

## TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

### Mechanized Processing Technique Introduced Experimentally

Is there much to be gained from the progressive organization of labour? A striking reply to this question was received by participants in a conference seminar arranged by "Dal'lesprom" at the Shelekhovo logging enterprise. Here, the so-called cyclical flow logging technique has been introduced.

What does it consist of? Feller-skidder machines, after felling the trees, deliver them to the upper warehouse, where an "Ussuri" unit - the nucleus of the new technology - comes into play. "Ussuri" is the brainchild of a Khabarovsk designer and is being produced at the Spasskii experimental machinery plant in the Maritime region. This mechanism combines both a branch trimmer and a cross-cutting unit. A hydraulic manipulator then loads the cross-cut wood onto a tractor trailer. The unloading procedure is also fully mechanized.

There are advantages to organizing the work in this way. For a single "Ussuri" unit practically replaces the vast lower yard with its whole complicated system. In a single shift an operator produces up to 100 cubic metres of lumber, which is five times more than on the LO-15S line.

Incidentally, the conventional machinery is also functioning excellently in this sector. For instance, the LP-49, working on quite steep slopes, is producing up to 150 cubic metres per shift, compared to the norm of 102. The timber transports are also being used more efficiently: it is not simply wood that is being loaded onto them, but prepared assortments of timber. As a result, the unit cost is approximately eight roubles. Compare this with the former "Komsomol'skles" association, in which it was more than 20 roubles. With refinement of the new technology the cost could fall to between four and 4.5 roubles.