

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

(Stenographic Report by W. H. Huggins.)

HELD IN COLLEGE HALL, WOLFVILLE, JANUARY 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1897.

The meeting opened at 7 o'clock, p. m., with President BIGELOW in the chair.

REV. MR. MARTEL invoked the Divine blessing.

The SECRETARY read the minutes of the preceding meeting, and, on motion, the same were approved.

President BIGELOW presented his Annual Address as follows:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION :

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have the honor of again presenting to you my annual report. For the first time in the history of this Association, owing to an unusually abundant fruit crop throughout this continent, and a consequent overstock in all our fruit markets, the fruit industry has not been remunerative. From the most reliable information obtainable, I estimate the apple crop of Nova Scotia at 500,000 barrels. The crop in Ontario and Quebec is reported to be 3,000,000 barrels, or more than double of any previous year for Canada. The United States Government returns put their apple crop at 60,000,000 barrels. We have shipped already 230,000 barrels, principally to London, there to be met with enormous consignments from United States and Ontario, amounting to 2,300,000 barrels, shipped to England, which has so overstocked that great market that prices have returned to the grower an average of from 75 cents to \$1.00 per barrel. Owing to the above cause, rendered more unprofitable by the exorbitant freight rates and charges by the subsidized lines of steamers running between Halifax and London, the fruit grower has practically been growing fruit this year to enrich the carriers and agents. We have paid the carriers already over \$200,000