

It is hoped that the administrative reform of the industry's external economic relations will permit at the earliest possible date, the solution of those first-priority problems not requiring large investments of capital which have long been mired down in fruitless, intractable interdepartmental squabbles. We are talking about such problems (we bashfully refer to them as such) as labelling, the tally, packaging and shipment dates that strictly conform to the requirements of world markets and the conditions of the exports contracts.

But in spite of all that has been said, it would seem that the establishment of closer working relations, now on an intra-industrial basis, between the officials concerned with foreign trade and those of the enterprises that supply the products for export will not in itself be sufficient to place the USSR in the first rank of world timber exporters in terms of the cost of the goods being shipped, and even more so, in the efficiency with which the raw material for their production is being used.

What are needed are radical measures, a well thought out investment policy, and a significant expansion of capital investments for the creation of new lumbering enterprises - these to include timber exporting enterprises with a strengthened and constantly renewable source of raw materials. We must cease "pilfering from nature", exhausting natural stands, and impulsively expanding the shipment of unprocessed wood for the sake of last minute earnings of currency.

For the returns from the sale of this are really quite small. For a million cubic metres of exported pulpwood, earnings of less than 20 million roubles are possible, but if this raw material were to be converted into pulp, then the revenue would increase to as much as 90 million roubles.