

Emergency Situation on Soviet Railways Created by Aging
Cross-Ties, Switch Points and Bridge Timbers: Ministers
Appeal to Timber Workers to Step Up Deliveries

The USSR Ministry of Railways and the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry hereby appeal to the workers' collectives at enterprises of the country's timber industry with a request to help the workers in railway transport resolve their main problem, which is to provide for the transportation of passengers and freight in the quantities the country needs, without causing delays and at the same time, guaranteeing their safety.

One of the main conditions affecting the solving of this problem is the dependable maintenance of the tracks. Because of exceedingly heavy loads the latter are rapidly wearing out and require constant upkeep and repairs.

For these purposes railway transport must annually receive 25 million wooden cross-ties, not less than 30 thousand sets of square-sawn timber for switch points and 25 thousand cubic metres of square-sawn timber for bridge maintenance. It will then become possible to replace in a coordinated manner all of the cross-ties and squared timber becoming unserviceable, make the tracks more reliable and remove the numerous restrictions on train speeds.

Even so, since the beginning of the post-war period railway transport never has received the necessary quantity of these materials. For example, last year only 14.5 million cross-ties and only 9.2 thousand sets of switch points were received. Particularly severe cuts in the manufacture and delivery of cross-ties and squared timber were made by the timber industry's enterprises "Krasnoyarsklesprom", "Irkutsklesprom", "Primorsklesprom", "Permlesprom", "Zabaikalles", "Sverdlesprom" and certain others.