

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Scars Around the Baikal-Amur Railway

Last year Mysl' publishing brought out a book entitled "The Road to Siberia's Wealth". The story behind the book's publication is complicated.

In 1978 a geographer named Ludmila Ilina prepared a manuscript for another publisher, Lesnaya Promyshlennost, about the planned use of forest resources and nature conservation in the area of the Baikal-Amur Railway. However, the Ministry for the Wood and Paper Industry did not like the author's advocacy of fully protecting the forests around Lake Baikal, decreasing logging in Southern Yakutia, and reducing timber felling by the roadsides and near settlements. They demanded that the author modify her conclusions. However, as a scholar and citizen, Dr. Ilina did not feel she could give up her convictions.

What was the result? The manuscript was put aside for eight years.

When glasnost' began to make its way into ecological discussions, Mysl' publishing house asked Dr. Ilina to take up work on her book again. She was happy to do this, since she had continued to study ecological questions connected with the Baikal-Amur Railway.

Dr. Ilina arrived in Tynda a fully-empowered representative of her institute. Recently the USSR Academy of Sciences and the academic council of the Social Development office under the USSR Council of Ministers approved the initiative by the Central Council of the Communist Youth League to establish a