

output expressed in monetary units. What is the result? Today the workers need no urging. They themselves are trying to squeeze the maximum in valuable assortments from each long log. In nine months, the logging enterprise has earned more than 150,000 roubles in profits.

At the Bui logging enterprise of "Kostromalesprom", they do not complain at all about the imbalance in production and delivery plans, even though they too have suffered the same fate. Is the forest resource base exhausted? Yes, 70 percent of it now consists of birch and aspen. Others would have panicked, for who needs this "foliage"? But they realized immediately what must be done: they must concentrate on woodworking. Already they have raised the proportion of woodworking in total output to 50%.

It is as if they had jumped right out of the loss column. Alas, the paradoxes of economics are unpredictable. The broad-leaved timber turned out to be more expensive than the lumber produced from it. That's right: while a cubic metre of timber costs 30.06 roubles wholesale, a cubic metre of aspen lumber sells for 26.49 roubles. This is all because a discount - 9.1 roubles per cubic metre, was recently applied to the wholesale price of broad-leaved lumber in the Kostroma Oblast. In the Kirov Oblast, on the other hand, the price has been increased (by 0.9 roubles) for the same product, which means that Kirov lumber costs ten roubles more than Kostroma lumber. This is absurd. Such a spread is hardly likely to contribute to the efficient utilization of broad-leaved timber. And, of course, it represents a serious blow to the losing enterprises: willy nilly they are going bankrupt. It seems that in such instances it is hardly necessary to wait for the beginning of 1990, when the new wholesale prices will be introduced. In the case in point they must be changed immediately.

When we recall the lessons of last winter, the first thing to consider is the living conditions of the logger. That is to say, he does not work in a warm office - but in the frozen, snowy taiga. There, a hot meal is important and one must warm up at break, and dry out. Indeed, the role of the human factor in recent times has increased immeasurably. Ignore it and it will become an economic factor with a minus sign. This is what happened at the Siisk logging enterprise of "Arkhangel'sklesprom".