

*Medicago ruthenica* is not much of a success at Krassny Koot. It remains too low and is of semi-prostrate habits.

*Medicago cancellata* had been received this spring from Mr. von Arapow, but only one plant had come up and that fellow looked suspiciously like *Cytisus biflorus*, which is very common throughout the south Volga regions.

Mr. Bogdan had recently gotten a wheat specialist as assistant and from the last I heard, the climate around Krassny Koot is suited to a small number of wheats only. The short durum grained wheats, with the bracts close together, thrive best of all. The famous select Svalöf wheats were hopeless failures, but some varieties from hot and dry Turkestan did well, like for instance a biscuit wheat from Khiva, *Triticum aestivum graecum*, "Khivinka", of which I obtained a small sample. Bjela Turka wheat, one of the standard durum wheats of south Russia, is not altogether fixed; it breaks up in 7 or 8 different strains there in Krassny Koot. This assistant said that for localities like Krassny Koot people had to breed their own races of wheat and to be very careful in importing seed from other localities, as the imported wheats nearly always degenerated the first year and that now especially the whole of southeastern Russia was in a sorry plight, because the crops had been hopeless failures this year and on many places there was not even grain enough left, so the farmers were already importing wheats that are not suited to local conditions. What they are trying to obtain especially in southeastern Russia are races of perfectly hardy winter wheats and next to that, varieties that need less moisture or less time to ripen. The selection work was too recently started to show any results but the first indications are very promising; one wheat of which the type produced 13 poods to the desiatine, gave 41 poods this summer."