

and in timber yards of pulp-and-paper mills, as evidenced by the following figures: volumes of work in the logging industry amount to between 1.3 billion and 1.6 billion cubic metres, in woodworking - between 350 million and 500 million cu. m., and in pulp-and-paper production - between 150 and 200 million. Numbers of people employed on these tasks are 140,000, 108,000 and 43,000 respectively.

Although volumes of work are heavy and large numbers of people are employed, mechanization of labour is still at a very low level and the existing machinery far from adequate. This is not only the case in the plots, but at lower landings as well. A total of 3,500 log conveyors are used in sorting and intra-warehouse handling, of which only 350 are fitted with automatic systems for offloading timber. Automated conveyors are used for the sorting of 18 million cubic metres, which is only 13 per cent of the total sorting volume. In all, 21,000 people are performing these tasks manually.

Productivity is greatest when wheel-mounted loaders are used in intra-warehouse handling in conjunction with log conveyors and cranes. Unfortunately, the loaders produced in our country are poorly adapted for work at lower landings.

As regards mountainside timber workings, here the most promising systems are overhead cable installations: they preserve the soil, the underwood and all the associated forest riches. In the western European countries, from 50 to 200 of these units are built every year.

In enterprises of the sawmilling, furniture making, board manufacturing and other woodworking sub-sectors, tens of thousands of people are employed