

OIL AND GAS

The Oilmen Have Been Let Down By Their Partners

The workers employed by Glavtyumenneftegaz have established a rather depressing record - since the beginning of the year there has been a shortfall of five hundred thousand tonnes of oil in their production.

It had appeared that the consequences of the breakdown in the output of the Western Siberian fields during the period 1983 and 1985 would soon be totally compensated for and that the production arrears for the last Five-Year output period would be made up. But now, once again, there has been a failure. What exactly happened?

"The broadening of the rights of enterprises and the introduction of cost-accounting," your reporter was told by Yu. Vershinin, chief engineer of the Central Directorate. "These two factors made it possible last year to reduce non-productive expenses sharply and, with fewer workers, to produce more than our planned quotas called for. However, we were let down by our partners, who stopped supplying us with equipment, chemical reagents, fuel and lubricating materials. Since the beginning of the year, a thousand drill holes have been left unrepaired because we haven't received what we need to do the job. Because of the breakdown in deliveries of diesel fuel, 1960 oil-producing machines have been standing idle, and this in spite of the fact that we had sufficient financial resources. It's as if they are laughing at us when in the winter they ship summer brands of diesel fuel to the northern regions of Tyumen'."