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The Report
of
The Japan Mission
of the
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

As embodied in the annual
reports of the fourteen
stations in the Empire

and compiled by

The Publications Committee

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HOKKAIDO STATION

Mrs G. P. Pierson

I.—Our “Hokkaido Station,” so called, consists really of two resident missionary towns, Sapporo and Nokkeushi which are three hundred miles apart. This, as Dr. Brokaw observed, is nearly as far apart as Tokyo and Osaka and it still takes seventeen hours by the fastest trains to do these three hundred miles. Otaru, the largest town in the Hokkaido and for twenty years and integral part of Hokkaido Station has since Miss Rose’s death last year been left without a missionary. (The only resident missionary of any denomination in this city of 100,000 people is one single lady of the C.M.S. Mission.)

Personnel.

2.—Last year we were nine adult missionaries. This year thru [*sic*] the death of Miss Rose, who died June 14, 1914 and Mrs.

Johnson who died May 31, 1915, we are seven. We dot [*sic*] include in this number our welcome guest of the year, Miss Monday who in April 1915 returned to the United States. Mr. Johnson, the Misses Smith, Monk, McCrory, and Evans represent the Mission in Sapporo and Dr. and Mrs. Pierson in Nokkeushi.

The Year in the Hokkaido.

Good crops followed the previous "Famine Year." The herring catch this year reached a record figure. It will be remembered that Hokkaido is one of the great fishing stations in the world. Paper manufacture in the Hokkaido has had a remarkable development of late years. This year it expected to turn out some 5,000,000 *yen* worth. Peppermint in Kitami province has a promising future. The yearly export is said to amount to 1,200,000 *yen*[.] The war, however, has disastrously affected this export[.] The population is still about 1 1/2 million, though the island could support twelve times that number.

The dissolution of Parliament and the re-election stirred up political circles here. In our up country trips we met parties of politicians snow-bound like ourselves in way-side inns. Some of them had spent the night in a train stalled in the drifts of the mountain pass near Gakuden.

The European war seems to make little impression on the people here. The few who express opinions about it seem to have a veiled admiration for German militarism and her spirit of national aggrandizement. The Tsingtau triumph was celebrated by semi-military, semi-religious services held in the local Buddhist temples.

The Imperial Coronation now begins to cast its bright shadow before. In this town celebrations were begun by the admirable ceremony of tree-planting. Small beautiful forest trees now adorn our streets. If they live and grow Nokkeushi will rival an elm-shaded New England village.

During the year Asahigawa became a "ku" or "city," of which there are now four in the Hokkaido, the others being Otaru, Hakodate, and Sapporo.

Railroads are being rigorously pushed. We now ride to within three miles of Gakuden. We wait for the happy day, some five years off, when a new short line will take us from Nokkeushi to Asahigawa in five hours. It now takes 15.

Mission Work Done by Station.

4.—*A School Work.* We have now only two Mission schools in the Hokkaido, the Sapporo Girls' Boarding and Day School in charge of Miss Smith, assisted by Miss Monk, Miss McCrory, and Miss Evans, and the Otaru kindergarten in charge of Miss Monk, with Miss Okubo as resident teacher.

The Sapporo Girls' School, now not far from thirty years old, is the only Mission school for girls in the Hokkaido except the large Methodist one in Hakodate. Thanks to Mr. Kennedy's gift and that of the New York Women's Board, Messrs. Vories and Vogel's skill and taste, and the wise planning of the ladies of the school and of Mr. Johnson, it has now a most excellent plant. Miss Smith speaks of the large entering class of forty. The school has nearly 200 students of whom about 80 are boarders. There were 13 baptisms during the year, making in all 41 baptized Christians besides 42 inquirers. All of the teachers are Christian except one and even his influence is on the side of Christianity, tho [*sic*] his father-in-law is a Buddhist priest.

The school has government recognition in so far that its graduates may take the government examination for middle school teachers, and without examination become primary school assistants.

Four large and flourishing Sunday Schools are carried on by the teachers and pupils of the school, three in Sapporo and one in Zenibako. Miss McCrory, besides her teaching and language study, has charge of one of the largest of these. She also reports an interesting contribution sent to the war sufferers in Belgium by the C.E. Societies of the school under her care, "the first in the history of the school that help was sent to another country."

Miss Evans, besides her teaching and language study takes active interest in the evangelistic work done in connection with the church Women's Meeting and the Y.W.C.A. of Sapporo, which works especially among the non-Christian girl-students of the government schools. Her chief work and interest, however, is of course in our Girls' School where since her residence "in the beautiful new dormitory" with the girls she has come very close to them.

Miss Monk outside of her many and arduous school duties has given much time to the above mentioned Sapporo Student Y.W.C.A. work, of which she is the president. This includes a monthly general meeting and two weekly Bibles [*sic*] classes, averaging twenty-five in attendance. This work among the non-Christian students has been

most encouraging and is of course of the deepest importance. Three delegates from the Sapporo society were sent to Tokyo to attend the National Y.W.C.A. Conference [*sic*] in 1914.

In Zenibako, a sea-side village between Sapporo and Otaru, Miss Monk with her assistants has for years carried on a week day Sunday School for the fishermen's children, visited in one hundred homes, giving personal invitations to attend the evening preaching meeting and then attending that meeting herself. She speaks of meager results, but the meeting Dr. Pierson and I attended there last week with its eager groups of children in front, its large numbers of men and women crowding every available corner of the house and standing thick at doors and windows, nodding audible assent to the preacher's points and finally closing with at least one man raising his hand high to express his desire to receive salvation and enter the Christian life, all this tells a different tale.

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HOKKAIDO STATION

	Annual Approp[riation] in gold.	Annual Approp[riation] in gold.	Capital Outlay Currency.
One Single Woman	\$700		
Working Funds for Single Woman		¥300	
Additional Equipment and Force Hokusei Girls' School :			
a. Gymnastics Teacher		250	
b. Domestic Science			

Teacher	250	
c. Heating Plant		¥5,000
d. Laboratory Equipment		1,000
e. Domestic Science and Gymnasium Equipment		500
f. Piano		600