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... 193

SPECIAL REPORT
ON
POPULAR EDUCATION
IN
EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL STISTED, C. B., LEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

May it please Your Excellency :

I deem it my duty to lay before Your Excellency, for the information of the people of this Province, through their Representatives, a Special Report, embracing the results of observations and enquiries respecting the systems of Public Instruction in several foreign countries as compared with that of Upper Canada, and offering some suggestions for the advancement of education among us. I am induced to make this report under the following circumstances:—

SCOPE AND OBJECT OF THIS SPECIAL REPORT.

When, in the latter part of 1844, I entered upon the task of devising a system of Public Elementary Instruction for the then Province of Upper Canada, I prefaced my work by a preliminary enquiry of more than twelve months into the systems of Public Instruction in the neighbouring States of America and several countries of Europe, especially Great Britain and Ireland, France, Holland, Prussia, some Minor States of Germany, and Switzerland. I embodied the results of my enquiries and observations in a "Report on a System of Public Elementary Education for Upper Canada," which was laid before our Government and Legislature in 1846, and according to the recommendations of which, a law was framed and our present educational system was established. One part of my plan of labour was, to make, once in five years, an official visit to each County of Upper Canada, to consult, at a public County Convention, on the progress, working and defects of our system of education; and to make, also, once in five years, an educational tour of observation and enquiry into the working and progress of the systems of Public Instruction in the chief educating countries of America and Europe, that we might avail ourselves, as far as possible, of the experience of both Hemispheres in simplifying and improving