

AID TO CHINA VIA TIBET.

In the town of Kalimpong, Bengal, a hundred mules are being saddled for the start of one of the strangest conveyances in this war. Tibetan Muleteers have their own way of fastening 150 lb packs with raw hide. This is the stepping-off place for the Mule-track-route to China. Medical supplies and other essentials travelling through the buffer state of Sikkim (which separates Bengal from Tibet), and into the perpetual snow of the Himalayas. The severe nature of the Journey demands that the mules be used for one round trip annually. They are then rested for twelve months.

In Sikkim the conveyance meets with a wool-pack mule train bringing Tibetan wool for India's war industries. The Muleteers crack their leather whips and shunt the heavily laden animals so that the China-bound conveyance may pass.

18,000 feet up, the mountain mists tell of the monsoonal rain which soon will fall in blinding sheets. At this height progress is slow and laborious. The lack of oxygen makes breathing difficult.

Maintaining an average of 10 to 15 miles a day, the mule train presses on. China is still a long way off.

The descent to the town of YANTUNG. One of the chief trade centres in Tibet, through which all pack trains must pass. A halting place for the weary travellers in their astounding walk to China.

Unaffected by the war in what must be the most secluded country in the world, the people welcome this increase in the traffic through their town. Not that they see enough to allay their suspicion of foreigners, especially newsreel cameramen. It is one way by which our Far Eastern Ally is receiving help.

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