

again discussed, and a committee was appointed to press the subject upon the attention of the Chief Superintendent and the Council of Public Instruction, and to take such other steps as they might deem advisable to carry out the wishes of the Association on the subject-

In 1868 the address of the President, Mr McCabe, was specially devoted to this subject, and the Board of Directors brought forward a series of resolutions which, among other things, stated:—"That the course of studies for girls and boys in our higher schools should be substantially the same. That the non-recognition of girls as pupils of our Grammar Schools is contrary to the wishes of the great majority of the people," and "That the legal recognition of girls as Grammar School pupils is calculated to further the real educational interests of the country." These were adopted, and a committee was appointed "to bring before the Legislature of Ontario the subject of the higher education of girls in accordance with the views of this Association." The agitation was continued until the Legislature put the education of girls upon the same basis as that of boys in our High Schools. In the discussion of this question I need hardly say the High School members of our Association took a leading part, and who will question but that it has been largely owing to their endeavours in the High School Section that the doors of our universities have since been opened to women? It is a fitting sequel to these remarks to state, that this year for the first time we have a girl in the person of Miss Balmer, who, having passed regularly through our provincial course of education, from the Public to High School, and from the High School to the University, has carried off at her graduation the highest honors against all competitors.

In a country like ours, where the

support of the public schools is compulsory upon the inhabitants, it is right to suppose that the attendance of children should also be made compulsory. This was not done when our system of education was established, and this Association was not slow in taking the matter up, with the desire to have it done. In 1867 the subject of compulsory education was brought before the Association by a paper read by the Rev. Mr. Porter, who was then Superintendent of Common Schools for Toronto. In 1868 a resolution was passed, stating "That the rule of compulsory attendance ought to be adopted, as it is at once a just and logical sequence of our system of education, and the only way by which the great evils of irregular and non-attendance of children at school can be abated." In 1871 the principle of compulsory education was recognized by the Legislature in the Act that was passed that year. In anticipation of this the following resolution was adopted at our meeting in 1869: "That in the event of the principle of compulsory education being adopted by the Legislature, the establishment of Industrial Schools will be absolutely necessary to receive vagrant children and incorrigibles," Though our law now requires attendance at some school for one hundred and ten days in each year, on the part of all children from seven to thirteen years of age, unless prevented by sickness or any other reasonable cause, we are still troubled with the evils of irregular and non-attendance, and no industrial school has been established by the State to receive vagrant children and incorrigibles. Now why is this? The fault is certainly not in the law, for all the machinery needed to enforce the compulsory clause is provided. Trustees are empowered to levy a rate of one dollar per month upon the parent or guardian of each child kept from school in