

The economic and ecological advantages of this plan are obvious. However, there are still problems to be solved: the factory has at its disposal only 795 hectares of land out of the 6,500 hectares needed, and equipment is lacking.

"We requested a Valmet skidder-pick-up which is needed in logging along the canal", explained V. Lyaskovsky, Director of the Kherson Pulp and Paper Plant. "At first, the Ministry supported our request, but then the Central Commission on Imports in the Ministry for the Timber Industry rejected it due to the lack of hard currency. It is very hard to cut timber along the canal with power saws, yet the local authorities have offered to allocate large lots of land there. Vehicle attachments are difficult to obtain. We have the funds to pay for them - we don't need hard currency - but there's nowhere to purchase it.

Over a year ago the executives of the Kherson factory and research staff at the Nizhnedneprovskaya Research Station requested that the Ministry authorize them to make an exploratory visit to Italy. The Italians have a great deal of experience in growing poplar plantations, which they began doing 40 years ago. Soviet experience is still very limited and, despite the high regard for our research and project, further study of a whole range of problems is required. Unfortunately, the Ministry did not reply - neither an authorization nor a rejection was received.

Afterwards it was learned that personnel changes had taken place recently in the Capitalist Countries Division of the Ministry for the Timber Industry and the official responsible for the Italian