

Buryat ASSR

The Buryat Furniture-and-Woodworking Combine (BFWC) decided to find out what potential purchasers thought about a new set of upholstered furniture known as "Aras", which is soon to go into serial production. Residents and visitors to the city were literally "drooling" while walking around the display pieces. The testimonials book contains numerous laudatory comments, such as "Thank you. We were delighted." "I was pleased with 'Aras'". "Let's make sure that this furniture doesn't remain a museum piece."

Let us say at once: they know how to make furniture in Buryatiya. And this is also the tone set by BFWC. They're riding high on the popularity of the "Era-2" combination wall cupboards, and the "Zhuravushka", "Uyut" and "Yashma" sets. The only thing amiss is that there isn't enough furniture.

The first complicating factor is that no one in the republic knows how severe the shortage is. For example, specialists at the State Institute for the Planning and Projection of Enterprises in the Woodworking Industry have come up with the following: in order to put matters right, by 1990 we shall need to produce 33 million roubles worth of furniture annually - (at present, 21,500,000 roubles worth is being produced).

The trade office expressed a different view. "We drew up a short questionnaire and used it as a basis for analyzing demand," said T.N. Serebryakova, Deputy-Director of Wholesaling for Roskhoztorg (RSFSR Office for Wholesale Trade in Household Goods). "Our position is that we shall only put an end to the shortage when there is a