

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

AUGUSTA:

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1855.

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

NO. 16.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND FIFTY-FIVE.

AN ACT to Incorporate and Endow the Maine State
Agricultural Society, and more fully prescribing the
powers and duties of Agricultural and Horticultural
Societies.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION. 1. S. L. Goodale, Thomas Mabry, Darius
2 Forbes, E. G. Buxton, Elijah Barrell, Samuel F. Dike,
3 Ezekiel Holmes, Ephraim Maxim, B. F. Buxton,
4 Nathan Foster, Oliver Gould, B. F. Eastman, James G.
5 Waugh, S. W. Coburn, William Folsom, William G.
6 Clark, Horace McKenney, Lowell Marston, William
7 R. Hersey, John Allen, William D. Dana, J. Wingate
8 Carr, D. A. Fairbanks, their associates, successors and

9 assigns be, and they are hereby created a corporation
10 by the name of the Maine State Agricultural Society,
11 with power by that name to sue and be sued, use a
12 common seal, make by-laws for the management of
13 their affairs, not repugnant to the laws of the State,
14 and to hold and exercise all the powers and privileges
15 incident to similar corporations.

SECT. 2. The incorporators named in this act, are
2 hereby constituted an executive committee of said
3 society, and shall hold their offices until the third
4 Wednesday of January next. Messrs. Goodale, Holmes
5 and Coburn, shall be a committee to call the first
6 meeting of this society, by giving suitable notice in
7 some one or more of the Portland, Augusta and Ban-
8 gor papers, which meeting shall be within three weeks
9 from the passage of this act.

SECT. 3. At the first meeting of this society, and
2 at each annual meeting, on the third Wednesday of
3 January, thereafter, the said committee shall organize
4 by the choice of president, secretary, treasurer, and
5 such other officers as may be deemed necessary, and
6 seven members shall constitute a quorum for the
7 transaction of business.

SECT. 4. Said society may take and hold property,
2 real and personal, to an amount, the annual income
3 of which shall not exceed two thousand dollars, to be
4 applied exclusively to the advancement of agriculture,
5 horticulture and the arts connected therewith. And
6 the treasurer of said society shall give suitable bonds
7 for the safe keeping of said property, and for the
8 faithful discharge of his duties.

SECT. 5. There shall be paid from the Treasury of
2 State each year, during the next five years after the
3 passage of this act, as many dollars as may be raised
4 by said society by assessment on the members thereof,
5 or otherwise, not exceeding one thousand dollars in
6 each year; and the Governor and Council on present-
7 ation of a certificate signed by the treasurer of said
8 society, and countersigned by the president thereof,
9 stating the amount of money thus raised and actually
10 received as the property, and for the benefit of said
11 society, shall draw their warrant for a like amount as
12 above specified.

SECT. 6. The moneys received from the State
2 shall be paid in premiums for the encouragement of
3 the various departments of agriculture, horticulture

4 and the arts connected therewith; and full and correct
5 statements of such expenditure, together with the
6 reports of the several committees, and the statements
7 of the several competitors, shall be annually trans-
8 mitted to the Legislature through the secretary of the
9 society.

SECT. 7. The several presidents of the county
2 agricultural societies who are members of the State
3 society, shall be ex-officio vice presidents thereof; and
4 the executive committee shall have a general super-
5 vision of the affairs and doings of the said State society,
6 and recommend from time to time such regulations as
7 they may deem expedient for the furtherance and
8 accomplishment of its several objects, and to investi-
9 gate all such subjects relating to improvement in
10 agriculture and horticulture in this State, as they
11 think proper, and report the same to the Legislature
12 through their secretary.

SECT. 8. The executive committee shall meet at
2 the State House in Augusta, on the third Wednesday
3 of January yearly, and they are hereby empowered to
4 annually elect, a suitable person to act as secretary of
5 the State society, and to prescribe and determine his

6 duties; and in case of vacancy by death or otherwise,
7 the Governor with advice of his Council, be and is
8 hereby empowered to fill the vacancy. And all reports
9 and returns now required by law to be made by the
10 several agricultural and horticultural societies shall
11 be made and returned to the secretary of this society,
12 the Governor and Council shall determine his com-
13 pensation, which compensation shall not exceed —
——— dollars per annum.

SECT. 9. The executive committee of this society
2 is hereby established to consist of one member from
3 each of the incorporated agricultural and horticultural
4 societies in this State; said members shall hold their
5 offices for one year from the third Wednesday of
6 January in each year. And said societies shall elect
7 said members by ballot, at their annual meetings for
8 the choice of society officers. And they shall receive
9 a certificate of their election, signed by the president
10 and secretary of such societies; they shall be paid eight
11 cents per mile, as mileage, out of the funds of the
12 State society; other compensation, if any, shall be paid
13 by the several societies sending them; and they shall,

14 in all cases, be members of both the State society and
15 the society sending them.

SECT. 10. The Treasurer of State is hereby author-
2 ized and directed to pay to the treasurer of any county
3 agricultural or horticultural society, whenever any
4 such treasurer shall apply for the same, in conformity
5 with the conditions hereinafter specified, a sum equal
6 to that raised and actually received as the property,
7 and for the benefit of such society, within the next
8 preceding year, and not exceeding, in cases where
9 there are three such societies in a county, one hundred
10 and fifty dollars to each of them; where there are two
11 and only two, two hundred dollars to each of them;
12 and where there is only one such society in a county,
13 three hundred dollars.

SECT. 11. None of the aforesaid payments shall be
2 made, till the treasurer of such society shall file with
3 the State Treasurer, a certificate on oath, therein spe-
4 cifying the amount raised and actually paid in as the
5 property and for the benefit of said society; and also,
6 a certificate from the Secretary of the State Agricul-
7 tural Society, therein specifying, that said society has

8 complied with all the requirements of section four-
9 tenth of this act.

SECT. 12. Every agricultural and horticultural
2 society which shall receive the said allowance from
3 the State Treasury, shall offer annually, by way of
4 premiums, for the encouragement or improvement of
5 agriculture, horticulture or manufactures, a sum not
6 less than the amount annually received from the State
7 Treasury.

SECT. 13. It shall be the duty of every agricultural
2 and horticultural society, applying for the bounty of
3 the State, to require of all competitors for premiums,
4 to fill up the blanks furnished by the Secretary of the
5 State Agricultural Society for such purposes, by
6 answering all the questions therein proposed, to the
7 best of their knowledge and belief, and present the
8 same to the several awarding committees, with their
9 applications for premiums; and said committees shall
10 file all such returns with their list of awards, and
11 return them to the treasurer of such society; and no
12 such treasurer shall pay any such premiums that may
13 be awarded by such committees, which are not accom-
14 panied by such returns as above specified.

SECT. 14. It shall be the duty of the treasurers of
2 all agricultural and horticultural societies, within
3 seventeen days after receiving the returns from the
4 several awarding committees, as provided for in the
5 thirteenth section of this act, to place the same in the
6 hands of the secretary of such society, with a list of
7 the premiums awarded by said committees and all
8 other expenditures of said societies; and said secretary
9 shall annually, on or before the second Wednesday
10 in November, forward to the secretary of the State
11 Agricultural Society, said lists, blanks and returns
12 thereon, with a true copy of all other expenditures,
13 retaining copies thereof, for the use of said society,
14 except those relating to field crops and fruits, which
15 may be returned on or before the second Wednesday
16 in December in each year; and the Secretary of the
17 State Agricultural Society, on the receipt and exam-
18 ination of such lists, blanks and returns thereon, shall
19 furnish the treasurer of such society with the certifi-
20 cate required in section eleventh of this act; and no
21 society failing to comply with the conditions above
22 specified, shall be entitled to draw any moneys from
23 the State Treasury.

SECT. 15. All incorporated agricultural and horti-
2 cultural societies may, by their officers, define and fix
3 bounds of sufficient extent, for the erection of their
4 cattle-pens and yards, and for convenient passage-ways
5 to and about the same, on the days of their cattle shows
6 and exhibitions, and also for their plowing matches
7 and trials of working teams, within which bounds no
8 person shall be permitted to enter or pass, unless in
9 conformity with the regulations of the officers of said
10 societies respectively.

SECT. 16. If any person shall, contrary to the
2 regulations of the said officers, and after notice thereof,
3 enter or pass within the bounds so fixed, he shall for-
4 feit a sum not exceeding five dollars, to be recovered
5 on complaint in behalf of the State, in any court
6 competent to try the same, for the use and benefit of
7 such society.

SECT. 17. The foregoing provisions shall not autho-
2 rize such societies to occupy or include within the
3 bounds which they shall fix for the purposes aforesaid,
4 the land of any person, without his consent, nor to
5 occupy any turnpike or public highway in any such
6 manner as to obstruct the public travel.

SECT. 18. The officers of any such society may
2 appoint a sufficient number of suitable persons, inhab-
3 itants of the county, to act as marshals at cattle shows
4 and exhibitions, and they shall have and exercise all
5 the powers of constables, in relation to the preserva-
6 tion of the public peace and enforcing the rules and
7 regulations of said society, within the towns respec-
8 tively where such shows and exhibitions may be held:
9 and they shall exercise their said office, from twelve
10 o'clock at noon on the day preceding the commence-
11 ment of such shows or exhibitions, and until twelve
12 o'clock at noon of the day succeeding thereof, and
13 no longer.

SECT. 19. The Secretary of the State Agricultural
2 Society is hereby required to report annually to the
3 Legislature, giving a statistical account of the finances
4 of all the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies in
5 this State, together with a condensed statement of all
6 such reports of committees and statements of competi-
8 tors as may be deemed useful to the public, and cause
9 to be printed at the expense of the State, a sufficient
10 number of copies to furnish each member of all
11 the county societies who have paid their annual as-

12 sessment, and each member of the legislature, with
13 one copy; also one copy to the oldest Public or So-
14 cial Library in each town, provided application be
15 made therefor by its Librarian previous to the 1st day
16 of October.

SECT. 20. The Secretary of the State Agricultural
2 Society is hereby empowered and required to prepare
3 and cause to be printed and distributed to the Secre-
4 taries of the several Agricultural and Horticultural
5 Societies in the State, the several blanks required by
6 this act.

SECT. 21. All acts and parts of acts relating to
2 Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, and Board
3 of Agriculture, now in force, except those granting
4 charters to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies,
5 are hereby repealed.

SECT. 22. This act shall take effect from and after
2 its approval by the Governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 21, 1855.

ORDERED, That this Bill be laid on the table, and 350 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

LOUIS O. COWAN, *Secretary.*