

Then too, there is the fact that the forest farms are preoccupied with timber fellings. This is where the root of the trouble lies. Fellings on a small scale are unprofitable and merely prevent us from concentrating on solving our immediate problems - reforestation and forest protection. It is an open secret that today, it is only "between times" that we occupy ourselves with these tasks. And what is this leading to? A simple illustration is that not a few of our Siberian pine forests in Trans-Baikal have been destroyed by fire. Small wonder that even in the most dangerous period for forest fires - early summer - the managers of the forest farms have other things on their minds. How could it be otherwise, for the financial wellbeing of their enterprises depends on the fulfillment of logging plans.

The existence of these plans is also preventing the forest farms from making a rapid and painless transition to profit-and-loss (self-financing) principles of operation. If this were not so, we would already have been able to put all our efforts into industrial expansion. The Transbaikalian taiga is not only richly endowed with nut-bearers, but also with valuable medicinal grasses, animals and birds. We have the resources and we have the capacity to earn a profit from them. There are some interesting proposals along these lines. Recently, for example, a Statute on the leasing of forests was drafted in our association. What is happening at present? The best Pinus sibirica forests have been assessed by the Oblast' Consumers' Union and hunting industry administration. Although these departments don't invest a penny in reforestation and conservation (which is what we are concerned with) they are "cracking the nuts". From now on the approach will be different: take the nut trees in accessible