

1980

c 14 Agricultural Societies Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 14

Agricultural Societies Act

1. In this Act,

Interpre-
tation

- (a) "board" means the board of a society;
- (b) "headquarters" means the place named as the headquarters in the declaration forming a new society or the place approved or named as the headquarters by the Minister or the place where a society held its last annual exhibition;
- (c) "Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture and Food;
- (d) "Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- (e) "society" means an agricultural society organized under this Act or under any predecessor of this Act;
- (f) "Superintendent" means the Director of the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch of the Ministry. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 1; 1974, c. 46, s. 1.

2.—(1) Where any dispute arises as to the operation or ^{Disputes} construction of this Act, the Superintendent shall, after a hearing, decide such dispute.

(2) A party to a dispute under this section may appeal ^{Appeal} from a decision of the Superintendent to the Minister within fifteen days after receipt of a copy of the decision of the Superintendent and the Minister may, after considering the record of the proceedings before the Superintendent and affording to the party an opportunity to submit argument on the appeal, affirm, vary or annul the decision of the Superintendent.

(3) The Superintendent or the Minister, as the case may ^{Stated case} be, may, of his own motion or upon the request of any party to a dispute or an appeal, state a case in writing

to the Divisional Court setting forth any question of law that arises at the hearing or on the appeal and the facts material thereto.

Idem

(4) If the Superintendent or the Minister, as the case may be, refuses to state a case under this section, the party requesting it may apply to the Divisional Court for an order directing him to state such a case.

Idem

(5) Where a case is stated under this section, the Divisional Court shall hear and determine the question raised in a summary manner and shall certify its decision to the Superintendent or the Minister, as the case may be, and the Superintendent or the Minister shall dispose of the dispute in accordance therewith. 1971, c. 50, s. 4 (1).

Organization

3.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), a society may be organized with headquarters at any place in Ontario. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 3 (1).

Recom-
mendations
of existing
society

(2) When it is proposed to organize a society with headquarters within forty kilometres of an existing society, the officers of the existing society shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make recommendations to the Minister regarding the advisability of organizing the proposed society, and the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, upon the recommendation of the Minister, grant permission for the organization of the proposed society. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 3 (2); 1978, c. 87, s. 2 (1).

Mode of
organization:

4. The mode of organization shall be as follows:

declaration

1. A declaration in the form prescribed by the Minister shall be signed by the persons who desire to organize a society, but such persons must be of the age of eighteen years or over and must reside within forty kilometres of the place designated in the declaration as the headquarters of such society.

signatories
to declara-
tion

2. The declaration shall be signed by at least sixty persons, but, in a provisional judicial district or provisional county, the number required to sign the declaration shall be forty.

fees payable
by
signatories

3. Every person who signs the declaration shall pay to the person having charge thereof the sum of not less than \$2 at the time of signing the declaration and all such sums of money become the property of the society upon its organization, but, where no society is organized, such sums shall be repaid to the persons entitled thereto.

4. Within one month after the required number of ^{transmitting} persons have signed the declaration, the declaration shall be forwarded to the Superintendent who may, with the approval of the Minister, authorize any person to call a meeting for the organization of the society.
5. Such organization meeting shall be held during the ^{calling first} month of January, or at such other time as the Superintendent may authorize, upon at least two weeks notice published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the district surrounding the headquarters of the society and by mailing a notice by prepaid mail to each person who has signed the declaration.
6. At the organization meeting, and at every annual ^{quorum} and special meeting of a society, fifteen members shall form a quorum but, in a provisional judicial district or provisional county, ten members shall form a quorum.
7. At the organization meeting there shall be elected a ^{election of} board of twelve directors who shall hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are elected, and such directors shall elect a president, a first vice-president and a second vice-president from among themselves.
8. The board shall consist of the directors and the ^{board} president, first vice-president and second vice-president.
9. At the organization meeting there shall be elected ^{auditors} two auditors who shall hold office until the next annual meeting.
10. A report of the organization meeting certified by ^{transmission} the president, the secretary and the organizer, ^{of report of} containing a statement of the members and a ^{organization} list of the officers elected and appointed, shall be sent to the Superintendent within one month after the holding of the meeting. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 4; 1974, c. 46, s. 2; 1978, c. 87, s. 2 (2).

5.—(1) Upon receipt of the report mentioned in paragraph ^{Declaration} 10 of section 4, the Superintendent, with the approval of the ^{of society} Minister, may declare such society to be a society within the meaning of this Act and such society shall bear the name designated in the declaration as the headquarters or such other name as is determined by the members and approved by the Minister.

- Change of name** (2) In case of a dispute as to the name of a society or in a case where in the opinion of the Minister the name of a society prejudicially affects the interest of another society, he may change the name of the society. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 5.
- Persons entitled to membership** **6.**—(1) Every person is entitled to be a member of a society, but no person under eighteen years of age is eligible to vote at any meeting of the society or to hold office in the society.
- Firms and companies may be members** (2) Subject to the by-laws of a society, a firm or an incorporated company may become a member thereof by the payment of the regular fee, but the name of one person only shall in any one year be entered as the representative or agent of such firm or company, and that person only shall exercise the privileges of membership in the society. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 6 (1, 2).
- Membership fee** (3) In every society there shall be an annual membership fee of not less than \$2. 1974, c. 46, s. 3.
- Additional directors** **7.**—(1) Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Minister may authorize any society to elect not more than six additional directors and not more than six junior directors not over twenty-six years of age.
- Election of directors in rotation** (2) Where a society is authorized to elect more than twelve directors, it may elect all of its directors in rotation, but in that case no director shall be elected for a term of more than three years.
- Honorary directors** (3) Any society may appoint not more than six honorary directors, but no such honorary director is entitled to vote or take part in meetings of the board. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 7.
- Objects of society** **8.**—(1) The objects of a society are to encourage interest, promote improvements in, and advance the standards of, agriculture, domestic industry and rural life by,
- (a) surveying and studying the agricultural and living conditions and by doing such acts as may assist in solving the rural economic and social problems of the district surrounding the headquarters of the society;
 - (b) organizing and holding agricultural exhibitions and awarding premiums and exhibiting displays of farm products thereat;
 - (c) holding public meetings and demonstrations for the purpose of discussing agricultural problems;
 - (d) taking action to eradicate poisonous and noxious insects, weeds, animal parasites and diseases;

(e) encouraging and promoting reforestation, rural beautification and exterior farm and homestead improvements;

(f) encouraging young people to become interested in and adopt better agricultural and domestic practices and for such purposes to hold competitions;

(g) holding races or trials of speed for horses. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 8 (1); 1974, c. 46, s. 4.

(2) A society that expends any of its funds in a manner inconsistent with the objects set out in subsection (1) forfeits all claims to participate in any legislative grant. ^{When grant forfeited} R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 8 (2).

9.—(1) Every society shall hold an annual meeting during the month of January at such time and place as the board determines or, subject to the approval of the Superintendent, at such other time and place as are fixed by the by-laws of the society. ^{Annual meeting}

(2) At any such meeting only those members who were members of the society during the previous year and who have paid the membership fee for the current year are entitled to vote. ^{Who may vote}

(3) At least two weeks notice of every annual meeting shall be given by publication of a notice of the meeting in at least one newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality in which the headquarters of the society is situate and by mailing notices of the meeting to every member of the society at the address furnished to the secretary. ^{Notice of annual meeting}

(4) Where a society fails to hold its annual meeting at the time mentioned in subsection (1), the Minister may appoint a time and place for holding it. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 9. ^{Minister may appoint time for meeting}

10. At every annual meeting,

(a) the board shall present a report of the activities and accomplishments of the society since the last annual meeting and a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures since the last annual meeting and a statement of the assets and liabilities of the society, certified by the auditors, in the form prescribed by the Minister; and ^{Procedure at annual meeting}

(b) the officers and other members of the board, including the auditors, shall be elected and appointed in the manner provided by section 4 and any additional, honorary and junior directors shall be elected and appointed. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 10.

Statement
to be sent
to Superin-
tendent

11.—(1) A statement of officers and members and a copy of the report and financial statement in the form prescribed by the Minister and certified by the president, secretary and treasurer, or secretary-treasurer, and auditors to be true copies shall be forwarded to the Superintendent within ninety days after the holding of the annual meeting. 1974, c. 46, s. 5 (1).

Annual
returns

(2) The officers of every society shall, on or before the 1st day of March in every year, forward to the Superintendent a return in the form prescribed by the Minister verified by an affidavit of an officer of the society showing the amount expended during the previous year by the society for agricultural purposes. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 11 (2).

Statement
as to
competitions,
etc.

(3) Where a society exhibits a display of a farm product that is produced on a commercial basis or holds a field-crop or other competition or sponsors an amateur program, using local talent to provide entertainment, and such display, competition, or amateur program is approved by the Superintendent, the officers of the society shall within ninety days thereafter forward to the Superintendent on a form supplied by the Ministry a statement showing the particulars of the display, competition or amateur program including, where applicable, the number of entries and the expenditures, including prizes awarded, in connection therewith. 1974, c. 46, s. 5 (2).

Penalty
for false
statement

(4) Any officer of a society who wilfully makes a false statement in any report or statement required to be furnished under this Act is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$100 or to imprisonment for not more than thirty days, but no prosecution under this subsection shall be commenced later than one year after the making of such report or statement. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 11 (4).

Special
meeting

12. On the petition of thirty members of a society, the secretary, and in his absence, the president or first vice-president, shall call a special general meeting for the transaction of the business mentioned in the petition and the meeting shall be advertised in the manner prescribed by subsection 9 (3) and the advertisements shall state the nature of the business to be transacted. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 12.

Minister
may require
information

13. The Minister may at any time require any society or any officer of a society to furnish such information regarding the society as he considers necessary or desirable and such information shall be accompanied by an affidavit of all or any of the officers of the society deposing to its accuracy. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 13.

14.—(1) In the event of failure to hold the annual meeting of a society in accordance with this Act, or in the event that the number of members of a society on the 1st day of September in any year is less than the number required for organization, the society is not entitled to receive any further legislative grant and shall be deemed to be dissolved, subject always to the direction of the Minister, and the persons comprising the board during the last year of the existence of the society shall be trustees of the assets of the society and shall forthwith deliver to the Superintendent a statement of the assets and liabilities of the society. ^{Dissolution in certain instances}

(2) Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Superintendent may direct the members of the board to pay the debts of the society out of the moneys and other assets remaining in their hands and to liquidate any of the assets for such purpose. ^{Payment of debts on dissolution}

(3) Subject to the approval of the Minister, any moneys and other assets remaining after the payment of debts shall be disposed of by the board in such manner as they determine. ^{Disposition of assets after debts paid}

(4) When a society dissolves or ceases to exist, it may be reorganized with necessary modifications in the manner prescribed by section 4. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 14. ^{Reorganization}

15. A meeting of the board shall be called by the secretary upon the direction of the president, or in his absence by the first vice-president, or in the absence of the president and the first vice-president, by the second vice-president, or by any three members of the board, by sending notice thereof to all the members of the board at least seven days before the time fixed for the meeting, but a meeting of the board may be held without notice immediately following any annual, regular or special meeting of the society. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 15. ^{Meetings of board}

16.—(1) Subject to the by-laws and regulations of the society, the board has power to act for and on behalf of the society in all matters. ^{Powers of board}

(2) Seven of the members of the board constitute a quorum. ^{Quorum}

(3) In the event of a vacancy occurring on the board by the death or resignation of any officer or director or otherwise, the remaining members of the board have power to appoint any member of the society to fill the vacancy, but, when three or more vacancies occur at the same time, the Superintendent may order the remaining members of the board to call a special general meeting of the society in the manner prescribed by section 9 and directors shall be elected and appointed at such meeting to fill the vacancies. ^{Filling vacancies}

Executive committee

(4) The board, from among themselves, may appoint an executive committee of not more than five members to exercise and perform such of its powers and duties as the board prescribes.

Manager

(5) The board may appoint a manager to perform such of its powers and duties as it prescribes.

Secretary, treasurer

(6) The board, from among themselves or otherwise, shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, who shall remain in office during pleasure, and the secretary or secretary-treasurer shall be a member of every committee that is appointed by the board and may be appointed managing director acting under the control and with the approval of the board. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 16 (1-6).

Remuneration and expenses

(7) No officer, director or member of a society, except the secretary, treasurer, secretary-treasurer or manager, shall receive any remuneration for carrying out his duties as officer, director or member, but travelling and living expenses may be allowed to any officer, director or member while engaged in duties on behalf of the society, and the board may fix such remuneration and travelling and living expenses, which shall be payable out of the funds of the society. 1974, c. 46, s. 6.

Meetings

17. Subject to section 9, the board may determine what regular or special meetings of the society are to be held during each year. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 17.

Security by treasurer of society

18.—(1) The treasurer or secretary-treasurer of every society, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall give such security to the society, either by joint or several covenant with one or more sureties, in such form and for such amount as the board considers necessary for the faithful performance of his duties, and especially for the due accounting for and paying over of all moneys that come into his hands.

Duty of board as to security

(2) It is the duty of the board in each year to inquire into the sufficiency of the security given by the treasurer or secretary-treasurer and to report thereon to the society, and, where the same treasurer or secretary-treasurer is reappointed from year to year, his reappointment shall not be considered as a new term of office but as a continuation of the former appointment and any security given to the society for the faithful performance of his duties under such reappointment continues valid as against the parties thereto.

Personal responsibility of officers for loss

(3) If the board neglects to procure and maintain proper and sufficient security, each member thereof is personally responsible for all funds of the society that may have been received by the treasurer. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 18.

19.—(1) By-laws and regulations of a society may be made, ^{By-laws and regulations} adopted, amended or repealed at any organization, annual or regular meeting of the society or at a special meeting of which notice has been given in the manner provided by subsection 9 (3). R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 19 (1).

(2) The officers of a society may by their rules and regulations ^{Preventing certain performances, huckstering, etc.} prohibit and prevent theatrical, circus or acrobatic performances, exhibitions or shows and may also regulate or prevent the huckstering or trafficking in fruit, goods, wares or merchandise on the exhibition grounds or within 275 metres thereof on the day of an exhibition, and any person who, after notice of such rules and regulations, contravenes any provisions thereof is liable to be removed by an officer of the society, a person appointed under subsection 30 (1), or a police officer, and is liable to the penalties provided in this Act. 1974, c. 46, s. 7; 1978, c. 87, s. 2 (3).

20.—(1) Every society is a body corporate with power to ^{Incorporation and power to hold land} acquire and hold land as a site or as an enlargement of an existing site, and the society has and may exercise the like powers as to lands required for the enlargement of an existing site as in the case of lands required for the original site, for fairs and exhibitions, and, subject to the approval of a meeting of the society called for that purpose, may sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose thereof or of any other property held by the society, but no lands of a society shall be mortgaged without the written approval of the Superintendent.

(2) At least two weeks previous notice of such meeting shall ^{Notice of meetings to consider disposition of property} be given by advertisement in at least one newspaper having a general circulation in the area surrounding the headquarters of the society, and at such meeting only those persons are entitled to vote who are members for the current year and who were members for the two previous years. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 20.

21. Subject to the approval of the Minister, a society may ^{Power to expropriate land} expropriate land selected as a site for fairs and exhibitions or as an enlargement of an existing site, and approved therefor at a meeting of the society called for that purpose, in accordance with the *Expropriations Act*, and the provisions of that Act ^{R.S.O. 1980, c. 148} apply to any expropriation under this section. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 21.

22. Any township society and town or village municipality that had, before the 4th day of March, 1868, jointly ^{Joint ownership of lands with municipality} purchased and held any land or building for the purpose of agricultural fairs or exhibitions may continue jointly to hold the land or building, or may sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose thereof, subject to the approval of a meeting of the society as provided in section 20. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 22.

Provincial
grants

23. On the recommendation of the Minister, every society is entitled to receive a grant out of the moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose on condition,

- (a) that the number of paid-up members for the current year is not less than sixty, except in the case of societies organized in provisional judicial districts and a provisional county where the number of paid-up members shall not be less than forty;
- (b) that all reports and returns required by this Act have been made to the satisfaction of the Superintendent;
- (c) that the annual meeting has been held as required and the officers elected in accordance with section 10;
- (d) that the objects of the society as prescribed by section 8 have been strictly adhered to, and that none of the funds of the society, from whatever source derived, have been expended in any manner not in harmony with such objects; and
- (e) that all other provisions of this Act have been complied with. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 23.

Payment
of grants

24.—(1) Grants shall be paid to societies out of moneys appropriated for the purpose by the Legislature, except the moneys appropriated under sections 25 and 26, according to the following plan:

1. A newly-organized society, during the first three years of its existence, shall receive a grant each year equal to \$1 per member up to 300 members.
2. Where a society complies with subsection 11 (3), and its statement is satisfactory to the Superintendent, it shall receive a grant,
 - i. where it has sponsored a farm or home-stead improvement competition, equal to one-half of the sum expended by the society as shown by the statement of its expenditures for the competition, but in no case shall the grant be more than \$300,
 - ii. where it has sponsored a special event with light horses, equal to one-third of the sum expended by the society as shown by the statement of its expenditures for the event, but in no case shall the grant be more than \$500,

- iii. where it has sponsored an amateur program, using local talent to provide entertainment, equal to one-third of the sum expended by the society as shown by the statement of its expenditures for the amateur program, but in no case shall the grant be more than \$500, and
 - iv. where it has sponsored a display or competition not referred to in sub-paragraph i, ii or iii, equal to one-half of the sum expended by the society as shown by the statement of its expenditures for the display or competition, but in no case shall the grant be more than \$200 for a display or more than \$75 for a competition.
3. Where a society complies with subsections 11 (1) and (2) and its statement is satisfactory to the Superintendent, it shall receive a grant equal to one-third of the average amount expended by the society during the three preceding years for agricultural purposes, as shown by the statements forwarded to the Superintendent, but,
- i. societies in a provisional judicial district or provisional county shall receive their grants on the basis of double the amount of other societies,
 - ii. no grant shall be paid under this paragraph respecting an expenditure qualifying for a grant under paragraph 2, and
 - iii. no society shall in any year receive a grant in excess of \$1,500. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 24 (1); 1974, c. 46, s. 8.

(2) If the Superintendent, upon receiving proof on or before the 31st day of October in any year, by the joint affidavit of the president, secretary and treasurer or secretary-treasurer of an agricultural society, that rain or snow fell at the place of holding an exhibition before 3 o'clock in the afternoon on any day during which the exhibition was held or that during the exhibition or within thirty days prior thereto one or more buildings on the exhibition grounds was destroyed by fire or storm, is satisfied that as a consequence of such weather or such destruction the gate receipts were less than the average gate receipts for exhibitions held by the society during three previous normal years, the society is entitled to receive a

Allowance
where gate
receipts
reduced

grant of not more than 90 per cent of the difference between the gate receipts of the current year and the average amount of the gate receipts of such three previous years, but no society shall in any year receive a grant in excess of \$1,000 for any such loss in gate receipts.

Grant where gate receipts reduced owing to wet weather

(3) In the event of a society that has been organized for only two years suffering loss in gate receipts owing to wet weather, it shall receive a grant equal to 75 per cent of the difference between the gate receipts of the current year and those of the previous year, and, in case of loss of gate receipts from the above cause during the third year of a society's existence, the grant shall be 75 per cent of the difference between the gate receipts of that year and those of the average of the two previous years, but no society shall in any year receive a grant in excess of \$1,000 for any such loss in gate receipts.

Decrease in grants

(4) Where the moneys appropriated by the Legislature are insufficient to pay the grants under subsections (2) and (3), the grants shall be decreased *pro rata*. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 24 (2-4).

Special aid to certain exhibitions

25. The money that is appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of this section shall be divided among The Canadian National Exhibition Association of Toronto, The Central Canada Exhibition of Ottawa, and The Western Fair Association of London in proportion to the amount of money expended for agricultural purposes by such associations as mentioned in section 8, provided,

- (a) that not more than \$2,500 shall be paid to any such association;
- (b) that returns have been made to the Superintendent similar to those prescribed by section 11 in a manner satisfactory to the Superintendent;
- (c) that no other grants have been received under this Act; and
- (d) that the Minister has approved such grant,

but no such society shall in any year receive a grant in excess of 50 per cent of the moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of this section for such year. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 25.

Annual grants on account of capital expenditure

26. The Minister may make annual grants on account of capital expenditure to any society or class of society in such amounts and on such terms and conditions as the regulations

prescribe out of such moneys as are appropriated therefor by the Legislature. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 26.

27.—(1) Any municipal council may grant or loan money or grant land in aid of any agricultural society formed within the limits of the municipality, or partly within the limits of such municipality and partly within the limits of other municipalities, or wholly within the limits of an adjoining municipality, when such society has made the returns required by this Act. 1974, c. 46, s. 9.

Grants
from
municipal
councils

(2) If the grant is a loan of money to enable the society to acquire land, the municipality may hold the land so acquired or may take a mortgage thereon as security for the amount of the grant until the amount of the grant is repaid to the municipality.

Security
for loans
from muni-
cipalities

(3) Any such municipality owning land or buildings for public purposes may make agreements on such terms and for such periods as it considers expedient with any company formed under chapter 196 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1897, or under any enactment that may be substituted therefor, or with any agricultural society for the use of such land or buildings, or either of them, or for the privilege of erecting upon such land, subject to such terms as may be agreed upon, such buildings as it may require for agricultural and industrial shows, and to give the company the power of renting such land and buildings, when owned by the company, to any agricultural society formed under this Act for the purposes of the annual show of the society, and to grant to such company or society the power to collect during such show, or at other times, as may be agreed, from any person wishing to go into or upon any such land or buildings, or for any privilege thereon, or for any carriage, wagon or other vehicle, or for any horse or other animal that may be taken thereon, such entrance fee or other charge as the company or society considers necessary or expedient.

Agreements
as to use of
buildings

(4) Any municipality may pass by-laws providing for the erection of buildings upon parks, fair grounds or other property belonging to the municipality for the joint purposes of the municipality and of any agricultural society, or other body, or trustees for any club or society, upon such agricultural society, other body, or trustees undertaking to contribute to the cost of such buildings, and in such case the municipality may grant leases for a term not exceeding twenty-one years to such agricultural society, other body, or trustees, for the use of such buildings at such time as to the council seems proper, and upon such terms as may be arranged with the council, and

By-laws for
common use
of buildings
on municipal
property

the powers hereby granted may be exercised in respect of any building erected since the 1st day of January, 1919. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 27 (2-4).

**Exemption
from
taxation**

28. The property of an agricultural society is exempt from taxation, other than taxes for local improvements, when in actual occupation by the society or by its tenants if the rent is applied solely for the purposes of the society. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 28.

Regulations

29. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

- (a) providing the terms and conditions upon which societies may hold races or trials of speed for horses and the amount of money that societies may award as prizes therefor;
- (b) subject to section 23, prescribing the terms and conditions upon which societies may receive grants out of the moneys appropriated by the Legislature;
- (c) limiting the exhibitors of any society to persons residing within defined areas;
- (d) prescribing the powers and duties of the officers of societies;
- (e) classifying societies that are societies within the meaning of this Act and designating the class to which each society belongs;
- (f) prescribing the terms and conditions on which grants may be made to any society or class of society on account of capital expenditure and prescribing the amounts of such grants or the minimum or maximum amounts of such grants;
- (g) respecting any matter necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act. R.S.O. 1970, c. 15, s. 29.

**Appoint-
ments**

30.—(1) The board of directors of any society holding a fair or exhibition may appoint for the duration of the fair or exhibition as many persons as may be required to carry out the duties referred to in subsection (2).

**Duties of
persons
appointed**

(2) Every person appointed under subsection (1) shall be paid by the society and it is his duty to protect the property of the society within the exhibition grounds and to

eject all persons who may be improperly within the grounds or behave in a disorderly manner or violate any of the rules or regulations of the society.

(3) No person shall wilfully hinder or obstruct an officer or servant of the society or a person appointed under subsection (1) in the execution of his duties. 1974, c. 46, s. 10. Obstruction of officer, etc.

31.—(1) The Minister may appoint a person to inspect the books and accounts of any society receiving legislative grants under this Act or to inquire into the affairs of such society, and every officer of the society shall, when required by such person, make available the books and accounts thereof for the purposes of such inspection or inquiry. Inspection

(2) A person appointed under subsection (1) has, for the purposes of an inspection or inquiry thereunder, the powers of a commission under Part II of the *Public Inquiries Act*, which Part applies to the inspection or inquiry as if it were an inquiry under that Act. 1971, c. 50, s. 4 (2), *part*. Powers under R.S.O. 1980, c. 411, Part II

32.—(1) Where the board of a society has reason to believe that any member or other person exhibiting any farm product, animal, fowl or other goods at an exhibition of the society has committed a fraud or made any misrepresentation in respect of such farm product, animal, fowl or other goods, the board may withhold payment or delivery of any premium or prize to such person, and the board shall forthwith furnish to him a written statement of its reasons for so doing. Fraud or misrepresentation by exhibitor

(2) A member or other person from whom a premium or prize has been withheld by the board of a society under subsection (1) may appeal, within fifteen days after receipt of the statement of the reasons of the board furnished under subsection (1), to a judge of the county or district court of the county or district in which the head office of the society is situate by filing a notice of appeal in the office of the clerk of the court and leaving a copy of the notice of appeal at the head office of the board. Appeal

(3) The appellant and the board from whose decision the appeal is taken are parties to an appeal under this section. Parties

(4) An appeal to a judge under this section shall be held by way of a hearing *de novo*. Hearing de novo

(5) On an appeal under this section, the judge may affirm, vary or annul the decision of the board and may order the board to pay or deliver any premium or prize withheld by it under this section. 1971, c. 50, s. 4 (2), *part*. Powers of judge

Offence

33. Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the regulations or any rule or regulation of a society under subsection 19 (2) or who gains admission to the grounds contrary to the rules of the society is guilty of an offence, and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$100. 1974, c. 46, s. 11.