

If only we had a self-propelled chipper!" sighs D. Bigel', the chief of the production-technical department. "'And a few chip carts. We would send the chips to the Shar'ya wood-particle board factory. But now what is to be done with the branches and long-log fragments? They can only go for burning! We are burning up real money... Just look at how much wood is lying alongside the road. The signalmen have trimmed that wood for their lines. And nobody will take that wood, even for fuel. But if we could get a caterpillar-track chipper in here, what a saving we could make!"

Where next?

Yes, the leasing contract changes a man's thinking and teaches him assiduity and carefulness. But not everyone welcomes this lesson. For some, to sit behind a desk or in a warming-up shack for a modest, though guaranteed wage is preferable to feverish activity. But these are not the kind of people who now dictate economic policy. The new opportunities have shaken up even those who are used to being guided by the shopworn phrase that initiative is punished, and who prefer to bide their time.

A case which occurred quite recently with one of the crews made a strong impression on people. Wages here suddenly jumped to almost a thousand roubles a month. There was alarm in the office: how could this be? You know it won't be long before we go broke in this way. It turned out that an omission had been made in the coupe inventory: there was more of one of the valuable species than was shown in the documents. As a result, this crew turned out considerably more commercial output than the others. Its revenues were correspondingly greater.

The management considered this question in conjunction with the advice of the crew's labor collective. A decision was taken in accordance with the familiar proverb: "Agreement is dearer than money". The crew was paid in full. Need one say how favorably this affected the authority of the leasing contract...