

In the Grip of "Work Norms"
(How the workers of the Pevek marine port ended up
after the transition to a full cost-accounting system)

At Pevek, after the long polar night, everyone was waiting for the first convoy of ships. It was the beginning of June, however, the only thing which showed that it was summer was the merry song of the snow-bunting, that bright and happy polar sparrow. Snow still covered the hills and the sea was locked in the powerful grip of the ice. The nights were still freezing cold.

At the marine port of Pevek they were ready for the start of the shipping season. Involuntarily I compared everything I saw with the situation at the marine port of Anadyr'. This is, after all, understandable, since one and the same question interested me at both Anadyr' and at Pevek, that is, how the full system of cost-accounting and self-financing was being implemented.

At first glance, conditions at both ports appear to be similar. There is a long, harsh winter, the short shipping season, a steady flow of freight. Yes, and even the freight itself is of approximately the same type. However, at the same time, there are quite a few differences. Pevek lies far beyond the Arctic Circle, on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Anadyr' on the other hand, is further south and enjoys the more or less favourable conditions which prevail on the Pacific coast. However, the main differences lie above all in the approach the two ports take toward dealing with economic issues.

For purposes of comparison I will quote only a few figures. About six hundred men are employed at the port of Anadyr' and of these, one hundred and