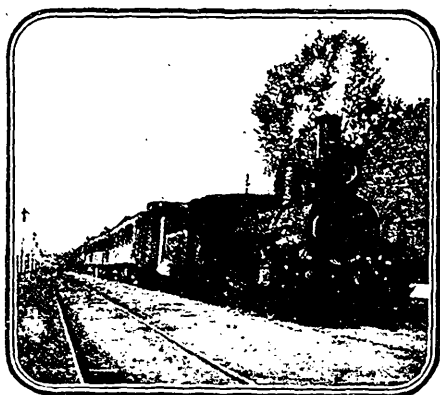


HARBIN AND THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.



THE whole landscape around Mukden, says Frederick A. North, a war correspondent in Manchuria, writing before the recent retreat of the Russians from the holy city of the Manchus, was filled with the camps of soldiers. Stretching away beyond the horizon were vast hosts of Russian cavalry, infantry and artillery. I visited these camps, and saw the soldiers in their tents and on duty. These forces were rapidly increasing every day by the addition of fresh troops from Siberia and European Russia. With special care I noted the train arrivals for more than a week. On an average, there were twelve trains every twenty-four hours, two-thirds of which were loaded with soldiers; other trains were bringing horses, provisions and the munitions of war, with, perhaps, a daily arrival of a Red Cross train. On each of these eight trains were from three to five hundred soldiers, making a daily arrival at Mukden of three to four thousand men. From personal observation, which extended all along the Trans-Siberian Railroad, from Mukden to St. Petersburg, I should judge Russia to have been transporting to the seat of war from seventy to one hundred thousand soldiers per month. The Russian forces under Kouropatkin, in the vicinity of Mukden at the present time, number about three hundred thousand men, Oyama's forces opposing him being of equal strength. A Russian officer told me that his government would continue to pour troops into Manchuria, stopping nothing



ON THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

short of seven hundred thousand men, and that the Japanese must ultimately leave Manchuria, if it took years to accomplish it. Port Arthur would be retaken by the Russians, should it now fall into the hands of the Japanese. Russia, he declared, has come to Manchuria to stay.

On the top of the tallest tree of a pine grove, a little south-west of Mukden station, and across an expanse of a score or more of busy side tracks, was to be seen the banner of the Red Cross Society. Here were two camps of Red Cross field hospitals, one of which was under the control of Russian Red Cross authorities, the other under that of the Dutch Reformed Church of St. Petersburg. At these camps I was a welcome visitor. Many sick and wounded soldiers were here receiving some of the hospitalities of home, their number constantly increasing by fresh arrivals from the battle-fields of Liao-Yang. The Red Cross was fully prepared for active field work, being equipped with medical and surgical supplies, horses, mules, and