

The cross-tie situation has been stretched to the limit. During the last five years, the output of products for the railway workers has steadily declined at enterprises of "Krasnoyarsklesprom". The situation has been analysed by every kind of high level committee, including one appointed by the government. The result has been a steady increase in the plan for deliveries and an equally steady failure to fulfill it.

The railway representatives maintain that the picture is practically identical in all of the forested regions. In view of this, the railway engineers are expressing dissatisfaction with the wait-and-see policy of their ministry. For some reason it prefers to receive less than its due of wooden cross-ties, even though it could have covered the requirement long ago with concrete ties, for the installing of which all that is needed is to arrange for the production of a couple of bolts and one double-turn washer.

Incidentally, there are no guarantees that the woodworking enterprises are not "converting" some portion of the raw material intended for production of cross-ties with an associated aim in mind. At least, exports of the lumber to the socialist countries are decreasing, while those to capitalist countries are increasing. Specialists maintain that growth is only possible here through the use of large-dimension timber.

But even if this is the case, such liberties will scarcely affect the overall shortage of cross-ties. The trouble lies elsewhere. The association lacks the resources to produce the output required by the railway workers. In other words, it is being presented with unbalanced plans. In the last year, for example, "Krasnoyarsklesprom" undersupplied its consumers by more than 700,000 cross-ties. Notwithstanding this, however, the State production order has been increased by almost 50 percent. The question that arises is, will it fulfill it? Of course it won't. True, the Association's managers tried to spread the order throughout its subordinate units, a vain attempt. This is not the time to be dictating the conditions to the "lower ranks".