

### Gas processing Plant Delivered to the Tundra

Preliminary test operations have been completed on the third complex gas-processing installation at the Yamburg gas deposit. An entire plant, made up of completely assembled superunits, has been delivered to the Arctic tundra.

The records achieved by the construction and gasfield workers of Western Siberia should not come as a surprise, but the recent victory is particularly impressive. The new plant began producing gas in January instead of at the end of March, as had been anticipated.

Is it really necessary to erect huge plants on the very threshold of the Arctic, to expend so much labor and resources, to open up a region that is so unsuitable for human beings? These are questions that our readers bring up now and again. Yes, these measures cannot be avoided. The gas that is extracted from wells put down through the permafrost is quite different from the gas that heats the burners on your stove or that powers the furnaces of our hydro stations. Before it begins its long journey it must be cleansed of particles of sand and clay and, most important of all, all water must be separated from it -- down to the smallest droplet -- otherwise plugs of ice will tightly seal off the river of gas in the pipelines and will cause serious damage. Everyday, hundreds of tonnes of water are extracted from the stream of hydrocarbons in the installations in which the gas is dried out.

The first Urengoi gas plants were brought into operation over a two-year period, while the final plant -- that at Yamburg -- required one quarter less time.