

is not to blame, and if we were to permit its closing, then the waters of the Lielupe and the Gulf of Riga would still be polluted. Moreover, the composition of the water in the Baltic Sea as a whole has deteriorated greatly in recent years.

All the same, to what extent is the pulp and paper mill, situated 28 kilometers upstream on the Lielupe, responsible for the poisoning of the Gulf?

In the republic's committee of our trade union, I met with E. Svirst, a scientific co-worker of the above mentioned institute and a Candidate of Medical Sciences. He showed me the conclusion of a report on a special investigation where it is written in black and white that the effluents from the Sloka pulp and paper mill, thanks to reliable purification, do not have an adverse effect on the biological environment, since they do not exceed the maximum permissible concentrations of toxic substances. The industrial and municipal wastes discharged into the Lielupe are another matter, to say nothing of the Daugave!

"You see how I have suffered for this conclusion," Eduard Mikhailovich smiled ruefully, "I have now been forced to resign from the institute.

What do we have here? Is it that a specialist and scientist does not have the right to speak out on a matter which he himself is investigating? It seems that many of our experts, so as not to be held responsible, are preferring to take samples for analysis at Western rather than Soviet research centres. In this way, the question as to the real danger posed by the Sloka effluents remains unexplained for large masses of the public, which is a pity.