

work of geologists and various Soviet scientific expeditions, as well as provide for the operation of sea ports, power plants, land and helicopter transportation, and subsidiary holdings. In short, by making wise and creative use of the trust's economic potential, losses will be out of the question.

V.L.: This would just be the time to turn the reader's attention to a few details concerning the so-called "secondary" concerns of "Arktikugol's" director. Prior to my meeting with Gnilorybov, I learned of Nikolai Aleksandrovich's passion for... agriculture from a friend working in a geological field party on Spitsbergen. I must confess my surprise: a mining engineer with a solid record of service, a "technical man", and suddenly this. Judge for yourself. A radical restructuring of subsidiary holdings (farms) - cow barns, pig-breeding farms, poultry houses - was carried out on his initiative. The results are impressive, especially when one bears in mind that they were not obtained somewhere, let's say, near Ryazan, but in the high-altitude Arctic. Annual meat-pork, milk and egg production comprises 100 tonnes, 200 tonnes and 400,000 eggs respectively. The average milk yields per cow have reached 4,400 litres, while the annual yield per bird is 155 eggs. Subsidiary holdings satisfy the requirements of arctic workers (of whom there are over 2,000 in Barentsburg and Pyramid) for these products and for fresh fish.

"You're quite right, the figures are accurate," my collocutor answered in response to my question "did I get anything mixed up," and added smilingly: "We grow pickles, tomatoes, onions and even tulips in our hothouses".