

Today dog sleds are again being used to transport provisions for the wintering personnel, fish, reindeer meat, furs and fuel for hunters' and fishermen's huts. At airports and landing strips, they are used to take cargos to airplanes. Having at one time considered the snowmobiles as a panacea - a magical wand - the forerunners of the present-day farm and industrial aggregates, those organizations which were responsible for polar animal husbandry, totally eliminated the use of dog sleds. As a result, securing a good dog team nowadays is a real problem.

Indeed, do the dogs deserve our attention? Perhaps we should perfect our technical facilities? Organize unfailing fuel supplies? Of course, perfecting the technical facilities and securing regular fuel supplies is something the northerners will readily subscribe to. But, at the same time, it is doubtful that they will put their signature to the death sentence for the dogs. They may quote the examples of Alaska and arctic Canada. We shall not deny it - their snowmobiles are more reliable, more comfortable, lighter and they have no problem with fuel. Still, their dogs get proper consideration too.

Many things speak in favour of a dog-sled renaissance. In the north, food for the dogs is plentiful and cheap, almost free. The concern for the ecology also is an important factor in our times, something for which the Buran snowmobiles receives no credit. Moreover, the light sled tracks do not disturb the moss cover even when travelling in summer over a wet tundra.

A proposal had been put forward to establish a dog breeding kennel on Vaigach island. But the district executive committee of the Nenets Soviet of