

wrote you was from Chita. I paid visits to Mr. P. M. Tolmatchoff, acting director of the local museum and arranged with him to see the botanical collections the next day. Then I hunted up a Mr. A. M. Suvari who is the Governmental Agronomist for the Chita district. This last gentleman speaks German very well and we spoke about a good many topics. The Russian Government is going to establish an experimental station near Petrofski Savod to the west of Chita, as the soil immediately around this last town is too sandy to be of any use for agriculture. Mr. Suvari himself does not know very much as yet about local Eastern Siberian conditions as his field for many years was the Steppe-territory of S. W. Siberia which he knows very well. He told me that way off of the beaten tracks one finds that in old Kirghiz settlements varieties of grains are being cultivated, like wheats, barley and millets which are quite different from any sorts he ever saw. Especially in the dry Karakalinsk district one finds them. This is to the S. W. of Semipalatinsk. Mr. Suvari also told me that the Government has intended to experiment with local wild grasses but they find it almost impossible to obtain seeds enough to work with, native people being too indolent and too dull; Mr. Suvari had offered as much as ten roubles for a tumbler full of wild lucerne-seed and not even a thimble full had been brought in. I asked about this Amur wild rice, *Zizania latifolia*, but Mr. Suvari did not quite know it; we have written now to the Agricultural Society at Blagowestchensk, where this grass occurs. I also went to the Office of the International Harvester Company and heard that agriculture is slowly spreading over the whole of Siberia and that more and more machines are sold every year. To obtain however, native grasses and forage plants is a thing one would have to go after himself in that short season, called late summer, which is very short indeed in Siberia.

"I saw Mr. Suvari also again, he had promised me some samples of a good rye, that grows some distance away from Chita. He had not been able to obtain it but he will send it to you at Washington. Mr. Suvari likes to obtain from us names of firms dealing in grains and forage plants from the most northern parts of America. I suggest to open up correspondence with him, especially when the Agri. Exept. Station there near Petrofski Savod will be established, as he may supply us with seeds of local fodder grasses.

"The next day I left Chita, which possesses a fine, sunny, dry winter climate, and we took our tickets to Harbin, or rather to the Sta. Manchuria, as for some reason or other they would not sell us thro' tickets, apparently in connection with delays at the Manchurian frontier. And we were delayed for many many hours, but on Friday, Feb. 21, we arrived here in this town."