

Ministry of the Merchant Marine. This question remained unsettled for a long time. In May last year the first pile for the foundations of a new building was driven in. And that was it. In the meantime the children are studying in temporary and unsuitable premises.

How about difficulties with supplies? Here everything has to be brought in. Everything! From machinery to children's toys.

Take medical problems. The only hospital in the settlement, which belongs to the Murmansk Steamship Line, has long failed to meet modern requirements.

What can people do in their spare time in this settlement? That is the question to end all questions. Apart from the most basic requirements, the conditions for solving this problem do not for the present exist in Dikson. Only in the long term can the construction of a new Palace of Culture be envisaged. The old one is unappealing and scares people away with its sagging ceilings.

Dikson, where winter lasts for nine months, has no skating rinks, hockey arenas or skiing facilities... It is as if there was no one to build them for. A tour by Krasnoyarsk performers is looked upon here as an extraordinary event. And visitors from the capital don't get to these parts at all.

Two years ago a people's art gallery opened in the building of a former wine store (after it had been rebuilt). It is, by the way, the northernmost one in the country. At that time the Artists' Union of the Russian Republic sent it more than a hundred graphic works, paintings and sculptures by the best artists of Russia.

At first people went there, but now the halls of the gallery are deserted more often than not. People have lost interest. The exhibits change very rarely and have therefore been studied down to the tiniest details.