

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Production of Cement and Wood Shaving Blocks - a Proposed Solution to the Housing Shortage

The date has been fixed: by the year 2000 every Soviet family is to be provided with a separate apartment or house. The volumes have been determined: 36 million apartments with a total area of 2.4 billion square meters will need to be built. The only thing that remains to be specified is how this will be done. Already, little time is left for resolving this mammoth problem. Even today, it is obvious that the USSR State Planning Commission cannot handle the task on its own. It has neither the manpower, the machinery, nor the materials. Cooperative house building cannot help either, the growth rates of which during the last 25 years have declined more than threefold. So, in many respects, it will be for the enterprises themselves to tackle the problems of supplying their own workers with housing.

We are talking about one solution to this problem which is suited to enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. The newspapers are tired of writing about the use of secondary waste products. It concerns first and foremost, wood shavings. Even by the most conservative estimates, these "waste" about 30 million cubic meters annually in our sector of the economy. Today, most of them are either burned or hauled away to dumps. And yet this extremely valuable, uniformly comminuted, high-grade wood could be efficiently utilised for individual house building.

Based on the use of shavings as organic fillers, in 1987 the Trust "Orgtekhlesstroi" collaborated with the Balabanov division of the All-Union Scientific -Production Association "Soyuznauchstandart" of the pulp and paper industry in developing double-cavity cement-and shaving wall blocks. The excellent construction properties of the cement-and shaving compound had already been verified over a five-year test programme. As early as 1983 the