

NORTH POLE%

A party of explorers under the leadership of the bearded Professor Schmidt left Moscow for the North Pole; their plan was to stay there for a year; to establish a camp on a drifting ice-flow and make scientific observations of the Arctic conditions. So they left Moscow and headed North --- four planes bidding good-bye to civilization --- perhaps to life itself. In this plane with Professor Schmidt is one of the pilots --- Vedoyanov --- and they joke together as they wing their way over the treacherous floes and shifting, perilous fields of ice. . . . heading north!

They ^{came to} ~~landed upon~~ the summit of the world --- a land of bleakness and desolation --- a land where the surrounding white is ~~only~~ ^{only} relieved by this little outpost of men --- roughly built huts, above which the polar winds stir the flags of the Soviet.

The requirements of science receive first attention; wind machines are erected, and the masts and aerials for wireless communication with the outside world. With this facility, the modern explorer has an immeasurable advantage over those first adventurers who were lost to the world completely. Krenkel is the wireless operator --- on him they rely in case of ~~any~~ emergency. Then this little colony turns its attention to the kitchen --- and Papanin takes charge. He gives the signal for cookhouse and the hot food is the one creature comfort these men will know for many weary months. ~~For the Polar wastes resent the intrusion of man upon their solitude.~~ ^{FOR} Across the snowy desert, come the beginnings of a blizzard of unbelievable ferocity.

