

The Idea Wasn't Bad, But...

The Pravda correspondents' office in Tyumen' has received an alarming letter from a group of drilling specialists employed by the Tyumen' Main Geological Surveys Administration. It has been signed by the well-known drilling experts N. Glebov, hero of socialist labour, V. Vdovichev, T. Gubaev, S. Shibakin, Z. Gafinets, and V. Tartaro who, through Pravda, wish to transmit their heartfelt concerns to the Minister of Machine Building for Chemical and Oil Industries, V. Luk'yanenko. What are the concerns of these surveyors of mineral deposits?

Starting on January 1st, the subdivisions of the Tyumen' Main Geological Surveys Administration, including all the one hundred and forty drilling teams, switched fully to self-sufficient cost accounting. This was expected to foster a more effective increase in the surveyed reserves of oil and gas and an expansion of survey drilling in the regions of main operations - Surgut, Nizhnevartovsk, Urengoi, Tarko-Sale, and Yamburg. The current year's plan calls for the drilling of 2,500,000 metres of oil wells, which exceeds last year's quota by 250,000.

The drilling teams started switching to self-sufficiency in an elevated mood. Unfortunately, no matter how hard they tried, they failed to fulfill the plan for January. Paradoxically, one of the main reasons for that failure was not the remoteness, or the Siberian cold, or the impassable roads but... the new technology in which they placed all their trust at the beginning.

The chief engineer of the Tyumen' Main Geological Surveys Administration, A. Grigor'ev, told us: