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1907
Annual Report
Hokusei Jo Gakko

Enclosure No. 10.
Miss Smith.

We have a very joyful report to make this year if, as in translating a Japanese sentence, we begin at the end and proceed backwards. About a month ago when evangelist Kimura was visiting the Hokkaido, we invited [*sic*] him to speak to our girls, which he did with such good effect that more than eighty gave in their names as having determined to become christians, [*sic*] and sometime in the future to receive baptism. Of these about twenty attend the presbyterian church, [*sic*] twenty the other churches and the remainder no church. (Day pupils.) These last we are using every effort to bring in, tho[ugh] the home opposition in many cases it is impossible to overcome. Of the former seven have already been received into our church, and in January many more are expecting to be ; while some who have entered the school during the year do not feel sufficiently instructed and will wait until later. It will indeed be a glad new year when we see so many of our precious girls, the future mothers of Japan, safe in the christian [*sic*] faith. Many of the parents say that when their daughter is of age she may do as she likes, giving various reasons for not permitting it now. Another thing that has made us happy is a gift of a hundred yen from Col. Carter towards a new bath-room. This gentleman is here for a few months in the interests of the Standard Oil Co., and thought it a disgrace for us to have such a small room and only one bath for so many persons (more than sixty in the boarding hall) and "in Japan too!" We have thought the same, but as our buildings need paint, and there are so many other needs, and our estimates every year suffer from a "Cut," we have had no means to improve with ; and as our neighbor will not sell us land, and our ground space is so limited, we have had no room to rebuild. Now however, if Mr. Johnson takes the work in Muroran, as there is a fair prospect of his doing this coming year, and we can have his lot, we shall be able to make our school not only more "respectable" but more comfortable in many ways. We shall then have room for more pupils, and a place for wood and stores, to say nothing of room for out of door exercise which is so desirable. Our number remains about the same as last year ;

for tho[ugh] we have entered about fifty new ones as many have left us either by finishing the course or for other reasons. Seventeen only have united with the church, but we hope there may be many more than that next year.

The church Sunday school and the suburban sunday [*sic*] school in which some of our teachers and seniors work are doing very well considering their limited space. The highest attendance at any one time in either was one hundred and seventy and the least fifty. In our suburban school we have recently succeeded in persuading three of the older pupils, lads of about fifteen, to attend church. One has become a christian [*sic*] and is preparing for baptism and we have hope for the other two, in time. I will leave church and evangelistic work to be reported by Mr. Johnson ; only adding that Miss Monk spent some time in Muroran helping the church there with daily singing classes during the summer vacation, while I was trying the hot springs of a volcano not far away for my rheumatism.

Incidents ----- Hokusei Jo Gakko
Report continued

Our school flower mission sent about the same number of bouquets to the hospitals as last year, two thousand nine hundred, each one has a text attached.

One pupil left our school because the teachers praid [*sic*] so earnestly she feared she might weaken.

A man released from the "Lockup" said he had been greatly impressed by our singing at morning and evening prayers. Tho[ugh] the words could not be heard, the place being too far, yet they all listened for the music and it caused them to think deeply. Col. Carter paid our girls the compliment of saying he could distinguish them from girls of other schools by their quiet ladylike demeanor on the streets. We hope this may be true for all of them, for a year ago when we were asked to make a rule requiring every girl to wear a uniform trimming on her skirt, as in the public schools, which should make her recognizable at once, we decided to let them do as they liked about it, urging them to make themselves known by character and manner rather than by dress as belonging to a christian [*sic*] school.

We celebrated the Emperor' s birthday on Monday this year instead of on Sunday, the actual day, and received a letter of censure for having honored God before the Emperor. The writer seemed to think there could be no attonement [*sic*] for such a sin. There was some such talk in the government offices also and it was feared by a few that our school might

be closed, but reason prevailed and we were not disturbed. We are glad however that it does not occur on Sunday again very soon.

A buddhist [*sic*] priest came to our suburban sunday [*sic*] school on christmas [*sic*] day to see our exercises but we did not admit him as the temple is not far away and we feared he might scatter our little flock. They have Women' s Societies and Sunday schools but they have not Christmas yet.

Sometimes our little ones come to Sunday school without their breakfast, they say, rather than be absent. Our school Christian Endeavor gave Twenty-four yen towards rebuilding the Church which was burned in the Sapporo fire.

(Signed) S. C. Smith