

THE PART OFFICIALLY TAKEN IN THE BUSINESS BY THE PRESIDENT AND FACULTY.

President Sawyer has not been inattentive to the discussion of education as a university subject—a discussion which has been going on for the last fifty years. In noticing its development and progress he would unconsciously to himself deliberate on the feasibility of introducing it into Acadia College. Because persons outside of the profession have not studied and matured their views on this question, it ought not to be inferred that Dr. Sawyer has turned deaf ears and blind eyes to a matter which has engaged the talents of some of the most distinguished educationalists both of England and America. The Baptists will not forget that President Sawyer has a right to their intelligent and loyal support.

What are the facts in this connection? So long ago as last spring, Dr. Sawyer took into consideration the founding of this chair of education and the offering of it to Dr. Rand. He had concluded that the time was ripe for it. There was, however, one thing and only one thing in the way. Funds sufficient to meet the expense were not available. But the retirement of Professor Tufts from the college, and the transfer of Dr. Welton to Toronto, events not foreseen by any one more than a few days before the convention met at Halifax, opened the way for immediate action. By these changes the necessity was laid upon the senate and governors to strengthen the college staff, and to re-arrange the course of study. They looked to the president for advice. They found him prepared. Among other things, he commended as a subject, worthy of their serious attention, the establishment of a chair of the principles and practice of education and Dr. Rand as a suitable man to fill it.

From this point, as the following facts show, the business flowed into its natural and constitutional channels. It was taken up by a committee, composed of a committee, appointed by the board of governors, and the executive committee of the senate.

Here I may refer to the legal powers of these respective bodies—the bodies which, by statute law and by the confidence placed in them by the convention, are bound to act in all such matters. I may also refer to the composition of these organizations. We have the senate, composed of the president and faculty of the college, 6 fellows and 12 scholars. There is also another organic body constituted of these 6 fellows and 19 governors. The faculty of the college is the executive committee of the senate.

What authority have these bodies in the founding and filling of chairs in Acadia college? The constitution of the senate states that the "senate shall, at the instance of the corporation (the governors and fellows) or otherwise, recommend professors to fill any chairs becoming vacant, and shall recommend any professors to fill new chairs from time to time

to be established, and shall present to the governors the names of candidates for appointment." The senate "shall also do, perform and establish every other thing and matter having relation to the purely literary department of the college." It is thus plain that the senate is by law clothed with authority in this matter of creating and filling chairs. In this joint committee are found the constitutional advisers of Dr. Sawyer—the professors of the college. Prominent among them are two gentlemen—Professors D. F. Higgins and R. V. Jones—who have long held this position. For about a score of years they have given their counsels and labors to Acadia college. Not a little of the confidence reposed in the president is owing to the fact that he is surrounded by these wise counsellors. It is well-known that the views of Professors Jones and Higgins are greatly valued by the president. The governors put themselves in a position to take the official advice of these gentlemen. They did not hesitate to discharge their duties in this responsible position. Both Professors Jones and Higgins fully agreed with Dr. Sawyer in the matter of founding the new chair. The extreme pleasure of the former in the prospect of its realization, was accounted for by the intimacy and friendship of class life, known to have existed between himself and Harding Rand. The committee of the governors were largely influenced by the unanimous views of the executive of the senate.

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A committee from this joint committee was sent to Dr. Rand to ascertain whether he would consider the offer of this chair, and on what conditions. A report was made and unanimously adopted. It was resolved to call a meeting of the governors for Wednesday morning following the Convention. This meeting was held. Here again Dr. Sawyer gave his views at length. Dr. McVicar, a man eminently qualified to form sound opinions on the subject, by request, gave the governors the benefit of his views. They were in perfect accord with those previously given by Dr. Sawyer and his associates. After a full discussion a resolution was passed, requesting the senate to nominate a professor to fill the chair in question. The governors then adjourned to meet after the senate had been called together.

On returning to their homes the president and professors of the college gave further thought, as I assume, to this most important movement. After some time had passed, a meeting of the senate was called for the 11th of September. The governors were summoned to meet later on the same day. The senate accordingly assembled. After a full discussion of the subject, it was moved by Judge Johnston and seconded by the Rev. S. B. Kempton, that T. H. Rand, D. C. L., of Fredericton, be recommended to the Board of governors for the professorship of the principles and practice of education. This feature also of the question was thoroughly considered, after which a