

In 1871 the Ministry of Education was established for the first time in this country and the Nanko and Toko were temporarily closed to take a new start. Next year "Gakusei," the first modern educational law on French model, was promulgated and many schools were to be established all over the country.

In 1877 the two colleges, Nanko and Toko, were united to become the Tokyo University, which had four faculties; Science, Law, Literature and Medicine. Students of the University kept the same way of clothing as the "Koshinsei," though they had no longer a sword. They liked to drink sake (Japanese wine). Not a few of them frequented the red-light district.

The authorities of the university considered to make uniform caps and suits obligatory in order to prevent further misbehavior. But as the uniform of Western style was pretty expensive for the student the plan was given up. However, the university encouraged the students to wear the cap which had been decided upon by a voluntary committee.

In 1887 the Ministry of Education made caps and uniforms obligatory. But many a student wore "Kimono" and "Hakama" though they liked to wear the square cap as a symbol of their privilege. The uniform was of blue or black serge with a closed collar and five golden buttons. It has long been the most popular style of students' wear in Japan.

In 1885 Japan adopted the Cabinet system and Arinori Mori became the first Minister of Education. He was originally a diplomat and had served

as Japanese Minister to America. He promulgated such important laws on education as the Elementary School Act, Middle School Act, Normal School Act, Higher School Act and University Act, laying the foundation of the Japanese educational system, which lasted till the end of the Second World War without much change.

After the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) Japanese industry developed and the country became powerful. Some industrial colleges were born and in 1897 the second Imperial University in this country, that is the Kyoto University, was established.

University students as well as college students were now willing to serve in the business world, which formerly they did not like to enter. Students were now quite gentlemanly in their attitude. Some of them used a cosmetic for their hair. The uniform of the college was the same as the University. But the cap was round instead of square and had a wide black tape around it.

The barbarous style of the earlier student survived in the higher schools, which were established by Mori and were preparatory schools for the university. The uniform of this kind of school was the same as that of the college but the cap was different. Two white narrow tapes tied round the cap were a symbol of their pride. They wore high wooden clogs even when they were in uniform. They used to walk along the street in a group singing loudly their college songs. They played well and studied well. They enjoyed the good old days. Leaders of present-day Japan are almost all graduates

of the higher schools. They think it very regrettable that the higher school disappeared after the Second World War.

After the War Japan adopted the 6-3 system on American model. Compulsory education became nine years instead of six. Japan became a peaceful country and Japanese industry prospered. Students as well as schools increased very rapidly. Now at present more than seventy per cent of the people enter senior high schools and twenty-five per cent proceed to higher education.

You will be surprised to hear that there are about 200 institutes of higher education (universities, colleges and junior colleges) in Tokyo alone. Students are no longer privileged people. They are common members of society. It is interesting to see so many students not wearing any more the square cap which was so long a symbol of their pride and privilege. And it is surprising to see some students wearing a sack coat like a gentleman. Students have lost their stature—and with it their ambition.