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Report of the Sapporo Girls' School,  
the "Hokusei Jo Gakko."  
from Sept. '98 to July '99.

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Total number pupils enrolled	113
Number in attendance	75
Number of Boarders	32
No. of Boarders entirely supported by Mission funds	6
No. of Baptisms during year	12
No. of Christians in school, not counting <del>re-un</del> rebaptized children of Christians	32
Money earned by pupils & given to School, or Church	\$40.50 (yen)
The school is connected with	2 Sunday- schools.
No. of Graduates	3.

The school has stood firmly [*sic*] for Self-support ever since it was founded 12 years ago. All of the day-scholars are paying-pupils. Only 6 of the 32 Boarders are entirely supported by Mission funds.

The large number of baptisms during year including some conservative older day-scholars & a teacher who had long wavered, the loyalty & devotion of the teachers, and an earnest, good spirit among the majority of the younger pupils were refreshing. Otherwise the year was an exceedingly trying one. Floods, various & sundry severe diseases among teachers & pupils, & especially a spirit of insubordination on the part of a few (8) of the older pupils, culminating in a "Strike" which - being fed by hostile newspaper articles & unfortunately countenanced by a few leading Christian men in the community - lasted for two months & seriously affected the good name of the school, the attendance & the Tuition fees. However, in the end, discipline was maintained: the culprits returned, apologized in public & were allowed to re-enter on promise of good behavior. This was fulfilled & the two of them who were to graduate, did so.

By the close of the term, in July, even after all these set backs, there were 70 pupils in actual attendance.

In August, during the summer holidays, the new notorious “Kunrei” or Educational Departmental Regulation appeared forbidding “religious ceremonies” or “religious instruction” even outside the “regular course of instruction” in schools of Primary (Shogakko) grade or in Chugakko , Middle Schools for Boys having government privileges.

The result of this Regulation on our school has been to decrease its numbers from 113 enrolled last year at the same time to 50 at the present time (Jan. 3, 1900). Having 72 children in our Primary Dep., we were obliged either to dismiss them or to cease giving them instruction in the Bible. Of course we chose the former alternative. Besides this, 15 of our pupils between the ages of 6 & 14, the “school-going age” as officially defined by the Governor of Hokkaido himself (tho’ the Tokyo authorities defined it to be from 6 to 10) had to go before the Gov. Primary School authorities to pass an examination to prove that they had “discharged their school obligations” properly. All new pupils under 14 have to undergo this examination, with the result that in one case at least a pupil who had applied was frightened off by this ordeal.

An excellent spirit prevails now in the School. In December ‘99 the teacher in Chinese was baptized and now every one of the teachers employed in the school is a Christian.

Miss Smith came back in September in buoyant health & spirits, but partly owing to overwork & the great burden of care & responsibility - which is too heavy for one woman to bear alone - & partly to other causes she has been struggling with ill-health for the past six weeks. The Board at its Meeting in May, 1899 authorized the Executive Council to appoint an assistant to be sent out to ~~help~~ Miss Smith. She has not yet been appointed, and we are eagerly waiting for her arrival in Sapporo.

Sapporo, Jan. 3, 1899.<sup>1</sup>

Ida Goepp Pierson

(Mrs. Geo. P. Pierson)

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<sup>1</sup>Despite the year recorded here, in the third paragraph from the end, the author states the date of writing the report as exactly one year later, in 1900. Other records, including the *Sumisu Koumu Nenshi* entry for the months Mrs. Pierson served at Hokusei Jo Gakko, confirm that she substituted for Sarah Smith during parts of 1898 and 1899. Therefore, it appears likely that the *Jan. 3, 1899* date should actually read *Jan. 3, 1900*.

