section hands, on the railway;-- few men anywhere. The country is quite flat with patches of trees here and there. Later in the day we passed into the great southern steppe country-- the so-called "black earth", a wonderfully fertile section and well cultivated. The day was very hot. Towards evening we reached Izumskaya and inspected the nearly completed shops of the North Donetz Railway, the finest railway shops in Russia (see special memorandum). Sad to say these fine and much needed facilities for repairing railway equipment are at present of little use because they are located in an unihabited spot and no provision has been made to house the workmen.

July 9th. A very hot day. We are now in the great Donetz iron and coal region. A beautiful day's run in a lovely farming country -- rolling open steppes; rich, black soil; reminds one of the Dakotas, but more uniformly rich. Growing grain everywhere and splendid crops. At the fine city of Ekaterinoslav we were visited by a delegation of workingmen, who offered us flour and sugar. Their spokesman, in a well-worded speech (in Russian) expressed their appreciation of America's coming to help Russia. They promised, in response to our reply, their co-operation in doing their part to increase the efficiency of their work, and we heard afterwards that they were greatly pleased with us and that our visit had done good. It would be a splendid thing if we could spare the time to make a systematic campaign of education and could convey to all centres a knowledge of the intention of our country to help the new Republic; at the present moment propaganda of this kind would be immediately effective, which cannot be said to be the case regarding material help from America.

We then visited the shops of the Catherine (Ekaterin) Railway;