

water in the charge of the State forestry service), but have allowed it to deteriorate seriously. Numerous checks have revealed that frequently, all of the tasks connected with a lesfond inventory are performed in offices, without taking into account the data collected on-location. At many ranger stations and forest concerns, even day to day changes are not being entered in forest management records and in the lesfond inventory ledgers. Here is a typical example: last year, a group of rangers who had completed a course of professional upgrading at a forestry training institute were asked, "Who knows the results of the lesfond inventory and what the dynamics of change are likely to be in the long term?" The majority of the more than 100 specialists were unable to answer these questions. At the same time, it is obvious that an objective assessment of the results of the work is only possible when the inventory has been competently performed and analyzed.

Forestry is being confronted with new problems as a result of the worsening ecological situation in the basin of Lake Baikal. In the on-shore zone of the lake, principal fellings have ceased, the stock of supplies and machinery has been built-up, and the fire-fighting service has been strengthened. The only possible explanation for the flagrant violations being countenanced in the Buryat ASSR by loggers of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and the RSFSR Ministry of the Fuel Industry is that the requirements of the foresters are not sufficiently exacting. The management problems in the cedar forests* and on the shores of Baikal and Ladoga are now very acute and to take a "casual" approach to them is totally unacceptable.

* Possibly a reference to Pinus sibirica Rupr., = Sibirskii Kedr (Tr.)