

portable electrical generating stations installed on mountain streams. Somehow we must also find ways of building miniature electrically powered boilers. Once the reindeer herders have heat, they can stop suffering in sopping wet tents far from the most elementary achievements of civilization. Can it be that our scientists are unable to solve this problem?

Of particular concern to us is financial compensation for the irreversible damage caused to the environment of the North and to grazing lands and hunting grounds by union industrial ministries and agencies. Many rivers, water reservoirs and lakes have been polluted and destroyed by these agencies. I was astonished to learn that 33 geological prospecting expeditions were operating on reindeer grazing lands in Olenek Raion! As a result of this "development" the "Anabarskii" Sovkhoz has lost two-thirds of its pastures.

Today, peoples of the North could lodge claims worth billions of rubles against Union ministries - non-ferrous metallurgy, geology, the river and maritime fleets, civil aviation - for irreparable damage to nature and the environment.

I'll cite just one more example of this type.

The city of Neryungri, the capital of Southern Yakutiya, is well known in the Soviet Union and abroad. It sprang up in a short period of time on the very spot where, twenty years earlier, nomadic Evenks had freely trapped for fur and hunted large game animals. They roamed their entire lives over the taiga of Southern Yakutiya, until the geologists discovered rich resources of coal. Then, in just 15 years, a modern city with an excellent infrastructure arose in the dense taiga, while the native residents - the Evenks - huddle close by. Such is the bitter paradox.

Recently, an Evenk state fur farm, the "Khatyminskii", was created. Of the 40 hunter-trappers only 12 come from the native population. One hardly needs to guess who was allocated the best hunting grounds, and, clearly, the Evenks are not upset for nothing. The Evenk