

Board of Foreign Missions Report title page

THE
FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Presented to the General Assembly, May, 1896.
New York:
Presbyterian Building, 156 Fifth Avenue.
1896.

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HOKKAIDO: *Sapporo—Otaru.*—Sapporo is the capital of the Hokkaido (Yezo), 550 miles north of Tokyo; station occupied, 1887; laborers--Miss S. C. Smith and Miss C. H. Rose.

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Hokkaido Station

Evangelistic.--The Hokkaido (Yezo) continues to impress one as the most alive and progressive, urgent and hopeful field in the empire. Colonists come in yearly by thousands from all parts of Japan, especially from the West Coast. The spirit of the people is free, and like that of our West. Buddhism is comparatively weak; vice is strong. The general government is looking to the rapid development of the island. Our church work is located at six or seven important centres, and from them other places are evangelized by the Japanese workers. Accessions and active interest are reported from most of these places. At Sapporo, the new church building, to which the Board contributed 1,000 yen, has been completed. At Kamikawa land has been granted for a church building, conditional on the erection of such a building within a certain period. This in turn seems to depend on the ability to secure from outside sources 200 yen (half the expense) toward this

end. In Takekawa [*sic*] a church building has been erected on land purchased with the assistance of friends in the place who are not professing Christians. Miss Smith has given a considerable sum of money for a memorial church to be built probably at Otaru.

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Educational.--The *Sapporo Girls' School* has more than doubled its numbers, the present enrollment being 55. The post-graduate and preparatory departments were both added last year. Daily prayers are held. The Bible is taught daily, and memorized. Two girls recently united with the church. The Sunday-school, held in the school-room, now numbers 70 enrolled, with an average attendance of 40. Some members of the Agricultural College attend a Bible class taught by one of the missionary ladies; several of these have expressed a hope in Christ. Miss Rose, and one of the graduates from Sapporo, went to Otaru for summer work. The results were very encouraging, and the work was continued. Their Sunday-school among the poor in Otaru numbers over 100, and the day-school about 30, of whom 13 are boarders. Miss Rose visits this work weekly, from Friday until Monday.

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LIST OF MISSIONARIES.

DATE OF APP'T	NAME.	MISSION.	STATION.
1885	Rose, Miss C. H.	East Japan	Sapporo.
1880	Smith, Miss Sarah C.	East Japan	Sapporo.