

prefabricated ferro-concrete, 40% of components for large-panel construction, one third of its brick, and almost all the construction metal and insulation it needs. All this is sent mostly to the North. Tyumen' is very much a region of contrasts. The North, with its booming but difficult development, and the South - an agricultural area, which, until very recently, received but a minute, stale crumb of the multi-billion "loaf" of annual capital investment in regional development.

Our expedition separated. Some went north, and others south, or rather south-east, following the autumn Transural forest-steppe.

## 2. The "rich" and the "poor"

"On the third of August of this year, there was a fire in Surgut - 46 shacks burned down in Mira Street. The homeless were resettled, but not, as you can imagine, in individual apartments..."

(Telephone call to the television studio).

These shacks are the scourge of the North. Even of such a prosperous, by Siberian standards, town as Surgut.

As of 1 January of this year, there were 3,900 shacks, housing 13,600 people, registered in Surgut. But one has to keep in mind that two years ago there were almost twice as many shacks. Every year about 1,300 of these northern fire-traps disappear. In seven months of this year, 487 shacks were eliminated, with more than one and a half thousand people moving into new well-built homes.