month of January in each year, and shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and three or not more than nine Directors.

XII. And be it enacted, That the said Officers and Directors shall prepare and present to the Annual Meeting of the Society, a Report of their proceedings during the year, in the same manner as hereinbefore directed for County Societies, and containing information under the same heads; and shall transmit a true copy thereof, certified by the President or Vice-President, to the Secretary of the County Society, in time for the Annual Meeting thereof in the month of February.

General Provisions.

XIII. And be it enacted, That when a County Society and Township Societies are organized in any County, it shall be lawful for the Directors of the County Society, if they think proper, to appoint the Exhibition of the County Society to be held in any Township in the said County; and the Society of the said Township (or, if such Township be united with another or others, to form a Society, the Society of such Township), shall not hold a Show for that year, but the same shall merge in the Exhibition of the County Society, and the Funds of the Township or Branch Society, for that year's Exhibition, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the County Society: Provided that the said Township or Branch Society shall not forfeit any right to a share of the Public Grant for not making a full Report for such year.

XIV. And be it enacted, That when the Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture shall certify to the Governor of this Province, that any County Society has sent to the said Board Reports and Statements as required by this Act, for the year then last previous, and shall also certify that the Treasurer or other Officer of the said Society, has transmitted to the said Board an Affidavit (which may be in the form of the Schedule B, to this Act annexed, and may be sworn to before any Justice of the Peace, who is hereby authorized to receive the same), stating the amount subscribed for that year, and paid to the Treasurer of the County Society by the Members thereof, and by the several Township Societies of the said County, it shall be lawful for the Governor to issue his Warrant in favor of such County Society, for a sum to be taken out of any unappropriated moneys in the Hands of the Receiver General, equal to three times the amount appearing by the said Affidavit to be then in the Hands of the Treasurer: Provided, that no Grant shall be made unless Twenty-five Pounds be first subscribed and paid to the Treasurer; and provided that the whole amount granted to any County Society shall not exceed Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds in any year: and provided also, that it shall not be necessary that any County Society should have sent Reports and Statements as above mentioned to the Board of Agriculture, in order to enable such Society to obtain the Government Allowance under this Section for the present year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, nor shall it be necessary, in order to enable any County Society to obtain such Allowance for the first year in which it shall be established, that it should have sent such Reports and Statements to the said Board for the previous year, but it shall in

either of the said cases be sufficient that such Society has complied with the other requirements of this Section.

XV. And be it enacted, That every Township or Branch Society, organized according to this Act, and sending a Report of its proceedings to the County Society, as hereinbefore required, shall be entitled to a share of the Grant to the County Society, in proportion to the amount which shall have been subscribed by the Members of such Township or Branch Society, and deposited with the Treasurer of the County Society, on or before the first day of May in each year; and the sum so deposited by any Township or Branch Society shall be repaid, along with its share of the Public Grant, so soon as the said Grant shall have been received by the County Society: Provided always, that not more than one half of the sum granted to any County Society shall be subject to division among Township or Branch Societies.

XVI. And be it enacted, That the Treasurer or other Officer of any County, Township or Branch Society, who shall certify that a subscription, or any sum of money, has been paid to him for the Society, when it has not been so paid, or who shall pay back any such subscription before the Public Grant is divided, shall forfeit and pay to Her Majesty the sum of Ten Pounds for every such offence, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

XVII. And be it enacted, That for and notwithstanding any thing in the tenth section or any other part of the Act passed in the now last Session, and intituled, *An Act to establish a Board of Agriculture in Upper Canada*, the Vice-President, or in his absence the Secretary or Treasurer of any County Society, may, in the absence of the President of such County Society, act in his stead as a Director of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Municipal Council of any County in Upper Canada, from time to time, if they see fit, to grant aid from the County Funds to the Agriculture Association of Upper Canada.

XIX. And be it enacted, That the said Board of Agriculture, and the several County Societies organized according to the provisions of this Act, shall be and become Bodies Corporate, with power to acquire and hold land and personal property, and to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same; Provided that the real estate to be held by the said Board shall at no time exceed in value the sum of Five Thousand Pounds, and the Real Estate to be held by each of the said County Societies shall at no time exceed in value the sum of One Thousand Pounds.

XX. And be it enacted, That the word "County" in this Act, shall mean and include Union of Counties.

Schedule A.

We, whose names are subscribed hereto, agree to form ourselves into a Society, under the provisions of the Act of the Legislature, (*Title and date of this Act*) to be called the "County (*Township or Branch, as the case may be,*) Agricultural Society of the County of _____" (*or Township of _____*); and we hereby severally agree to pay to the Treasurer yearly, while we continue Members of the said Society, (*any Member being at liberty to retire therefrom, upon giving notice in writing, at any time before the Annual Meeting, to the Secretary of his wish so to do*) the sums opposite our respective names; and we further agree to conform to the Rules and By-laws of the said Society.

Names.	£	s.	d.

Schedule B.

County of _____, }
 to wit: _____ }

I, A. B., of the Township of _____, Treasurer of the County Agricultural Society of _____, make oath and say, that the sum of _____ has been paid into my Hands since the first day of February last, by the Township Agricultural Societies of the said County, as and for the Members' subscription for this year; and that the sum of _____ has been paid into my Hands, as subscriptions for this year, by Members of the said County Society; and that the said sums, making in the whole the sum of _____ now remain in my Hands, ready to be disposed of according to law.

A. B.

Sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____ A. D. 185_____.

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Justice of the Peace for the _____
County of _____