

cubic meters of sawn coniferous timber. Of this, 3,000 cubic meters go to form shavings, which for the most part are hauled away to the dump and burned. But from these waste products it would be possible to manufacture about 700,000 cement-and-shaving blocks, and from them to build about 1,000 houses, each with a floor space of 60 square meters. When we made these simple calculations he was astonished: what would we do with so much housing? Surely there was no need of it? The answer: sell the blocks. Even by the most conservative estimates, after meeting all of the costs of producing them, the enterprise could make a net profit of 600,000 roubles. So that the alternative is not according to Yulian Semenov. Either way, it is loss-free. Build houses with your own labour if you wish, and earn money if you wish.

We used for our calculations an average-size furniture-producing enterprise. House-building, saw-milling and plywood manufacturing enterprises would enjoy vastly greater opportunities. By themselves they could arrange for the production of cement-and-shaving blocks in the calculated number of months and have a limitless advantage.

Publisher's note. In preparing this article, we came face to face with a curious fact. It turns out that specialists of the "Orgtekhlesstroi" Trust, which with the best will in the world, you would not call a scientific organization, sold its idea to two scientific sub-units: the Balabano division of the All-Union Scientific Production Association (ASPA) "Soyuznauchstandartdom" and the Arkhangel' division of the ASPA "Soyuznauchdrevprom". The former paid 10,000 roubles for the idea, the latter - 30,000 roubles. Both made available their own laboratory test facilities. All this solely in order that the production workers should introduce the trust's idea in their own enterprises. We are reporting this not with the object of embarrassing the sector's scientific community, but solely to emphasize once again that the idea has merit.