

and devotion to his chosen work give promise of increased usefulness in the wider field to which he has been called.

Mr. MacKay has been chosen from the ranks of teachers, and this policy on the part of the government is a wise one when it can be adopted without detriment to the service.

Mr. MacKay, a moderate Conservative, owes his appointment to a Liberal administration. All honor to a government that has the courage to appoint, irrespective of party considerations, the man whom it considers the best qualified to fill the position.

OPENING OF THE N. S. NORMAL SCHOOL.

The formal opening of the Nova Scotia Normal School took place on Wednesday, November 11th, in presence of a large assemblage of the citizens of Truro. There is an attendance of 98 pupil teachers with prospects of 12 or 15 more. The address of Principal Calkin was an excellent one, containing words of counsel and encouragement to the students. The new superintendent, A. H. MacKay, Esq., was present and addressed the students, making an excellent impression. Addresses were delivered by several citizens of Truro.

Prof. McDonald of Antigonish has entered upon his duties as instructor of mathematics in the place of Prof. Eaton. A fine portrait of the latter, the work of Miss Smith, instructor in drawing, was placed in the assembly room.

TONIC SOL-FA IN ST. JOHN.

Rev. James Anderson, M. A., who has met with wonderful success in Nova Scotia in introducing the Tonic Sol-fa method in the schools has been engaged by the Board of School Trustees of St. John to give instruction in the method to teachers of that city. Mr. Anderson gave an introductory lecture in the Centennial Hall on Thursday afternoon, November 5th. Since that time Mr. Anderson has been visiting schools in the city and giving introductory lessons. It is needless to say that his methods and the enthusiasm with which he has entered on his work have aroused a corresponding interest among teachers and in schools which have had the good fortune to receive his personal instructions.

The regular class for teachers was opened in the Leinster street school on Wednesday, November 10th, when over fifty teachers were in attendance.

The energetic public spirit which has led the Board of Trustees of St. John to take measures to arouse an interest in music in the city schools will, it is hoped, be reciprocated by the teachers themselves in

a steady effort to give to the schools what they have greatly lacked — systematic and regular instruction in music.

Rev. Mr. Anderson's contributions to the REVIEW in Tonic Sol-fa methods for nearly two years past have prepared the way for its introduction in St. John and in other parts of the Province. Mr. Anderson has already established private classes in the city, and in Rev. Dr. Macrae's church he has been engaged to give instruction to the Sabbath school.

ORDER IN THE SCHOOL ROOM.

A word of advice to the young teacher in the miscellaneous school. Don't be in a hurry to do work all at once. Sit down and study how to control your school. Be calm, but firm. Obedience is a habit. Commence to form the habit deliberately. For this purpose drill the school in "positions" until the most inattentive or refractory responds spontaneously to your number or sign indicating your order. Never mind the loss of half an hour day after day in making all move simultaneously and promptly. If the habit of obedience is formed for purely mechanical exercises it is only one step more to gain complete control over the whole school for general purposes. When you are engaged in some class-work, low murmuring in some other part of the room will commence, at first so faint as not to disturb your work, and you feel like not noticing it. But there is no line between that and what distracts. So at the first sign of a breach of the silence you wish to have observed, calmly stop your work, let your eye fall in the indicated direction with no manifest haste to return to your work and forget. If necessary give your signs for movements, which must be gone through with precision. Soon each pupil will feel it as natural to keep quiet and be interested solely in his or her work, when not engaged in class work, as to play when play-time comes. Motion drill is as good a training to secure the habit of prompt obedience in school as military drill is for the army.

ACCURACY IN SPELLING.

If spelling is not done thoroughly with every single word the pupils read from the commencement of their course, inaccurate attention to the forms of words are tolerated, and the habit can be changed with only the greatest effort — too great for the majority. If there are to be any spelling tests they should be applied to the lowest grades of teachers and to the candidates for entrance to the high schools. It is too late to learn to spell well at a later stage; but the test should be applied even earlier. No pro-