

NEW ZEALAND.



QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO
VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.
No. 12.

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AN ACT for the Incorporation of Agricultural and other Societies of a kindred nature.

[20th November, 1877.]

WHEREAS it is fitting that encouragement should be given to societies formed for the purpose of promoting the advancement of agriculture, the improvement of live stock and the different branches of rural industry, and the arts therewith connected :

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Agricultural and Pastoral Societies Act, 1877.”

2. Whenever any number of persons, not being less than fifty, shall have associated themselves together into a society for any of the purposes hereinbefore recited, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, on the petition of not fewer than two-thirds of such persons, to incorporate the said petitioners, and the whole other persons at that time being members of the said society, and such persons as shall thereafter be admitted members thereof agreeably to the rules of the said society and the provisions of this Act, into a body corporate, by a style and title to be named in the Order in Council incorporating the same.

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Powers of corporate societies.

3. Every such society, when incorporated, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and in its corporate name and title shall be able to do and suffer all that corporate bodies may do and suffer.

Property of association to belong to corporate society.

4. All the property, real and personal, belonging to or held in trust for any society incorporated under this Act, shall, on and after the incorporation of such society, vest in and belong to the incorporated society under its corporate name and title.

Reserves may be granted to corporate society.

5. If any Crown lands be set apart and reserved for the purposes of any society that may become incorporated under this Act, the Governor may grant such lands or any part thereof to the said corporate society.

Power to lease reserves granted to society.

6. If any Crown lands be set apart and reserved for or be vested in or granted to any society incorporated under this Act for the purposes of the said society, then the said society shall have power to let on lease any portions of the lands so reserved or granted, for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, on such terms and conditions as it shall think fit, subject always that a sufficient portion of such lands shall, if in the opinion of the society the same is suitable for the purpose, always be available for the purposes of the society for holding their meetings and exhibitions, and for other legitimate objects of the society.

Power to sell or exchange for other lands.

7. If the aforesaid lands shall not be suitable for the purposes herein mentioned, the society may and shall, out of the proceeds of the leasing thereof or of any portion thereof, procure other suitable land, and render and keep the same available for such purposes; or, if a resolution shall be passed in that behalf by two-thirds of the members present at any general meeting of the society, the society may sell or exchange any lands granted to or vested in the society, where it may appear advantageous to do so; but in case of a sale the money received shall, as soon as conveniently may be, be invested in the purchase of other lands suitable for the purposes of the society.

Objects to be pursued by corporate societies.

8. The objects of every society incorporated under this Act shall be,—

- (1.) To collect such information contained in agricultural publications and in other works as has been proved by practical experience to be useful to the cultivators of the soil :
- (2.) To correspond with agricultural and other societies, and to select from such correspondence all information which, according to the opinion of the society, may be likely to lead to practical benefit to the cultivator of the soil :
- (3.) To pay to any occupier of land or other person who shall undertake, at the request of the society, to ascertain by any experiment how far such information leads to useful results in practice, a remuneration for any loss that he may incur in doing so :
- (4.) To encourage men of science in their attention to the improvement of agricultural implements, the application of chemistry to the general purposes of agriculture, the destruction of insects injurious to vegetable life, and the eradication of weeds :
- (5.) To promote the discovery of new varieties of grain and other vegetables useful to man or for the food of domestic animals :
- (6.) To collect information with regard to the management of woods, plantations, and fences, and on every other subject connected with rural improvement :
- (7.) To take measures for improving the veterinary art as applied to horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs :

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(8.) At the meetings of the society, by the distribution of prizes, and by other means, to encourage the best mode of farm cultivation and to improve the breed of live stock :

(9.) To encourage enterprise and industry by the holding of meetings for the exhibition of implements and produce, the granting of prizes thereat for the best exhibits, and for competitions for prizes for inventions or improvements, or for skill or excellence, in agricultural or pastoral arts.

9. The members of every society incorporated under this Act and their successors, at their general meetings, assembled from time to time, shall have full power to alter or annul any of the by-laws, rules, and regulations in force previously to their incorporation, and to make such other by-laws, rules, regulations, or orders as they or the majority of them present at such meetings shall judge proper and necessary for the better government and direction of the society ; and afterwards to alter or annul the said rules, regulations, or orders hereinbefore recited, as well as the by-laws, rules, regulations, and orders to be made in future, or any of them, as the members of the society so assembled, or the major part of them present at such general meeting, shall deem proper and requisite.

Power to make and alter rules and regulations.

10. All such by-laws, rules, regulations, and orders, or any of them, and every alteration thereof, shall be notified at two meetings of the General Committee of Management to be appointed as herein provided previous to the general meeting of the society at which they are proposed to be made, declared, or altered ; and shall also be confirmed in and by the next general meeting of the society held and kept after they shall have been respectively made as aforesaid.

Rules to be notified before adoption.

11. All the by-laws, rules, regulations, and orders made as aforesaid, or in force at the time of the incorporation of the society, so far as the same are not inconsistent with the provisions of section twelve, shall, until altered, be duly observed and kept, provided that the same are noways contrary to this Act.

Rules when in force to be observed.

12. Until the same are altered under the provisions of the preceding sections, the following rules shall have effect in respect of every society incorporated under this Act, that is to say,—

General rules to apply to all societies.

(1.) The society may consist of ordinary, honorary, and life members, who shall be elected by ballot at any meeting of the society, in the manner to be prescribed by any regulation or by-law to be made in that behalf, as hereinafter directed.

(2.) The society shall hold one or more general meetings in each year, upon such days as the General Committee of the society shall fix at any of their ordinary meetings, and shall make known, together with the object of the said meeting, by advertisement in any newspaper published in the district wherein the society holds its meetings at least fourteen days before such meeting. At the said general meetings of the society, twenty shall be a quorum ; and the president, or in his absence the vice-president, or in the absence of the vice-president some member elected by the meeting, and in the absence of these, the senior director present, shall preside ; and all questions before general meetings shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present.

(3.) The society shall annually, at a general meeting, choose out of their ordinary members a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, and two or more auditors. And the society shall also annually, at the said general meeting, choose out of their ordinary members a General Committee of Manage-

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ment of not more than twenty-four members (herein called the "General Committee"); which several president, vice-president, General Committee, and treasurer, shall manage and direct the ordinary business of the society in all matters, in compliance with the constitution, by-laws, and regulations of the society: In all meetings of the general Committee one-third shall be a quorum; the president, vice-president, or in their absence then some member of the General Committee selected by the other members thereof present, shall be chairman of the meeting; and the chairman of all meetings of the General Committee, and of all general meetings of the society as aforesaid, shall have a deliberative vote, and, in case of an equality, also a casting vote.

All persons holding office in any society at the time of the incorporation thereof, shall continue in their office under the incorporated society, until their successors are appointed under the provisions hereof.

- (4.) The General Committee may appoint a secretary for conducting the general business of the society, and also any other officers or servants they may find it necessary to employ, and shall fix the salaries or allowances to be paid to such secretary and other officers or servants.
- (5.) The ordinary members of the society shall pay upon admission, and afterwards annually, towards the general fund of the society, such sum or sums as the society may from time to time fix and declare by any regulation or by-law in manner hereinafter directed, with power to the said members to redeem the annual contribution by a payment in one sum as the purchase of a life subscription, at such rate as the said society shall from time to time authorize and appoint.

All life members of any society at the time of the incorporation thereof shall be life members of the said society when incorporated. The honorary members shall not be subject to any annual contribution or other payment.

- (6.) Each ordinary member of the society shall pay his annual contribution for the preceding year at or before the annual general meeting, or otherwise he shall have no vote.
- (7.) It shall be in the power of the society, on the vote of not less than three-fourths of the members present at an ordinary general meeting or a special general meeting, to be convened in the manner provided in subsection two hereof, to expel any member for any cause which shall appear to such general meeting to require that proceeding; and any such person shall thereupon cease to be a member, or to have any right or interest in the society or its concerns accordingly.
- (8.) The annual payments by the ordinary members of the society, or sums paid in lieu thereof as contributions for life, shall be paid to the Treasurer, or to any collector to be named by him, such collector being bound to find security for his fidelity to the satisfaction of the General Committee, and he shall receive such remuneration as the said Committee shall from time to time fix and determine. And all sums received by the treasurer or collector shall be lodged with such bank or banking company as the General Committee shall appoint, and neither the treasurer nor the collector shall at any time retain any balance of the

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funds in his or their hands greater than twenty pounds sterling.

- (9.) The society at its general meetings shall have power to apply the revenues of the society for the purposes of the society, and to put at the disposal of the General Committee annually certain sums, to be applied by them in such manner as may appear to them to be most conducive to its interests.
- (10.) The treasurer shall annually make out a detailed account of the income and expenditure of the society, and of the state of the society's funds; and the General Committee shall, at their meeting immediately preceding the annual general meeting of the society, have the accounts of the treasurer audited, and a statement of the funds of the society made up, and a report prepared of the proceedings of the society during the past year, which shall be submitted to the General Assembly; and the treasurer shall produce the said accounts and state of the funds at the annual general meeting of the society, and submit an abstract or abbreviated view thereof, for the consideration of the society.

13. The General Committee shall have power to cause actions or proceedings at law to be instituted against members in arrear of their annual payments for recovery of such arrears, and it shall not form a bar or valid defence against such actions or proceedings that the member has tendered his resignation.

Society may sue for arrears of subscriptions.

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