

last pine ridges and are moving further and further from the villages, which are beginning to be eroded by unemployment. "Economic genocide" is how the loggers characterize the association's attitude toward them. Meanwhile, the directors of "Tomlesprom" shrug off the loggers' grievances about suppression and themselves lament their helplessness in the face of ministerial power. They lament, but they imitate it.

At first glance one doesn't notice the way that the Chulym River is being re-directed by whirlpools deep below the surface, undermining the steep right bank and clearing a new channel for itself. Clod by clod the steep wall is tumbling down, and already the muddy waters have broken through, straightening out the river's course and carrying the retaining wall away into the new channel. The stagnant, swampy old river bed is left behind to dry up.

I ask the reader to pardon this old-fashioned imagery, but something similar is happening on the taiga shore where the Chulym lespromkhoz is based. While its logging output is not large (140,000 cubic metres per year) it has earned the noisy reputation as an unbridled scoundrel. Its director, P. Fedorov, is for "Tomlesprom" something like Stenka Razin, in holding autocratic sway on the Chulym.

His assistant on economic and commercial affairs, N. Ostroverkhov, produced figures showing that "autocratic management" is good for the lespromkhoz. While logging used to result in millions in losses, it now brings in nearly 90,000 rubles profit every year. And at the same prices....

How have they done this? By "earning" money on the side? By speculating in timber? No, they've done it by processing the wood themselves locally. The lespromkhoz has refused to deliver roundwood ordered by the association. At six branches - Narga, Zolotushka, Sulzat