

millions of trunks. Nature did not uproot them. This is measured wood that is removed to the lumber yard, sawn up, included somewhere in a plan, fully remunerated in wages, awards and decorations, and then squandered.

I could quote the sums of the losses of the river fleet as a result of collisions with these peculiar "flying Hollanders" of our Siberian latitudes. I could cite many hapless examples of human victims, especially among fishermen and rivers of small-size craft. But I would like to explain why in Krasnoyarsk Territory, which has long been considered the country's chief supplier of timber [all assortments except firewood - tr.], not so much exploitation, as thoughtless, rapacious destruction of forest wealth is taking place.

What happens? When a tree is felled it must be carefully taken away from the taiga, thoroughly barked and, as expected, floated down the river to the logging and sawmill operation. The tree's been growing in the taiga for decades. This, incidentally, is the famed Angara pine, of which there is none better in the world.

Yet it is dragged through the taiga, ruining everything on the way, befouling large areas with waste and disfigured trunks. Nothing can grow there after this. It is carelessly abandoned on the river bank. In spring, the water comes and carries the pine all the way to the Arctic Ocean. There, we're told, Western firms are in charge of things; they thrive on the recovery of this timber. In spring, our territory has not so much an ice flow as it does a log flow. It is a terrible sight to behold. Rivermen know how to handle ice flows, but log flows? Back in 1953, a decision was taken which from