

An Experiment in Growing Poplars as a
New Source of Pulp for Papermaking

The poplar seedling struggled valiantly to push its way up through the asphalt, just as the idea of creating a local raw material base for the Kherson Pulp and Paper Factory struggled to make its way through a thick wall of bureaucratic indifference. For almost 15 years supporters of the idea fought to realize their dream before the first planted groves appeared near Tsyurupinsk.

The grove will not only solve many of the factory's economic problems, but will also turn the steppe green and help to preserve the northern woods. The importance of such economic tasks is stressed in the Party's resolutions, one of which says, "A primary task is to stimulate efforts towards environmental protection and to carry out a complex of measures aimed at the radical improvement of the country's ecological situation." Unfortunately, not everyone sees this as their goal.

Several years ago we wrote about the experiment in Kherson and the difficulties in getting it started. Even today, the creators of the poplar plantation are still experiencing difficulties. The ministries and local authorities do not always extend timely help to innovators. The experiment is spreading very slowly.

The Kherson Pulp and Paper Factory has been known as one of the best in the industry for several years, although it has had some difficult moments in its past. The factory was intended to process pulp from the reeds which grew abundantly on the Dnepr plains. The experience of similar pulp-and-paper factories was borrowed from countries with warm