

this is almost three quarters of the planned extraction. What does the general director of the Interdepartmental Scientific-Technical Committee "Nefteotdacha", M. Surguchev, think of this method of self-immolation?

To my direct question, Mikhail Leont'evich replied: "Yes, we know that thermal methods are costly. But there is no other way ..."

Is there not? I have in front of me the fourth issue of the review Oil Industry for the past year, and in it M. Surguchev's article in which he reports on the 12th World Oil Congress which was held in Houston, U.S.A. The congress showed, he said, that the optimistic forecasts on the application of thermal methods were not borne out in many countries. Among the reasons for this, several were virtually identical to the situation in Usa, including, of course, the cost of these methods.

But we, with a stubbornness worthy of a better cause, persist in creating the appearance of success. Here is what A. Kayun, a geologist from Krasnodar, writes in response to the article "Window Dressing". 'In all "thermal" oil fields the thickest oil-saturated strata producing good yields are selected for pumping in the heat-carrier. The All-Union Scientific Research and Planning Institute of the Oil Processing Industry (Krasnodar) publishes process flow diagrams and introduces "unit coefficients". Thus ordinary raw material, by a wave of the wand, is converted into "thermal"....'

What the Interdepartmental Scientific and Technical Committee "Nefteotdacha" persists in imposing on the oil industry workers of the north and on the entire sector, is in flagrant contradiction