

of age structure of the forest resources, as is required by silvicultural science, and thereby obtaining a higher increment, what is occurring is a further accumulation of overmature timber stocks.

Not one of the countries with a high standard of forest management permits this to happen. Take Finland for example. That country, where the forested area amounts to only 20 million hectares, harvests more than 55 million cubic metres of timber annually and knows nothing of overfellings. The Karelian ASSR, with a forested area of about 10 million hectares, harvests 9.6 million cubic metres, of which 1.2 million are due to overfelling of allowable cuts.

In Finland the category that we conceive of as the "allowable cut", which must be rigidly observed and is mandatory, does not exist. There, the factor determining the yield is acknowledged to be the annual increment and one of the most important goals of forest management is equalisation of the age structure of the forest resources and preventing the accumulation of overmature forests.

Recently the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a resolution calling for a ban on fellings of cedar. This species, like no other, has been classed with the "privileged" species by forest legislation and public opinion. In general, this is in order. The only question is whether these "privileges" should be widened.

Of the 39.3 million hectares of Siberian nut pine forests about 9.4 million hectares are classed with the nut harvesting zones in which industrial felling of timber is prohibited. Forest management there is done solely for the collection of nuts. While this seems excellent at first glance, in actual fact not more than 100 grammes of nuts are gathered from a hectare annually.

the Tyumen Oblast last summer. Have any practical conclusions been drawn? Here is what the Deputy General Director of the Tyumenlesprom Association, A.G. Turlov, said.