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REV. DR. RYERSON'S REPORT ON EDUCATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(From the London Times.)

A very useful and interesting synopsis of the systems and state of popular education on the Continent, in the British Isles, and the United States of America, has been presented to Major-General Stisted, C. B., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, Canada, by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education in that Province. Dr. Ryerson appears to have visited the countries whose systems of education he describes, and he was specially charged with the duty of preparing a separate report on institutions for the deaf and dumb and the blind, which has been delayed. Although this notice of Dr. Ryerson's report is somewhat late, it will point out to those who take an interest in such matters, the contents of a serviceable document. The report enters very tersely into the systems pursued in France, Prussia, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium, Baden, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Saxony, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, Great Britain, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Some of these countries have borrowed their systems from the others, but into each plan some modification, greater or less, has been introduced which deserves notice. In the denominational and communal schools of France religious instruction is duly recognized, yet in the communal schools "no child of a different religious profession from that of the majority is constrained to take part in the religious teaching and observances of his fellow-

scholars." Religious freedom is insured. Ministers of different communions are to have free and equal access to the children of their own faith in the common schools. "Denominational" schools, however, have increased, and when a school is appropriated to one denomination no child of another denomination is admitted without a written request from the parents or guardians. Communal schools are established and maintained by the joint action of the State, the departments, the communes, fees of pupils, and individual contributions. Every commune must provide a school house and residence for the teacher. If the commune refuses or neglects to provide by tax on the property at the rate of three per cent. the Government imposes and collects it. If the commune, on account of poverty or disaster to the crops, cannot raise the sum required, the department to which such commune belongs must provide it. If the revenues of the department by a tax of two per cent. are not sufficient to meet the deficiencies of all the communes, the balance is supplied by the State. Each commune is at liberty to establish a free school, and the Mayor can exempt children of very poor parents from paying the school fees. The schools taught by religious orders are called "Congreganist Schools"—*Ecoles Congreganistes*. Public teachers, whether male or female, must have a certificate (*brevet de capacite*), except the female members of religious orders, whose certificates of obedience (*lettres d'obedience*) are accepted in lieu of the certificate of brevet. There are more than eight times as many of the breveted assistant teachers among the laymen as among the congreganists. The inspectors found thirty-five per cent. of the common schools "good," and the same proportion of "congreganist" schools. The training expenses of teachers in the normal schools were defrayed by the State, the departments, the towns, even the schools, and by the pupils themselves and their friends. Of the 37,510 communes of the empire only 818 had no schools, but they sent their children to neighbouring schools. The schools of the religious orders are to the lay or common schools as seventeen to fifty-one and a half. Out of 4,336,000 children attending the schools, a million and a half are admitted free from charge. It seems that in France the children's first communion at church is the limit of their stay at school. When they have no more catechism to recite they cease to attend. In Prussia the system of education is mainly "denominational," but Protestant and Roman Catholic schools are