

drainage ditches in 1985 amounted to no more than 7,800 hectares. The actual need was 59,900. Such indeed was the volume of work completed in 1966.

The hunting industry could be a promising way of earning foreign currency. Here, however, the field is wide open for all kinds of excesses, beginning with wildlife inventories and ending with poaching by "titled" hunters. In actual fact, the numbers of elk and red deer in the republic have been halved. But the legislators have no need to worry about how to bring pleasure to themselves and the high-ranking visitors. For even though we have a goodly number of workers formally responsible for nature preservation, hardly anyone cares that only 3 per cent of the 20 per cent of young pine stands are doing well. The remainder are being gnawed by large and small animals. Forest pathologist Gint Ozols reached the conclusion that assembling branches and logging debris in huge rows causes a 300 to 500 times increase in the armada of forest pests, as compared to the old method of burning the branches there and then immediately after felling the trees.

Why don't the foresters return to grandfather's ways of tending the forest, where this is expedient? As I said earlier, everywhere there is a need to harvest the maximum amount of wood for the State and the population.

It is vexing that after reorganizing the Ministry into an association, practically nothing has changed in regard to the approaches to assiduous forest management.