

independence, they would find a way out and would set in motion contracted prices and wholesaling levers. For the present, everything is in a state of flux. Indeed, more of the currency is being spent on purchases of consumer goods and it is only in the best event that this extends to logging equipment. Somehow, it doesn't run to the purchase of woodworking units. No wonder our sawn timber products are unended, uncured, unpreserved, etc. Meanwhile, potential revenue is going down the drain.

Look at the shocking figures on wood wastes in the "Vologdalesprom" Association: 30 per cent, and if you include woodworking, 50 per cent overall. The foresters have already estimated that if this situation continues, then by 2015 the Vologzhane will begin importing timber from other countries.

As before, the road to independence is thorny. Recent events at Minlesprom (USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry) bear striking witness to this. How is your everyday enterprise going to stand its ground when the sovereignty of the headquarters staff is being encroached upon? For how many years has our newspaper fought for the right of the ministry to do its own planning of timber shipments! It finally received this right during the current year... but not for long. In October USSR Gosplan (State Supply Agency) issued a decree stating that beginning in 1990, Gosplan's Department of Pulpwood and Wholesale Trade in Forest Products will plan the transportation of timber. Does this mean that the suppliers and the consumers of the timber will agree upon dates and volumes of deliveries, while the supply of freight cars will again be handled by an intermediary?

With us, "leadership" is frequently viewed as being merely the right to the lion's share of the income of subordinate enterprises. How, for instance, will the Mari Pulp and Paperboard Combine survive if all that is left for it is a quarter of the earned income, and of the amount realized from export sales... a mere one per cent?