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EXTRACTS FROM THE SOVIET PRESS ON USSR FORESTRY
AND FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

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TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

General Organization of the Timber Industry Administration

The new organizational structure of the industry's administration has been determined in accordance with the resolution passed by the executive organizations and with the USSR Ministry of Forestry decree No. 40 issued on May 12, 1988.

* * * * *

The general organizational structure of the timber industry calls for:

- a) the formation on the basis of existing enterprises, associations and organizations, of 40 Territorial Scientific-Production (Production) Associations; no less than 80% of the total volume of work throughout the industry would be carried out by these Associations (a list of the Associations follows below);
- b) the intensified integration of science and production and the inclusion of scientific-research, planning-design and technical organizations within the composition of the Territorial Associations; no less than 90% of the workers employed in the scientific sector of the industry are to be concentrated in them;
- c) a rise in the level of concentration of production;
- d) a 15% reduction in the total number of administrative agencies in the main tier;
- e) a general transition to a two-tiered system of administration as follows:

USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry -
Territorial Scientific-Production
(Production) Association, scientific
production association, production
association, enterprise, organization;

USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry -
Ministry of The Timber Industry of the Union
Republic, scientific-production association,
production association, enterprise,
organization;

f) the elimination as of June 1, 1988 of
the middle tier of administration including 21
All-Union Production Associations
("Arkhangel'sklesprom," "Vologdalesprom,"
"Karellesprom," "Kirovlesprom," "Komilesprom,"
"Kostromalesprom," "Permlesprom" "Sverdlesprom,"
"Dal'lesprom," "Irkutsklesprom,"
"Krasnoyarsklesprom," "Tomlesprom," "Tyumen'lesprom,"
"Soyuzlesdrevprom," "Soyuztsellyuloza,"
"Soyuzbumaga," "Zapadmebel'," "Sevzapmebel',"
"Tsentromebel'," "Yugmebel'," and "Soyuzlesremmash"),
four All-Union Associations ("Soyuzlesproekt,"
"Soyuzorglestekhmontazh," "Soyuzorgbumprom" and
"Soyuzlesstroy") and the transformation of the
"Soyuzlesurs" into the Main Administration for
Workers' Supplies and Subsidiary Farms.

* * * * *

The central apparatus will call for:

a) the elimination of three Main
Administrations for the direction of separate regions
and branches of industry, nine administrations and
three independent divisions;

b) the reinforcement of the leading functional administrations (scientific-technical, economic, production, planning and capital construction);

c) the formation of four main technological administrations for the following branches of the industry: logging and the timber drive; pulp, paper and silvichemicals production; furniture, plywood and wood board production; lumber production and woodworking;

d) the inclusion in the composition of the Equipment and Parts Administration of subdivisions of the Soyzglavkhimkomplekt, which previously were subordinate to the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply;

e) the establishing of i) Territorial Scientific-Production Associations in Moscow: "Tsentromebel'" and "Vostokmebel'" for the furniture industry and "Tsentrobumprom" for the pulp and paper industry: ii) of a Scientific Production Association for Forestry Machine-Building (NPOlesmash); iii) of a Territorial Production Association for the Installation and Setting up of Equipment ("Soyuzlesmontazh").

* * * * *

The USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry will have ten Deputy Ministers, including two First Deputy Ministers, and a 19-member Ministry Board.

* * * * *

The Main Technological Administrations will include: Logging and the Timber Float; Pulp, Paper and Silvichemicals Production; Furniture, Plywood and Wood Board Production; Lumber Production and Woodworking. The Main Forestry Administration and the Main Administration for External Economic Relations will be headed by Deputy Directors, the chiefs of these administrations.

The general administration plan will be formulated by July 1, 1988. During this period improvements will be made in the administrative structure of the Ministries of the Union Republics, the Main Administrations and the Associations.

The number of people employed in the administrative organizations will be reduced by 40% as compared to the reduction made in 1986.

* * * * *

Structure of the Administrative Organizations

1. Central Apparatus of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry

Main Scientific-Technical Administration
Main Economic Administration
Main Production Administration
Main Technological Administration for Logging and the Timber Float
Main Technological Administration for Pulp, Paper and Silvichemicals Production
Main Technological Administration for Furniture, Plywood and Wood Board Production
Main Technological Administration for Lumber Production and Woodworking
Main Forestry Administration

Main Administration for Planning and Capital
Construction
Main Administration for Direct Labour Enterprise
Construction
Main Administration for Material and Technical Supply
Main Administration for Supply and Delivery of Timber
and Wood Products
Main Administration for Timber Industry Machine
Building
Main Administration for External Economic Relations
Main Administration for Cadres and Social Development
Main Administration for Workers' Supplies and
Subsidiary Farms, Engineering and Power
Administration
Equipment and Parts Administration
Transportation Administration
Communications and Automation Development
Administration
Environmental Protection and Water Utilization
Administration
Labour Protection and Safety Administration
Business Administration
Economic Operations Administration.

The "Eksportles" All-Union External Trade
Association will operate within the Ministry
according to the profit and loss accounting
(khozraschet) system.

2. Directly Subordinate to the USSR Ministry of the
Timber Industry

a) Territorial Production Associations:

"Arkhangel'sklesprom"	"Novgorodlesprom"
"Amurlesprom"	"Omsklesprom"
"Bashlesprom"	"Primorsklesprom"
"Bratsk Timber Industry Complex"	

"Vologdalesprom"	"Sakhalinlesprom"
"Gor'kles"	"Sevzapmebel"
"Zabaykalles"	"Sverdlesprom"
"Irkutsklesprom"	"Soyuzlesmontazh"
"Kamchatkales"	"Tomlesprom"
"Karellesprom"	"Tyumen'lesprom"
"Kemerovoles"	"Ust-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex"
"Kirovlesprom"	"Udmurtles"
"Kostromalesprom"	"Chitales"
"Krasnoyarsklesprom"	"Khabarovsklesprom"
"Komilesprom"	"Yakutles".
"Lenles"	
"Murmanles"	

b) Territorial Scientific-Production
Associations:

"Tsentromebel'"
"Vostokmebel'"
"Tsentrobumprom".

c) Territorial Scientific Production
(Production) Associations in the Georgian
SSR, Moldavian SSR, Latvian SSR, and
Estonian SSR.

d) Scientific and Planning Organizations:

All-Union Scientific-Production Association
for the Timber Industry (VNPOlesprom);
Headquarters Organization - Central
Scientific Research Institute of
Mechanization and Power Engineering in the
Timber Industry (TsNIIME).

All-Union Red Banner Scientific Production Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (VNPObumprom); Headquarters Association - All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Pulp and Paper Industry (VNIIB).

All-Union Scientific Production Association for the Prefabricated Wooden Housing Construction Industry (Soyuznauchstandartdom); Headquarters Organization - "Gidrolesprom".

Scientific Production Association for the Wood Board and Match Industry (Nauchspichplitprom); Headquarters Organization - VNIIdrev

All-Union Scientific Production Association for the Sawmilling Industry (Soyuznauchdrevprom); Headquarters Organization - TsNIIMOD.

Scientific Production Association for Forest Machine Building

Leningrad Scientific Production Association for Plywood Production (Nauchfanprom): Headquarters Organization: TsNIIF

Central Design-Technological Office for Instrument Engineering and Pilot-Scale Production (TsPKTB s OP)

Main Information and Computer Centre (GIVTs)

e)

Scientific Research Institutes:

VNIPIEIllesprom (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Economy, Management, Production and Information in the Timber Industry)

TsNILKHi (Central Scientific Research and Planning Institute of the Wood Chemistry Industry)

TsNIIllesosplav (Central Scientific Research Institute for the Timber Drive)

Planning Institutes:

Giprolestrans (State Institute for the Planning of Logging, Rafting and Woodworking Enterprises and Lumber Transport)

Giprobum (State Institute for the Planning of Pulp and Paper Industry Enterprises)

Giprodev (State Design and Planning Institute for the Woodworking Industry)

Giprodevprom (State Institute for the Planning of Woodworking Industry Enterprises)

Mosgiprobumkhimprom (Moscow State Institute for the Planning of Pulp and Paper and Silvichemicals Enterprises)

Sibgirolesprom (Siberian State Institute for the Planning of Timber Industry Enterprises)

Sibgirobium (Siberian State Institute for
the Planning of Pulp and Paper Enterprises).

* * * * *

Editorial Comment:

The improvement in the organizational structure of the timber industry administration, the raising of the level of concentration of production, and the transition to a two-tiered system of administration constitute a component part of the measures by which the decisions passed in the June 1987 Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the CPSU calling for a radical restructuring of the management of the economy, will be brought to life.

All activity of the administrative organs under the new management conditions must centre on consolidating in every possible way the principles of full profit and loss accounting, self-financing and the subsequent realization of the statutes of the USSR Law on State Enterprises (Associations). By actively applying economic methods of management, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry has been called upon to: a) carry out an advanced scientific-technical and investment policy; b) increase the effectiveness of forest utilization, reproduction and protection; c) effect a more rapid social development within the industry; d) stabilize the work force; e) improve working and safety conditions. All this must be done in order to more fully satisfy the demands of the economy for timber and paper products, to increase the output of consumer goods and the provision of paid services to the population.

Consolidating the main and leading tier of production - The Territorial Scientific-Production (Production) Associations will make these agencies more directly concerned with the effective utilization of forest riches and the wide introduction of means of mechanization and automation of production, and waste-free technology. Operating on the principles of full profit and loss accounting, self-financing and self-administration, these Associations must: a) attain high outputs; b) arrange for scientific-research and planning and design developments; c) constantly improve the quality of production and introduce new products. Independent enterprises, production associations, scientific-research enterprises, planning and design enterprises, trade and other enterprises and associations located within the Oblast, Kray or Autonomous Republic, may join these Associations.

The functions of the leading Main Administrations within the Ministry have been determined. The Main Scientific and Technical Administration will be the sole centre controlling scientific and technical advances in the industry. The development of a strategy for inter-industry scientific research will be concentrated here and questions concerning production standardization and quality improvement will be examined here as well.

The Main Economic Administration will be primarily concerned with: a) carrying out complex economic projects in the industry; b) developing control figures and stable economic norms; c) carrying out economic analyses; d) preparing proposals for improving the organizational structure of the administration, labour organization and salaries; e) finances, bookkeeping, cheques and legal work.

The Main Production Administration will be concerned with the planning of state orders, development issues, specialization and cooperation and establishing inter-industry balances. It will also be in charge of overseeing the fulfillment of contracted supplies.

The Main Administration for Planning and Capital Construction will be in charge of carrying out an effective investment policy, of arranging for the technical retooling, reconstruction and expansion of existing mills, and of examining designs and estimates.

The main task of the Central Apparatus of the Ministry is to develop a strategy facilitating a continuous cycle of forest exploitation and to concentrate attention on qualitatively new methods of running an industry. Mistakes arising from the management style previously in effect involving excessive centralization, administrative dictates, a focussing on narrow department interests, regionalism, parasitism, bureaucratism and red tape must be eliminated. Every effort should be made to protect state interests and the environment and to ensure that all forest resources are utilized rationally.

The Central Apparatus of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry staff will be limited in size to 1,270.

Reorganizing the existing production structure and forming new subdivisions should not in any way degenerate into a process of one enterprise "swallowing up" another. What is required is an organic and rational merging of all types of resources and fixed capital into a single entity.

Care must be taken in forming the production units, the structure and administrative apparatuses of the enterprises and in the distribution and allocation of personnel. Flexible and business-like approaches to solving problems in the industrial and social spheres should be adopted from the very beginning. Concerted action on the part of the Party and trade union organizations and the councils of work collectives of the merged enterprises should play an important role in this area, in addition to the input provided by management personnel.

Perestroyka on the ministerial level should not be cut off from perestroyka at the enterprise level.

The transition to the new management system may face obstacles when it comes to overcoming conservative, antiquated attitudes favoured by managers and work collectives and the prevalent desire to stick with familiar approaches and methods, and to live and work according to the old ways. This is particularly important to bear in mind when confirming managers to new positions. In this connection, as is stressed in the Central Committee Theses for the XIX All-Union Party Conference, it is necessary to pass judgment uncompromisingly on any actions which serve to pervert the essence of the economic reform and which either directly or indirectly are undermining the principle of the Law of Enterprises.

There will be a 10% reduction in the numbers of functionaries, as a direct result of the improvement in the structure of the administrative organs. It is necessary to approach the releasing or relocation of experts with a lot of care and attention. A great deal of responsibility will be

placed on the "liquidating" /downsizing/ commissions. A number of the managers and experts relieved of their current positions should be assigned to the newly formed associations and enterprises and to those existing ones which are to be built up.

Transferring the enterprises and organizations to the newly-formed administrative organizations should be done in a clear and orderly way and all office records must be preserved. The restructuring process must not result in a reduction in the industry's production indicators.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

28 May 1988

Pages 1 & 2

(Slightly abridged)

"Krasnoyarsklesprom" Needs Better-Suited Logging Technology

The shift to new management conditions has forced us to reconsider many, apparently, irrefutable truths. This relates to the mechanization of logging work as well. Strange as it may seem, the introduction of multi-unit and multi-functional equipment at the felling site has, up the now, resulted in a negative economic effect. This is the result of the equipment's high cost, the low reliability factor, problems with spare parts and supplies, etc. These losses were previously covered by the state but now they have to be made up for by the enterprises themselves. Enterprises with a high percentage of manual labour are, not surprising, finding themselves in a better position.

On the other hand, the new technology offers a number of real advantages: it can free up workers occupied in heavy manual labour, reduce the incidence of on-the-job injury, raise labour productivity. There is one solution to this dilemma: we have to define precisely the optimum system of machinery that would result in the maximum reduction of losses.

Last year "Krasnoyarsklesprom" Association enterprises felled almost half of the total volume of timber with feller units and used chokerless tractors to skid 66% of the logs. Experts concluded that one LP-19 working in a complex with two LP-18s was equal to five LP-49 feller-skidders in volume of work done. At current prices the cost of the five feller-skidders would be 40,000 roubles more than the above-mentioned complex. The LP-49, of course, is highly productive. Thus, if it were made more reliable and the design improved it would justify itself for use in stands with a low long-log volume.

The situation with another feller-skidder, the VM-4A, is quite another story. It was designed for operations in stands of large pines where there is no viable undergrowth. Over the past 15 years stands of this type have practically disappeared in the Krasnoyarsk Kray: there is a surfeit of undergrowth in almost all the felling sites. As a result, the fines that have to be paid for destroying the undergrowth have risen correspondingly. Thus, it turns out that unproductive costs increase yet the take of commercial timber per hectare falls.

After numerous requests from this Association and from other associations as well, the Ministry has asked the USSR State Committee for Forestry (Goskomles) to permit the use of multi-unit machinery in felling sites covered in undergrowth.

As a result, the Krasnoyarsk Forestry Administration issued a letter on 23 March 1987 forbidding the use of the VM-4A in such sites. In its next letter, dated June 23, 1987, it clearly recommended replacing the feller-skidder unit with the LP-29 and LP-18.

The VM-4A has a substantial drawback - it doesn't clamp onto the tree that is being cut down: it just pushes against it with the felling mechanism. As a result, the butt ends are cracked and chipped which significantly lowers the value of the log. We carried out a check in the Pinchunga logging enterprise at the beginning of the year and found that half of the felled trees had cracks or chips. Five percent of the 1 to 111 grade assortments is lost when these butts are trimmed... The Siberian Scientific Research Institute of the Timber Industry analysed three logging enterprises; the Pinchunga and Manza, which use VM-4As, and the Inbakhinskiy which has LP-19s. It was found that the percentage of logs classified as IV-grade because of chips and cracks amounted to 15.4, 15.7 and 3 percent of the total volume, respectively. In connection with this, the "Krasnoyarsklesprom" Association loses approximately 150,000 cubic metres of roundwood annually. One must then add to this the unavoidable loss of lumber because of micro-cracks....

There is no need to explain why we need to sort the timber according to species. Sorting is particularly important in the enterprises forming part of the timber drive, where VM-4A units are prevalent. In order to sort the timber these enterprises would need additional equipment. But the LP-19, however, can both sort the logs and load them onto the timber transport vehicles.

Finally, the VM-4A can't operate in deep snow or on soft ground because of its design. It is also difficult to operate at night. The majority of the LP-19s in the "Krasnoyarsklesprom" Association, on the other hand, operate on a multi-shift schedule. Furthermore, by using the LP-19s to place the logs in bundles, the loggers are markedly increasing the labour productivity of the chokerless tractors and are preserving the undergrowth between the skidding trails. The mean-time-between-failures for the LP-19 is 40 engine-hours - much higher than the MTBF for the VM-4A.

Why have previous comparisons frequently favoured the VM-4A? This is because they were based on data obtained on operations in the Angara-region enterprises where there are better forest-growing and soil conditions. The data on the LP-19 and LP-18 units were taken from results in spruce-pine stands with weak soils. We only had to carry out some tests under equal conditions for the LP complex to reveal its superiority immediately. Thus, for example, when loggers from the Inbakhinskiy logging enterprise used LP-19 and LP-18 units in the logging sites instead of VM-4As they saved 23 kopecks per cubic metre of logged timber.

Local authorities have known this for a long time. Machinery maintenance engineers and logging enterprise directors are becoming more insistent in their demands that the VM-4As be replaced by LP-19s and LP-18s. The "Krasnoyarsklesprom" Association has asked the Ministry to do this on several occasions but no extra funds for the multi-unit machines have been allotted. In January of 1987 a commission made up of A.G. Yakunin, Chief of the Technical Administration of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry, A.A. Goncharov, Chief Design Engineer of

the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry, and L.I. Bauer, Chief Engineer of the Abakan Mechanical Plant, came to visit the Association. They became familiar with the actual state of affairs. Nevertheless, at the meeting that took place in the Ministry it was decided to continue to manufacture the VM-4A, while increasing its reliability and improving its ergonomics.

In this way the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and the "Soyuzlesremmash" Association have voted in favour of outmoded machinery. This doesn't put the Central Scientific Research Institute of Mechanization and Power Engineering in the Timber Industry in a good light: as the head scientific-research institute it simply has to bring progress to the industry, but instead of that it champions a useless model because of "sentimental attachments".

We shouldn't fail to include yet another bit of information in our analysis. The VM-4A models are used primarily in the "Krasnoyarsklesprom" and "Irkutsklesprom" associations. The Irkutsk workers, who have 140 of these machines, this year could refuse a part of the fund due to them. But, strange as it may seem, the Krasnoyarsk loggers who have 300 feller-skidder multi-unit machines, cannot do the same thing. The problem is that supplies of LP-19s have not increased since 1982. Each year we received a miserly twenty to thirty units. Given the severe shortage of manpower we can't refuse even a VM-4A. The problem of skidding technology is even worse: in 1981 we received 170 such machines but last year only 90. Funds for choker tractors were halved in the same period as well.

But is the situation really that complicated? Lets look at the figures again. Each year the Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk loggers receive 110 VM-4As. This is equivalent to 35 LP-19s and 80 LP-18s. Surely we should be able to come up with this small amount if we do some digging around the Ministry. The Abakan Mechanical Plant should simply be transferred over to the production of feller-bunchers. The same thing should be done at the Krasnoyarsk Timber Industry Machine Building Plant, which now produces grapple loaders. As has been mentioned before, it would be better to list the LP-18 among loading technology.

In any case the engineers cannot escape from the necessity of increasing production of manipulator-type multi-unit machines. Any delay here could result in a freeze in the further development of mechanized logging operations.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

12 May 1988

Page 2 (Slightly abridged)

Latvia: Reliable Supplies of Export Timber

The "Kursa" Timber Industry Production Association has exported more than 1,500 cubic metres of high-quality pine and birch timber since the beginning of the year. The Association intends to buy imported equipment with the foreign currency it has received in exchange.

Organizations that utilize timber in the Latvian USSR have also not been stinted. They received all the assortments arranged for in their

contracted agreements: sawlogs, plywood bolts, spruce pulpwood and others. Workers from the woodworking shops also met their planned targets - they issued 26,000 roubles worth of above-plan production.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

5 May 1988

Page 2 (Full text)

Living Conditions Improve in an Irkut Logging Enterprise

Twenty-six families in the settlement of Rechushka, where the Sosnovskiy logging enterprise is situated, have recently moved into new cottages. There is not a single other northern logging village in the Irkutsk Oblast that can compare with this record. The accomplishment is all the more impressive since Rechushka is located far away from the regional centre and is considered to be in the Siberian backwoods.

"The logging enterprise uses half a million roubles annually on construction," Yu. Podol'skiy, the Director of the logging enterprise, notes. "Furthermore, we never hire any outside construction workers, we do everything ourselves."

The logging village has a cultural centre, school, kindergarten, store and café.

The workers are particularly proud of their subsidiary farm. Fully 374 liters of milk, 30 kilogrammes of meat and approximately 26 kilogrammes of early vegetables from the greenhouse, are produced here annually per worker. No other logging

enterprise in the Irkutsk Oblast has enjoyed such good results. It's no wonder that over the past two years the logging enterprise has not had to advertise for staff.

The logging enterprise is continuing to expand its subsidiary farm: it is building a pig farm for 200 pigs; it has installed a refrigerator; and it is taking land over for pasturage and for hay fields.

Where does all this money come from? Over the course of the past few five-year plans the workers have had consistently good results and have been given bonuses. They have acquired a consumer goods production shop. In this way, the enterprise's social programme is being built on its own income.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

12 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

PULP AND PAPER

Winners of First Quarter Newsprint Production Competition

There was yet again no winner of the on-going "50,000 newspaper copies from one tonne of paper" production competition among the group of teams operating the country's most modern papermachines. Neither the No. 8 Kondopoga machine nor the No. 5 Balakhna machine had results in the first quarter of the year that would qualify them for the first place, according to the terms of the competition. In order to justify themselves, the Balakhna workers made reference to the problems they had with their raw materials. The truth is, however, that there were excellent results in the past even though there were raw material shortages then.

The winner in the third group of high-speed machines was the No. 9 Kondopoga machine, which, as is well known, is the only one of this group manufactured in Soviet enterprises and which has had the worst production results for a long time. The operators of this machine were awarded the "Lesnaya promyshlennost'" pennant and a 3,000 rouble bonus.

The No. 7 Kondopoga papermachine won the prize in the second class of machines. It was also awarded a "Lesnaya promyshlennost'" pennant and a monetary bonus.

The Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Trade Union for workers in the timber, pulp and paper and woodworking industry, the editorial board of "Lesnaya promyshlennost'" and the "Soyuzbumaga" Association recently noted in a joint decree that only eight of the eleven high-speed papermachines met

their plan targets set for the first quarter of the year. The operators of the No. 5 and No. 7 papermachines in the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine and the No. 12 machine in the Solikamsk Pulp and Paper Combine failed to meet the newsprint production plan targets.

As can be seen from the above, not a single team belonging to the "Soyuzbumaga" Association was among the winners. All the leading collectives were from the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine which recently became part of the "Karellesprom" Association.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
7 May 1988
Page 2 (Slightly abridged)

Output and Labour Productivity Increase at the Kotlas Pulp and Paper Combine

The Kotlas Pulp and Paper Combine is one of the largest pulp and paper enterprises in the country. It produces up to 404 million roubles worth of goods annually including sulphate bleached chemical pulp, viscose pulp, wood fibreboard, sanitary and hygienic products, printing paper, and much more.

The Kotlas workers have met their targets set for the first quarter of 1988. They produced 1,300,000 roubles worth of above-target goods and labour productivity is increasing. In the first three months of this year it has increased by 13.6% over the same base period for 1985. Salaries have increased correspondingly. Salaries are currently 11.1% higher than in 1985.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
21 May 1988
Page 1 (Excerpts)

Leningrad Oblast: Vyborg Reconstruction Project in
Difficulty

by V. Naydin, Director of the Vyborg Pulp and Paper Mill

The Vyborg Pulp and Paper Mill is not far away from the town of the same name and up until quite recently its existence was a well-kept secret. Today the entire country knows about our mill and about our neighbour, the Svetogorsk Pulp and Paper Combine, which was built by Soviet and Finnish experts. On June 15, 1983, the USSR Council of Ministers instructed the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR to expand and reconstruct the mill over the period of 1984-88, working in conjunction with Finnish companies. Technical and commercial negotiations were held in conjunction with this. One year later a contract for carrying out the construction work of the main plant and settlement was signed with the "Finn-Stroy" joint-stock company. The responsibilities of the various agencies involved, including the Ministry of the Timber Industry, the Ministry of Installation and Special Construction work, the Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions of the USSR, and other ministries and departments, were outlined in the most detailed fashion. The State Institute for the Planning of Pulp and Paper Enterprises (Giprobum) developed the design for the expansion and reconstruction of the Vyborg Pulp and Paper Mill. The main aim was to turn the mill into a modern specialized enterprise for manufacturing paper used in packaging food products and medications.

The construction and reconstruction work began at the end of 1984. How is the project getting on today? The actual dates of completion of the three complexes which are slated to begin operations

one after the other this year are still being negotiated. The first project comprises the first phase of the power facilities, all the environmental protection facilities and the paper mill. The second project includes the second phase of the boiler and the paper processing and printing plant. The third project comprises the pulp and yeast mills. All three projects are being built according to schedule and are nearing completion. Everything would appear to be in great shape. But the installation, which is being done by the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work, is significantly lagging behind the pace set by the Finnish builders. The main problem is the shortage of installers. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that in December of 1987 and January of this year there were only half the required number of installers at the construction site. The Oblast Party Committee and the local authorities intervened in order to make some headway. Alas, however, up to now the installers have been unable to catch up and looks like the projects will not be put on stream on time. In spite of all this, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry has set a plan for the mill to produce a large volume of production with high quality indicators in the second half of the 1988. As we have seen, these plans are not connected to reality. Our situation is made even more difficult by the fact that the main production facilities being built by the trusts within the Main Association of the Construction Industry in the Western Regions (administered by the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions of the USSR), will be in operation without a number of their auxiliary facilities (the repair shops, the control and measurement instruments and automation equipment shop, the transport administration, etc.).

The suppliers of Soviet-made equipment are frequently letting us down. We didn't receive the capacity equipment from the "Petrozavodskbummash" Scientific Production Association and the "Marshanskkhimmash" and "Tuymazykhimmash" Production Associations on time. All these enterprises come under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building (Minkhimmash). Our Ministry has withdrawn from control over supplies and has not been able to arrange with the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply for the supplies to be shifted over to the first quarter of this year. The Soyuzkhimkomplekt and Lenglavsnab associations have not allocated any additional equipment or goods. The State Design and Planning Institute for the Pulp and Paper Industry and the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry have taken ages to correct and approve the estimates of construction costs necessitated by the increased cost of the imported equipment.

A few words on the quality of the plan design. The State Design and Planning Institute for the Pulp and Paper Industry aided by the Administration of Design Expertise and the Ministry's estimates, has, in our opinion, inflated the technical-economic indicators by more than ten million roubles but reduced the number of workers as compared to their own estimates by 119 men.

The storehouse for high-moisture bleached hardwood chemical pulp has been designed without a heating system. The mill is located in the North-West.

I must also comment on the shortcomings in our contract work with foreign companies. I still don't understand the kind of situation where whenever

contracts with foreign companies are signed and carried out, the Ministry acts in the role of "customer", while the "buyer" is the foreign trade organization and the plant appears in the contract just as the "consigné". The agents in the technical negotiations are designers from the State Design and Planning Institute for the Pulp and Paper Industry. Often the customer, buyer and the Institute solve the principal questions without consulting the mill. This has a detrimental effect on the final results.

I think the mill has to be granted more of a free hand in contacting the foreign companies as well as in building and in contracting equipment supplies. It should organize a joint office on its premises for equipment servicing, spare parts and raw material supplies, and for assistance in selling our products abroad.

Now a few words on the future development of the mill. Having undertaken a course of reconstruction and expansion, we cannot stop just half-way. When the first phase of construction is complete only 50% of our chemical pulp will be used to make paper. The other half of the pulp will be sent to other enterprises as a semi-finished product. I think we should plan a second paper machine in the second construction phase and expand the paper processing facilities. We should arrange for wallpaper production, expand the range of lable-packaging and silicon-treated paper, sticky material and consumer goods, which were "forgotten" in the first phase, produced.

I should mention that the builders and designers, when putting up the first phase, included all the prerequisites for further development: there is room to expand the power plant and environmental

protection facilities; the main services have a branched structure and, therefore, the buildings and facilities can be added on to. The construction of bases for the USSR Ministry for Construction in the North-Western Regions and the USSR Ministry for Installation and Special Construction Work, is almost finished. Without real help from the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and other ministries and departments, the construction project will continue to skid along as before and the project will remain just halfway complete.

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21 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

New Wood Fibreboard Technology Pushed to the Sidelines

Scientists from the Leningrad Technological Institute of the Pulp and Paper Industry came up with a promising development four years ago, which, unfortunately, has been ignored by the industry. Time is passing by and it seems more than likely that we will soon have to buy this original technology abroad with foreign currency. This sort of thing has happened before.

Wood fibreboard production is far from perfect. There are technical inadequacies as well as economic problems. The problem is that during the production process a part of the glue substances, mixed in with the water, are removed from the pulp and end up in the enterprise's effluent. Sanitary norms for phenol and formaldehyde content in industrial wastes are very stringent, and it is very difficult for the enterprise to observe them. Furthermore, certain amounts of a free, unreactivated tar are left in the boards themselves.

Scientists from the Technical Institute, headed by Professor O.A. Terent'ev, Doctor of Technical Sciences, set out to improve the technology. They were looking for substances which would retain the glue mixture more securely in the pulp and which would also be harmless to the environment.

Their long and difficult search was crowned with success. At first glance their solution would appear to be rather unexpected. Apparently, the toxicity of the effluent is reduced by adding peat. Peat contains humic acid which makes the tar settle onto the pulp fibres more fully and evenly, and in the effluent. The addition of peat has other advantages: the board-hardening process is speeded up significantly; the boards are stronger and the pleasant brown colouring makes them look more attractive; there is no unpleasant smell. What is particularly important is that the addition of peat has made it possible to replace up to 15% of the initial wood pulp use.

The new technology was successfully tested at the Grigishkes mill in Lithuania. All its advantages were demonstrated convincingly. Economists believe that the application of peat in board production throughout the country will make it possible to save more than half a million cubic metres of timber, or approximately seven million roubles annually.

The scientists' discovery was designated an official invention. Its innovative features were recognized abroad: the scientists obtained patents in the USA, Sweden and Finland. Last year the technology was demonstrated at the Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR and was highly rated: the designers were awarded exhibition medals.

"We are far from being fully satisfied", G.T. Nesterchuk, Candidate of Chemistry, one of the inventors of the new technology, commented disappointedly. "The most important thing has not been done: the development has not been introduced into production and it is still unclear what the future holds for its use. The problem is that the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry's Technical Department is in charge of introducing the new method. A.I. Shadskiy, the Chief Technologist in the Department, decided to set up a special commission for the official acceptance of the method. I know you don't always get what you want right away but that was three years ago and still no commission has been set up."

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21 May 1988

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USSR

FORESTRY

SPRING PLANTING OPERATIONS

Leningrad Oblast

Planting operations began in the southern regions of the Leningrad Oblast in April and reforestation projects have been in full swing since May 6. The forestry and logging enterprises in the Leningrad Forestry Production Association made all the necessary preparations for the spring planting in good time. They repaired the equipment and brought in the planting stock.

Workers from the forest protection services, loggers and pensioners are all out lending the forestry workers a hand.

This year 5,600 hectares of forest are to be planted. Nearly 5,000 hectares are to be completed during the spring. Operations are advancing almost twice as fast this year than last. Five hundred hectares have been planted already.

Planting operations are to be completed by June 5.

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19 May 1988

Page 1 (Slightly abridged)

Karelia

The comprehensive logging enterprises falling under the jurisdiction of the "Karellesprom" Association have undertaken to carry out their reforestation programme in twenty days during the best planting weather.

The logging camps and forestries in the Olonets comprehensive logging enterprises transported equipment and approximately 300 workers to the pine and spruce planting areas just after the snow had melted in the forest and the earth had barely thawed. Both foresters and loggers were involved since logging volumes were sharply reduced in May because of the bad road conditions. The planting operations are conducted during all the daylight hours in order to reduce the overall time needed for the campaign. In certain forestries the workers are brought to temporary camps for extended shifts. The planting stock is supplied on a continuous basis.

The foresters are keeping strict control over the planting work. Fully 1,400 hectares of felled areas will be replanted in the logging enterprises and efforts will be made to facilitate natural regeneration on 750 hectares.

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28 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

Ukrainian SSR

It has been a long time since Ukrainian foresters have enjoyed such a lovely spring.

A. Shuplik, the Chief Engineer of the Reforestation Administration of the Ukrainian SSR's Ministry of Forestry, noted that "this fine spring has established the tone of the entire operation".

Ukrainian foresters plan to complete most of their planting operations in the first few days after the onset of spring.

The local nurseries will put 2.5 million guelder rose seedlings and saplings, 7.3 million roses, 1.5 million chokeberries, 1.3 million currants and 2 million sea buckthorn saplings up for sale.

Trade in fruit tree saplings including apples, plums, cherries, wild cherries, Myrobalan plums (Prunus divaricata Led.) and pears is also going well. A total of 8 million fruit tree saplings will be sold. In addition to this, two million walnut tree saplings have been cultivated for sale.

The Ukrainian SSR already has several nurseries that have instituted a partial profit and loss accounting system. This year twenty more will be added to this list. The profit and loss accounting system, which was introduced to the enterprises last year, has aroused real enthusiasm. People working under this system realize that this type of nursery is what is required today.

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1 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

Ukrainian SSR

It has been a long time since Ukrainian foresters have enjoyed such a lovely spring.

Kalmyk ASSR

The foresters of the Kalmyk ASSR are penetrating further and further into the steppe to plant protective forest strips around the pasture lands and reinforce the soils. Workers from the Komsomol'skiy and Yashkul' reclamative afforestation stations have to travel more than 100 kilometres to reach their sections. The reclamative afforestation station decided that there was no point transporting the workers over such distances every day. The Director of the Yashkul' reclamative afforestation station, I. Rezvushkin, took the initiative to obtain some trailers.

Now a real shift-camp operation is underway at the planting sites. The foresters come to live and work near the sections for several days at a time, thus losing no time in travelling.

B.M. Khukhachiev, acting Deputy Minister of Forestry of the Kamyk ASSR, noted that "workers from the two reclamative afforestation stations planted young forests on an area of 2,305 hectares and this is almost half of this spring's target. The temporary camp method has made it possible to make better use of our manpower and to reduce the period of operations which is particularly important during forestry planting operations."

Kalmyk foresters have already completed their campaign, planting young forests on 5,672 hectares. The temporary camp method has been approved by the experts. However, a very basic problem is preventing wider application of the method - the lack of trailers in the Kalmyk ASSR's forestry enterprises. The workers who come to the temporary camps have nowhere to live. One hopes that this

problem will be solved by next spring and that the method will play an important role in the planting campaign.

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5 May 1988

Page 1 (Slightly
abridged)

Mordva ASSR

The spring planting season is drawing to a close in the Mordva ASSR. Plantings have been established on more than 4,450 hectares of state forest lands and on 640 hectares of ravines and gullies. The foresters have set up field shelterbelts on 300 hectares. In what way has spring in the Mordva ASSR been unusual this year?

"The family-contract system is being tested in two of our forestry enterprises, the Chamzinka and Bereznikovskiy enterprises", A.K. Nifatova, Chief of the Reforestation Division of the Mordva ASSR Ministry of Forestry, tells us. "It is still too early to speak of the final results, but already today we can say that the quality of the planting work has improved as a result of the family-contract system."

Workers from the Bereznikovskiy enterprise are applying the family-contract system in the nursery. The monthly salary is paid in advance. At the end of the season, after the results have been

determined, the members of each team are given bonuses for above-plan cultivation figures and for seedling quality. The same system is in operation at the planting sites where the team is responsible not just for fulfilling the agreed-upon plan for the area of planting, but for ensuring a good survival rate.

The Mordva ASSR Ministry of Forestry is pleased with the initial results of the experiment. Given the severe shortage of manpower during the spring, the contract system has really done a great deal to help the foresters.

"Lesnaya promyshlennost'" will provide detailed information on the final results of the Mordva planting season later on and will investigate the "pluses" of the new system.

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5 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

Tatar ASSR

In a few days Sabinskiy foresters in the Tatar ASSR will complete their spring programme - planting young forests on an area of 325 hectares of state forest land and establishing stands on almost 200 hectares of ravines and gullies.

"We had a long and capricious spring," Zufar Amerkhanov, chief forester of the Sabinskiy logging enterprise, tells us. "This stopped us from getting all the machinery out on time and we were limited in our choice of areas to plant. But now work is in full swing."

The leading forestries, the Korsinskoe and Sababashskoe, are now working on their last few hectares. The main pieces of equipment are now distributed over those areas where the soil has just thawed. Teams from the Leninskoe and Meshsbashskoe forestries, which plan to establish more than 10 hectares of plantations this spring and to plant large areas of ravines and gullies, are well-placed for conducting their planting operations. Additional equipment had to be supplied so that the work could be done in the most conducive period. There were only just enough machines to go around. This was particularly true of the Leninskoe forestry.

"As soon as planting is completed in one area and the equipment is freed up, we send it off to cutcover areas further afield", Amerkhanov notes. "The teams do everything by hand in places where the equipment can't get to."

The teams in the Sabinskiy logging enterprise even plant the trees by hand. On certain days from 40 to 50 workers go out to the plots to fill in the new stands. The local school children are eager to help as well: the spring planting season helps them develop a mature attitude towards the forest and nature.

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12 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

Krasnoyarsk Kray

Officials in the Krasnoyarsk Forestry Administration are worried because the winter has dragged on for so long. "The snow has still not melted in the taiga, the roads are so bad that we can't reach the planting sites"

This is all true. Foresters in the Bol'shaya Murta forestry enterprise, however, aren't complaining about the weather. They are conducting their seasonal operations according to schedule. They had planted more than 100 hectares of forest by the middle of May.

The basis for this success is the application of mechanized planting methods and of such advanced work methods as team contracts and temporary shift camps. Let's have a look, for example, at the Bol'shaya Murta forestry, headed by A. Pankratov. Two DT-75 tractors equipped with KRP-2.5 wedges, are sent to clean the plots. The area is then ploughed with a PKL-70 plough, and an MLU-1 planting machine completes the job. The contracted team led by V. Davydov, is moving along quickly. It has already planted three-year-old larch saplings on 40 hectares, which amounts to one-third of the planned target. We shouldn't forget to mention the excellent quality of the overall operation, which has become a tradition for the Bol'shaya Murta teams. It is no accident that the survival rates for the young trees here are among the best throughout the entire Krasnoyarsk Kray.

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Page 1 (Full text)

UST'-ILIMSK FORESTERS LAUNCH LARGE-SCALE
GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY PROJECT

Greenhouses for growing pine, Siberian nut pine and larch seedlings are now in operation in all nine comprehensive forestry enterprises in the "Ust-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex". The Ust'-Ilimsk foresters intend to raise approximately twenty million seedlings in the greenhouses over this year. This will be enough planting stock to carry out reforestation work on the felled sections.

"The seeds have already been planted in the greenhouses", N. Murtazin, Chief of the Reforestation Division of the Timber Industry Complex, notes. "We are now focussing our attention on the taiga plots where just over 6,000 hectares are to be seeded and planted. The Educhanka, Nizhne-Rechinskiy and Tushama comprehensive logging enterprises were the first to start this phase of operations."

At the same time, workers are setting up two large nurseries which will cover more than 70 hectares. Saplings will be sent from here to other enterprises in the Angara region.

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19 May 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

Komi Foresters Need Help to Keep on Track

Northern foresters were not pleased with the first half of May: cold spells alternated with brief thaws.

on for so long. The snow has still not melted in the taiga. The roads are so bad that we can't reach the planting sites

"The soil hasn't yet thawed to the required depth in the felling sites on the permafrost", A. Shabalin, Director of the Syktyvdinskiy forestry enterprise, complains. "Nevertheless, we recently began to seed pine and spruce in selected areas where the soil had warmed up sufficiently."

With this goal in mind, the foresters have started to dig up the planting stock. The entire forestry enterprise has been rounded up to do this. Other enterprises in the Komi ASSR have started their planting operations. The difficulties of the spring campaign have been exacerbated by the severe shortage of conifer seeds. The three preceding poor harvest years have left their trace. The Syktyvdinskiy forestry enterprise's own stocks of pine and spruce seeds are low - just 40 kilogrammes. They need 600 kilogrammes.

The shortage of seeds has been made up for by long-term storage seeds shipped here from the Moscow Oblast. All the same, this is not quite enough. The foresters hope that the plantings will compensate for the reduction in the seeded area. The situation in the other enterprises run by the Ministry of Forestry of the Komi ASSR is also unsettling. They have also been forced to cover the planned seeding targets by additional plantings of pine, spruce, Siberian nut pine and larch. There is enough planting stock for this to be done - 80 million seedlings.

The Syktyvkar, Ukhta and Udor forestry enterprises are helping the Northern enterprises by providing planting stock.

Foresters in the Syktyvkar forestry enterprises are not only worrying about the current spring season but are concerned about next year as

well. In order to effect a significant increase in the volumes of planting stock grown, they have acquired a metal greenhouse. They can cultivate from seven to eight million seedlings here.

The Northern foresters are to carry out reforestation work on 24,000 hectares of felled areas this spring. The RSFSR Ministry of Forestry's lack of attention to their needs, however, is discouraging them.

V. Belinskiy, Chief of the Reforestation Division of the Komi ASSR's Ministry of Forestry, commented that "the Komi foresters need T-16 tractors and mounted tractor units. RSFSR Ministry of Forestry services, however, have forgotten about their needs: we have not been provided with a single unit of the required technology".

The Komi enterprises also find themselves in a difficult situation because of the fuel shortage. The funds allotted for gasoline are significantly lower than the rated amounts, comprising just 60% of the required amount. The Northerners have frequently approached the RSFSR Ministry for funds for fuel but have consistently been told - "be patient, we'll get you some".

When will they get it? In the third quarter? To paraphrase: we can do the job only if we have the tools.

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19 May 1988

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Oak Grove Protected in the Kuybyshev Oblast

A section of forest in the Alekseevo region of the Kuybyshev Oblast, where age-old oaks form a kind of oasis in the stifling steppe, has been taken under state protection. Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy loved to spend time in this small oak grove which covers approximately four hectares. The novelist had bought some land not far from here and used to visit often over the course of five years. The Gavrilov Rural Council and the local "Luch Il'icha" collective farm have become responsible for the oak grove.

The Kuybyshev Oblast Council of Peoples' Deputies has designated "natural monuments" in 39 areas. The administration of the subsidiary farm in the "Ekran" plant, for example, will look after the unique sulphur spring located nearby. Students from the No. 1 High School in Syzran' are carefully looking after the gigantic black poplar, which is so wide it takes three men to encompass it with arms outstretched, and which the future writer Aleksey Tolstoy used to admire when he was a student at the local school.

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12 May 1988

Page 4 (Full text)

Oak Grove Protected in the Kuybyshev Oblast

A section of forest in the Aleksandrovsk region of the Kuybyshev Oblast, where oak groves form a kind of oasis in the steppes, has been taken under state protection. Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy loved to spend time in this small oak grove which covers approximately four hectares. The novelist had bought some land not far from here and used to visit often over the course of five years. The novelist's Rural Council and the local "kuch 11'ich" collective farm have become responsible for the oak grove.

The Kuybyshev Oblast Council of Peoples' Deputies has designated "natural monuments" in various areas. The administration of the subsidiary farm in the "kuch 11'ich", for example, will look after the unique sulphur spring located nearby. Students from the No. 1 High School in Syzran are carefully looking after the primitive black poplar, which is so wide it takes three men to embrace it with arms outstretched, and which the future writer, Alexander Pushkin, used to admire when he was a student at the local school. The Ministry of Education and Science has decided to protect the poplar.

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 In this and in the next paragraph to see if we have the tools.

Leonyayevskiy
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