

So simply resolved is the problem of meeting the country's needs for timber. But this kind of simplicity is "worse than theft". It pursues narrow departmental ends, while refusing to face what it knows to be the real issues in domestic forest use.

In other countries, the entire volume of the wood being harvested is accounted for, including the timber from improvement and sanitation fellings, etc. In the USSR, it is logged and extracted timber that is counted as merchantable material. Elsewhere, the timber in the cut-over area, rivers and roadsides, and at upper and lower landings is not wasted. If all of this is taken into account, then the total volume of timber felled in the European part of the country turns out to be 280 million cubic metres, of which an average of 59 cubic metres remain in every hectare that has been clear felled. Of the allowable cut that has been set for the European part of the USSR about 55 million cubic metres contained in the rooting system remain unused. Therefore, the conclusion that substantial reserves are available for forestry throughout the European part of the country is nothing more than misinformation.

If the present level of losses is maintained in forest use, then in order to extract 430 million cubic metres of timber it will be necessary to fell annually more than 530 million cubic metres of growing stock. In that event the entire available stock of mature timber in the centrally managed forests will be exhausted within 17 to 18 years.

Even more interesting recipes are proposed for the treatment of the ailing forest economy. Here, all of the main burdens, as in the past decades, are again to be borne by forestry. It turns out that, to provide for the development of the forest complex, the distribution of the