

*Secretary.*—H. S. CONGDON, Dartmouth.

*Councillors.*—Supervisor McKay, Halifax; Mr. George Ross, Waverley; Mr. W. E. Thompson, Albro St. School, Halifax; Mr. J. H. W. King, Wallace; Miss Bessie Miller, Dartmouth Public School; Miss Kate Mackintosh, Halifax Academy; Miss Ada Lewis, Model School, Truro.

In the course of the business it was decided, that a greater effort be made to perform the functions for which the Association was organized. The result was, the following resolution, which passed:—"That a prize or medal to the value of twenty-five dollars be awarded to the writer of the best essay on the following subject.—"To what extent should the state support High School or Academic Education." "Said Essay to be in the hands of the Secretary, H. S. Congdon, Dartmouth, Halifax County, *not later than June 1st, 1886.* Competition to be open to all graduates of the Normal School of not more than four years standing, viz.: '82, '83, '84, '85, and also those attending the Normal School during the term '85-6."

"The paper is to be read before the next annual meeting of the Alumni Society, in July, 1886, and it must occupy not less than thirty minutes in delivery, and thereafter become the property of the Alumni."

The Normal School of our province is fast advancing its standing and its value. It commands the respect of the people of our province, including the teachers. It is now, more than ever, doing the work of a Normal School, and as the country progresses, it is to be presumed, it will occupy still broader fields in the direction of training rather than fitting for license. This essay asked for is intended to call forth a general view of the extent to which the state should support the schools that must feed it.

It is thought wise to append a few reasons why the Normal School should receive the support of all those intending to teach, which will explain why the Alumni Society have offered the foregoing prize, and why they will continue to work for the welfare of their Alma Mater.

It is held by all authorities that as much knowledge as possible of a general character should be obtained by all persons before entering a training school. It is quite clear that a Normal School must have several standards of admission so as to meet the requirements of different parts of the country. However, the standard of admission should be as high as possible, for the true function of a training school is *to train*. This cannot be done if the student has first to be instructed in the ordinary branches that he will be called upon to teach.

The advantages to be gained by having all teachers trained in a Normal School is of such high importance to the youth of a country, that every effort should be made to gather in all for that purpose. In a country such as Nova Scotia it is quite possible that many sections