

inspections using aerial photography, up to 10-15 per cent of the timber marked out for felling is lost at felling sites in the European-Urals zone, 15-20 per cent in the regions of Siberia, and up to 20-25 per cent in the Far East.

So near and yet so far

Although the wood of broad-leaved trees is a major reserve, in the European-Urals part of the country alone about 40 million cubic metres of it are underharvested. These resources are situated close to timber hauling roads, and their development would not require heavy outlays. The only problem is to organize the processing of this timber on a large scale. A government decree envisaged increasing the utilization of soft-wooded broad-leaved timber in the pulp-and-paper industry to 20% of the total volume of raw material consumed by 1975. This decision has still not been implemented. Enormous volumes of timber remain in the stands and are deteriorating in quality. Substantial improvement in the provision of forest products to the economy cannot take place without the extensive utilization of broad-leaved timber. For this, a new strategy of forest use would be needed. Well, this is what is happening: many sectors of the economy prefer to utilize wood of coniferous and broad-leaved species even when they are not required by the specification.

There are also substantial timber resources in the forests of the first group. Even in the European-Urals region their planned coupe is underutilized by 16 million cubic metres. Nine million of these are softwoods. To this I would add that in the forests of all protective categories, including the forest parks, sanitary protection zones for water supply sources, protective stands and others, moderate forestry fellings to remove the current increment can and should be carried out, but only on the indispensable condition that performing such fellings does not run counter to ecological, sanitary or aesthetic requirements. In this way, we could procure at least an additional 20 million cubic metres of timber, including such valuable species as beech, oak, walnut and lime, which are in part, imported into the country.