

commodities. The woodworkers no longer remember the genuine "export saw timber" for which our timber-rich country used to be renowned. Instead of four-metre boards, which are in increased demand among our trading partners, they are supplying us with lumber of any other length except this. Our failure to satisfy the requirements of consumers in the West is costing us hundreds of thousands, indeed millions of roubles worth of foreign currency. Worse still, our timber exports are held in increasingly low regard!

Yes, we are still receiving a goodly number of claims for compensation from our foreign purchasers, even though there have been fewer of them recently. For the most part the claims are for deliveries of inferior lumber. Here, we are continually being let down by the Buiskii and Neiskii forest-based industrial enterprises of the "Kostromalesprom" Association, the Chaikovskii water transport depot of the Perm Territorial Production Association, and the lespromkhozy (timber enterprises) in the Tyumen and Tomsk oblasts.

The port customarily receives more than 80 percent of its timber in the green state, even though according to the State standard the woodworkers are obliged to supply us with only dry products. But they frequently fail to fulfill their obligations and we are forced to do the drying ourselves, using our own facilities. Unfortunately, the dockers only have the capacity to upgrade a fifth of the incoming timber. The two Finnish driers are completely worn out. We were at the point of making a start on the construction of a Soviet-designed SP-5KM assembly, but the manufacturing plant at Izhevsk is dragging its feet in supplying us with technical documentation and equipment. Nor can we hurry the machine