

investigations of fruits and develop varieties better suited to the South Russian climate. Mr. Stebut stated that although the Svalöf wheats are absolute failures in Southern Russia, the oats are successes, especially "Whitelings" and "Ligowo"; that the name "Kherson oats" is American, that a variety so named is not known in Russia, but that these same oats, re-imported from America, are proving a great success in Saratoff Government; that Russia is realizing at last that agriculture is the basis of all prosperity and that it is today spending more than ten times the amount of money upon agricultural investigations that it did four or five years ago; that America is taken as a model for all this new work; that the Russian people appreciate their own products better after they have been re-imported from America than they do when picking them out themselves; that Mr. Bogdan at Krassny Koot is doing a noble work; that he has given to the world two new fodder plants, *Triticum cristatum* and *Medicago falcata*, both true Russian products; that Russia has long been dormant but that the world may expect yet many new things from her in the agricultural line.

Mr. Stebut is much interested in obtaining from us samples of various wheats and literature on wheats and cereals in general. Then he wants to exchange with us later on local wheats for American wheats. Mr. Stebut has studied in Vienna and at various places in Germany; has visited Dr. Nilsson at Svalöf, in Sweden, and Prof. Johansen in Denmark, and is of good scientific training in general. He also told me, as an example of what a monetary loss may result when the wrong sorts of grain are imported, that several years ago the beer of Samara was famous for its good qualities. Now, however, it has become quite bad, simply on account of a serious drouth which ruined the barley crops and which made the farmers import barleys from the Caucasus, which were absolutely unfit for beer production. The results are that the breweries of Samara are being closed one after the other and beer is imported from places where there is apparently still good brewing barley to be had. I also heard that the mills in Russia pay extra salaries to those men who thoroughly understand how to mix the largest quantities of flour from soft wheats with durum wheat flour, as the last flour is the more expensive in Russia.

The country around Sarepta is very interesting. The level land stretching down to the Wolga, suddenly rises up in a tableland and this land is cut up by numerous gullies and ravines. Some of these ravines are covered with a dense growth of *Acer tataricum*, some are full of *Ulmus suberosa* and others have groves of wild apples as inhabitants, while small scrub of *Spiraea hypericifolia* is seen on the higher edges.