

FORESTRY

Society of Soviet Foresters Founded to Save the Forests from Destruction

The constituent assembly of the Society was held in late February in Leningrad. More than 200 foresters from Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaidzhan, Georgia, Latvia, Moldavia, Turkmenia and Estonia adopted the programme and statutes of the new society. It is hardly correct to refer to it as new however. Its members consider themselves the successors of the societies of foresters that existed formerly in Russia, in which many eminent scientists played an active part. The resumption of activity by this type of public organization is explained by the critical state of the forests.

The Society of Foresters of the USSR has declared itself to be a professional, social and political organization of citizens of our country who are united by common interests in achieving a specific objective. And that objective is: concern for the forest. In the programme it is stated that the growing changes in the ecological situation have a complex, all-embracing character. The world's forests are one of the principal natural regulators, maintaining and restoring the conditions of life. The notion that has formed in the consciousness of millions of people that our country is the most richly forested nation in the world is unrealistic. For each of us there is no more than 2.9 hectares of forested area. And only a third of this area is of real value for industrial exploitation, which is much less than in Canada, Sweden, Finland and certain other countries.