

At dusk on the short day preceding the New Year we only rarely met vehicles on the taiga road. Unexpectedly in front we began to catch the gleaming headlights of powerful KrAZ [Kremenchug Truck Plant] trucks carrying sand for pouring on the roadbed.

"Those are Cooperative trucks", explained the District Committee Secretary. "Look, the sides of the truck bodies have been built up so that they can carry more. Would they do that at an ordinary truck enterprise?"

To be their own boss is what drew many people to the Timan Cooperative. Here, this dream is fully coming true. Take, for example, even the timber growing on the quarry surface.

The workers built a small temporary sawmill and sawed each log into boards and squared beams. From the materials that they made themselves they built several houses, a dining hall, a bath house, and a storage building for vegetables, and are now completing a health complex. Briefly, nothing goes to waste. They have even started up a small pig farm. You can see business savvy in other things as well. People took their Kraz trucks virtually from the scrap heap. They overhauled them, and the vehicles are still running.

They did not, of course, manage without help from the State. M. Alekseev, Cooperative Chairman, explained: "Besides leasing equipment from the Komi Road Corporation, they took out credit at the bank for 700,000 roubles to acquire fixed assets. As for wages, they earn them. They introduced a workday [a unit of payment on collective farms]. Individual wages, including a bonus for the year's results, averaged as high as thirty roubles per shift.