

"Mikhail Antonovich," I asked, "surely the preservation of Yarmala, of the amber Riga seaside, is worth all these expenses?"

"Of course it is worth it!", replied the Chief Engineer and added heatedly in the next breath: "In fact, I would be the first to speak out for the closing of Sloka if I were convinced that it is this mill in particular which is irreparably harming the environment. But that is not the case! Incidentally, several years ago, they were also successful in stopping paper production at the Staitsele mill. They said that salmon fingerlings were dying in Salatsa stream. They dismantled the dam and stopped the machines, all to no effect - the fishes were so diseased that they continued to disappear. It turns out that they were looking for the cause in the wrong place. That is why I say: yes, you can shut down the pulp and paper mill, but first prove, not on an emotional level but with scientific facts, that we are really the principal destroyers of the Yurmala resort.

Alas, it is precisely because they have the facts that our scientists and specialists are unable to prove anything to this day, which is why the specialists of the pulp and paper mill have to go abroad - to Scandinavia for scientific expertise.

Meanwhile, meetings and pickets continue to be in evidence on the streets of Riga and Yurmala, along with ultimatums to shut down the Sloka pulp and paper mill. Dozens of the mill workers have given in to the pressure from the irreconcilable protestors and are leaving. All this while the republic's committee on Latvian industry, into whose