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Received
Nov 24 1898
Mr. Speer

Painted Post
Nov. 23, 1898

Dear Mr. Speer :

Thank you for the kind welcome from yourself and those forwarded by you from others.

After eighteen years [*sic*] absence I find myself without a home and very much of a stranger in my own land, hence [*sic*] words of welcome are much appreciated.

I arrived at Painted Post yesterday[.] I shall possibly remain in this vicinity [*sic*] until Jan. visiting Elmira, Corning and other country towns. As I find myself constantly called upon to "speak" if you have any suggestions to make as to what I should say and what leave unsaid such suggestions would be thankfully received. Again thanking you

Very sincerely
S. C. Smith

[Roll 116-117, unnumbered document]

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Report of the Hokusei Jo Gakko
Northern Star Girls School
Sapporo, Japan

Sapporo
Hokkaido
January 3rd
1898. [*sic*]

Received
Feb 15 1899
Mr. Speer.

Report
for the
year
1898

Miss S. C. Smith, founder and promoter of this school, left Sapporo last August for a years furlough. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson had come from Otaru the previous January (1897) to be associated in the school and evangelistic work in Sap. Mrs. P. has had entire charge of the sch. since Miss Smith went away - a charge too much for one woman - physically speaking - as demonstrated by the experience of ten years, more or less. There have been anxieties during the year, but we have [been] over abundantly blessed.

The Hokusei Jo Gakko is a high grade school - higher than any in the Hokkaido except the Meth[odist] girls school in Hakodate, two days away. It draws its pupils half from the city of Sap. and half from the Island generally. The boarders, 32 in number, come chiefly from the homes of farmers in the newly opened lands, merchants in the newly made towns, and owners of fisheries on the west and north coasts. The girls are strong in body, bright in intellect, and independent in spirit. They show their education in willing & enthusiastic labor in adorning our rather shabby buildings. Miss Smith, Miss Rose, and Miss Pierson have made an attractive

interior out of a beam [unclear word] barn, but the girls have done the labor. Two servants are ample - with the aid of an outside man who gives half of his time to do what the students cannot do in the way of cooking, lighting and heavy work.

The larger part of the pupils are in the primary courses, but it is our policy to drop out one class from the course each year until the Academic course contains four and the Preparatory two classes only. As all the classes advance one grade each graduation day - no pupils are received to take the place of the lowest class.

The scholarship is fair, but the christian [*sic*] character is of high order. Last Fall Mrs. Pierson went to a distant city to be with one of our older pupils sick of consumption, in her last hours. She saw her die in the faith. Her thoughts during her last days were largely of the school - for which she, as the rest, had great loyalty and affection. On that same trip Mrs. P. was present at the bedside of the mother of another of our pupils. The mother lay ill of a double disease. The daughter had not yet received baptism, but she prayed earnestly for her mother, and the mother, a Shinto believer, was moved. Thus it is that our school helps our evangelistic work and our evan [*sic*] work the school.

This year 9 pupils and 1 teacher professed their faith in Christ. They were all baptized on Christmas day. Among them were the entire senior class - all day pupils. One senior must be excepted. Her father would not allow her to be baptized, but she was ready and eager to receive the sacrament. These pupils were led - as far as we can see - through regular Bible study, and much personal conversation - they were not over urged - in fact they seemed indifferent or opposed for a long time ; but many prayers were offered for them.

The pupils compose a large part of the church cong[regation] and Sunday School ; all but two of the Sunday School teachers being from either the Faculty or older pupils.

The scholars have several societies which meet weekly for spiritual profit. They also contribute generously to church and to charity. Last year they made 16 yen by their work. They have done much in the past to diminish the school debt, which now is less than 100 yen.

The Hokusei Jo Gakko stands first (1) for Christian character in mothers and homes. (2) It stands for self-support. We believe our figures compare favorably with the rest of our Mission girls schools : -

Number of boarders.....32

Paying in full (practically).....15
 Paying more than half (“).....8
 Paying only in part.....3
 (Six) scholarship girls entirely supported...6
 Number of boarders.....32

Each scholarship girl is under written agreement to teach (one or two) years after graduating, or else refund the money the school has paid for her support during her course.

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Our appropriations for 1898 were Yen 1465.00 to which a special grant was added later of 320.00.

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No. of scholars in constant attendance 75.

(3) It contemplates handing over the school to the Japanese when they are financially able to support it.

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(4) We believe the property is held in as wise a way as is consistent with existing treaty conditions. There is a Bd of Trustees who hold the property for that legal person known as the Hokusei Jo Gakko - They do not hold it in their own name.

The whole property was bo' t three years ago for 2000 yen ; it is now worth triple that sum. The School owns the whole property except our two story dwelling house , worth now about

600. yen
 or more

lien on the land (in lieu of the Missions

loan) of 800. “

Rent free for 12, 24 or 36+ years of 1/4
 land area

 1400. “ Missions
 Property.

In closing this report Mr. and Mrs. Pierson beg leave to say to the Mission that it is their conviction - their profound conviction - that neither Miss Smith or any one lady should be allowed to assume the entire charge of this school. It is more than one person can endure. May we add also the request that the Mission will not look to us as the most likely persons to have charge of the school from the Fall of 1899. We do not feel at all

willing. If it is God' s will, we should much prefer to work outside of Sapporo , and not in in [*sic*] school work as over against more direct evangelistic work.

George P. Pierson (for Mrs Pierson)