

FORESTRY

Selective Felling Proves Vastly Superior to
Clear Cutting in Long-Term Experiment Conducted
Clandestinely in Tatar Republic

For several days the Sabinka timber industry enterprise served as host to loggers from the Perm, Kirov, Yaroslavl', Gor'kii, Ivanovo and Smolensk oblasts, as well as to specialists from forest institutes and experimental forestry stations. They studied the experience gained by the Sabinka people, who have achieved an increment in wood volume averaging from 3.2 to 5.0 cubic metres per hectare, and in some sites, of up to 10-12 cubic metres. Moreover, the growing stock per hectare has risen from 109 to 162 cubic metres. Today, 40 per cent of the stands are coniferous. Until comparatively recently they were five times fewer in number.

The term "peredovik" (progressive worker) is not very popular these days. In actual fact, however, despite the existence of this extremely fitting notion, what we shall be discussing is not peredoviki but people with initiative who are enterprising, honest and have a stubborn streak of character.

Already thirty years have elapsed since the foresters of the Sabinka timber industry enterprise (lespromkhoz) started to do non-clear cutting of timber. Every year they selectively remove by this method 70 to 80 thousand cubic metres of timber in an area of more than a thousand hectares of stands. Yet with the passing of the years the Sabinka workers' forested hectare does not become sparse. On the contrary, it becomes more plentiful. Sylviculturists claim that if things continue this way, in 15 to 20 years each forest-covered hectare will be accumulating 250 cubic metres of timber, which is one and half times more than prior to going over to non-clear felling.