This is the inexhaustibility of the forest, which has long been the dream of many.

They began practically at zero. Prior to the war there were mainly spruce and fir trees here, but by 1960 of the areas containing a predominance of these species a mere 8 percent remained. This kind of wood is greatly in demand. Are we to expect that a forest made by human hands will continue to rise when it has already reached maturity? After almost 80 years of hard work? But what if we fell the remaining forest selectively, that is, take the mature trees from it will while leaving the underwood standing? In that event the forest will also be preserved and we shall be able to utilize it continuously.

This was precisely the technology that was proposed three decades ago by the Tatary Experimental Forestry Station (EFS) when working uneven-aged stands of birch-spruce, spruce-birch, lime-spruce etc. As the forester-scientists had tested the new idea in the Udmurtian forests, the Sabinka lespromkhoz bodly accepted their advice. Its director N. Minnikhanov suggested that the co-workers of the EFS should conduct an experiment in one of the plots of the 239th compartment of the Meshebashskii forest district. Five hectares of aspen-birch stands with an admixture of lime and an unevenly aged understorey of spruce and fir were marked out there.

To begin with, Nurgalei Minnikhanov himself walked around the plots that had been marked out for felling. If he were to discover where the undergrowth had been beaten down it would not look well for the machinery maintenance engineer. But the director was in a hurry to transfer the new technology for laying out felling areas to the other compartments, to take it to the neighbouring Sabashskoye forest district. Indeed, it was there that selective fellings had their start. Selection of trees in the felling areas was done from an admixture of broadleaved and spruce stands, and also in pure stands of birch and lime. Whereas in 1962 the Sabinka workers selectively harvested a mere 2,400 cubic metres of timber, in the following year the total was 7,900 and a year later, 11,300 cubic metres.