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

OCTOBER - 1987

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TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Expansion of the Krivoye Comprehensive Logging Enterprise

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The settlement of Krivoye is being renovated. Two new residential buildings, built according to the profit- and loss-accounting system and a sports complex, have just been introduced into operation. The streets are now being asphalted. All this makes it easier to build up a solid workforce and facilitates successful production results.

Lesnaya Provyehennost'
 1 October 1987
 Page 1 (Full text)

Klaypada: Making Use of Wood Wastes

The Klaypada Wood Products Combine's fuel briquette complex has reached its design capacity ahead of schedule.

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Expansion of the Krivetskiy Comprehensive Logging Enterprise

The Krivetskiy comprehensive logging enterprise is located far beyond Lake Onega. It is very hard to get to. Despite its remote location, life is moving on apace. The enterprise's own repair and construction shop has installed a new VPSch-6 chipper and is building an Angara-style sawmill.

The loose float on the Koloda river has been stopped. After the logging roads of two logging camps are joined, all the timber will be sent in long-log form to the central mechanized lower landing where it will be cut into assortments much more cheaply and easily.

The settlement of Krivtsy is being renovated. Two new residential buildings, built according to the profit- and loss-accounting system and a sports complex, have just been introduced into operation. The streets are now being asphalted. All this makes it easier to build up a solid workforce and facilitates successful production results.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

1 October 1987

Page 1 (Full text)

Klaypeda: Making Use of Wood Wastes

The Klaypeda Wood Products Combine's fuel briquette complex has reached its design capacity ahead of schedule.

The briquettes are made out of industrial waste wood shavings. Innovators at the combine use wood dust to dry the shavings before they are ground up. Previously, several tonnes of wood dust were dumped every day. Continuing their search for economical ways of utilizing wood, experts at the enterprise in collaboration with scientists from the Leningrad Academy of Timber Technology are developing a technology for chemically processing hardwood bark. The treated bark can be used as a good-quality fertilizer in the agricultural sector.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

October 1, 1987

Page 2 (Full text)

Water Filtered by ... Sawdust*

Construction of a Soviet-Finnish experimental drainage system has begun near Leningrad.

Soviet and Finnish land reclamation specialists are conducting joint research on the most effective filtering material for backfilling drainage trenches, and it will quite likely be crushed wood, or, more plainly, common sawdust ...

The first Soviet-Finnish experimental drainage system in the USSR is under construction 34 kilometres south of Leningrad. During the next several years, our own specialists and those from Finland will study the properties of different filtering materials and conduct research and experiments on a 70-hectare area.

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

How will waste wood behave underground? How promising is this light material as a drainage filter? The answers to these and many other questions are of immense interest to land reclamation experts of both countries.

Together with N.N. Koval'chuk, Director, Northern Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation, and Jussi Saavalainen, Managing Director of the Finnish Enclosed Drainage Centre Company, we approached an operating drain-laying machine. A capron (synthetic fibre) drainage hose was laid in the trench in an even ribbon, while a stream of sawdust poured from above. A layer twenty centimetres thick, the experts believe, is quite enough for moisture to drain freely.

"Why did they pick this material"? I asked Nikolai Nikolaevich with interest.

"Before, we used to use sand in heavy soils. You see, a filter has to meet a whole set of requirements: it must be highly permeable, easy to transport and effective from an engineering standpoint in construction. Sand has all this going for it, but it's expensive, up to 15 roubles a cubic metre. So in both the USSR and Finland, engineers are looking for a sand substitute that's just as good."

Ju. Saavalainen joined our conversation:

"We began experiments on using chips and sawdust as backfill a long time ago. On the whole, our results were encouraging. But we weren't able to find such a large experimental site in Finland, where land is privately owned. And only after signing an agreement to build an experimental system near Leningrad will we do our tests more thoroughly."

The Finnish side is keenly interested in using waste wood. Chips and sawdust will put an end to the expensive, heavy filters that engineers have experienced in sand, gravel and synthetic materials. Finnish farmers are eagerly anticipating chipping machinery that will allow them to convert wood directly on the spot.

... Alongside a sandpile rises a huge mountain of chips delivered here specially from the Gatchina Furniture Plant for the Soviet-Finnish research. A cubic metre, or more exactly a compact cubic metre, of this material is not cheap either, costing from 9 to 12 roubles. But then these are the so-called quality chips, while chips of any kind are suitable for backfill. We need only introduce more and better chippers so that we can make 100% use of the timber and brushwood left after forest improvement work.

Our newspaper has already written about the hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of wood that is destroyed, and we would recall that in Leningrad Oblast alone, workers every year destroy from 300,000 to half a million cubic metres of wood cleared from forest tracts after improvement operations. Now, a real opportunity has appeared for using this "worthless" timber to meet the needs of land reclamation specialists themselves.

"Wood conversion by land improvement engineers is highly important," said Mr. Kovalchuk. "Granted, right now we don't have enough reliable or efficient chipping equipment. But the authorities are already taking steps in this direction, and that means we'll soon be able to use the wood for our own needs."

The merits of wood chips or sawdust have yet to be proven. Investigators will have to test the most widely diverse drainage alternatives at the "Zaitsevo" experimental site over the next three to five years. Systematic observations will cover groundwater levels, drainage runoff, soil moisture, soil freezing and thawing depths, and so on. Despite the fairly lengthy research process, however, both Soviet and Finnish land improvement experts are expecting a great deal from the new filtering material. According to even the roughest estimates, sawdust can bring a major annual return. We shall save thousands of cubic metres of sand, and, most importantly, improve drainage systems, which will naturally make for better agricultural crop yields.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
10 October 1987
Page 1 (Full text)

Maymaksa, Archangel Oblast: Housing Construction Boom

A 225-unit apartment block has just been opened in the settlement attached to the No. 1 Sawmill and Woodworking Combine. This is the second nine-storey block built for the sawmill workers and envisaged in the development plan for the micro-region.

Just two decades ago Maymaksa was a remote outlying district of Archangel. It had wooden houses without any modern conveniences, dark plank roads and sidewalks. The micro-region now has an asphalted highway with a streetcar running down the middle. A cinema, shops and housing facilities have been built over recent years. The builders in Maymaksa are planning to put up three ten-storey apartment blocks and a children's care centre in the next few years.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
6 October 1987
Page 3 (Full text)

Wanted for a Health Centre: One Steamship*

A ship a little out of the ordinary - a navigating health centre - has returned to the Tomsk River Port berths after a month's cruise. Under contract with the Tomsk Timber Industry Association a doctor/student team worked in the remote forest settlements of the most northerly enterprise in the Association: the Kargasok Forest Industry Combine. During its tour of duty, the team gave the inhabitants routine examinations; provided public outpatient services; assisted local medical personnel with advice and methods training; held health education classes; and served in the public health clinic.

Almost twenty highly skilled doctors, postgraduates and students worked as team members, covering about three thousand kilometres on the Ob', Vasyugan and Tym' Rivers and their tributaries. The team registered about fifteen hundred people on clinical records. All told, over seven thousand individuals came to the health centre.

Despite the long years that the shipborne facility has been in service, and the high prestige

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

enjoyed by this new mode of care for residents of remote taiga settlements, we do have a number of unresolved problems. A guard ship's limited area precludes the necessary medical quarters, if only a small operating room, clinical and biochemical laboratories and a diagnostic unit. Expanding the centre's usable area would allow us to sell over-the-counter drugs, health care items, eyeglasses, and so on.

The draft document entitled Main Directions in Restructuring Public Health Care suggests feasible ways of solving this problem: "Authorities must apply more widely the principle whereby several enterprises and organizations pool their resources to create a material base for a health care establishments". Would it really be beyond the capabilities of such a large association as the Tomlesprom to cooperate with river transport, oil industry and land reclamation agencies and assume the cost of building a new ship for the floating health centre?

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

6 October 1987

Page 3 (Full text)

Alcoholism Decreases in the Forest Sector

Letter to the Editor

"We at the Kashira Experimental Paperboard and Paper Products Mill apply the following system to combat drunkenners: members of the anti-alcohol commission go to the liquor store and talk to the habitués on the brink of disaster. Is this unusual? We have to adopt extreme measures in the anti-alcohol campaign!"

We apply administrative measures as well. Maria A. Sukhova, for example, a storeroom worker, used to be employed here. We all knew of her weakness for spirits. She showed up at work drunk and was punished. The second time, when she was found to be drunk early in the morning, we sent her for an obligatory course of treatment. She came back from that but then, for a third time, she drank too much. We had to fire her. It was too bad since she had just one month to go before she could go on pension. But there was no other choice: neither measures nor threats helped.

"This was last summer. Since then we have had no similar incidents. We have sent three employees to the detoxification clinics. Our main task is to get rid of drunkenness in daily life."

.....

Editorial comment

If we look at the statistics, the situation isn't too threatening: the incidence of absenteeism and of registration in the detoxification clinics is on the decline.

However, if we examine the rosy accounts supplied by the local authorities to the Trade Union Central Committee, and do some basic arithmetic with the data, this happy picture vanishes in a moment.

Judge for yourself. The percentage of enterprises in our industry which have set up anti-alcohol groups, is almost the same as the percentage throughout the country as a whole. But

the number of members is less than half as many. It turns out that the groups have been set up solely on paper. They have just a few members and these are generally pensioners. Tens of thousands of workers are employed in our enterprises in Karelia, yet less than 1% of them are actively involved in the fight against alcoholism.

If only this was really an active fight! Last year only 15% of the cases of absenteeism (due to alcohol abuse) throughout the industry were actually investigated by the commissions. Those who showed up drunk at work were much less lucky: only one out of three in such cases managed to escape punishment! Only a very few had to pay fines. Only 16% of these champions of illegal time off were shifted temporarily to lower-paid positions.

Not even all of them had their bonuses reduced! Yet bonuses are designed as a reward for particularly good work. It would be fun to know what excellent services these absentee workers are providing!

Incidences of ignoring transgressions can be uncovered in practically all our enterprises. What does this mean? It means that our comrades' courts, anti-alcohol commissions and labour organizations are adopting a position of passive observation and are waiting until after the fact to take action. They simply don't understand that it is necessary to take preventative action.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

October 1, 1987

Page 3 (Abridged)

PULP AND PAPER

Saratov Wallpaper Producers Enter Production Competition

Workers at the Saratov Wallpaper and Paperboard Mill approve of the Tula workers' initiative in establishing a competition among wallpaper producers. We recognize that this is an excellent opportunity to learn from our competitors and to share our own knowledge and experience.

Our production indicators so far this year are excellent. We are currently breaking in a new shop slated to produce an additional 20 million standard sheets of wallpaper annually.

Workers in our mill are concentrating their efforts on expanding our range of products. We have begun to produce wallpaper with nursery designs and have produced an experimental lot of moisture-resistant wood imitation paper: in other words, we are introducing products that are in the greatest demand. We are increasing production of corrugated wallpapers and embossed imitation silk paper. Over the first six months of the year we have introduced 28 new designs.

We still have a few complaints to raise with our suppliers. The Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine and the Lyaskelya Pulp and Paper Mill often supply creased paper with damaged edges and a high moisture-content. This is unfortunate as the quality of the finished product depends to a great extent on the quality of the paper-base used.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

17 October 1987

Page 1 (Abridged)

Deterioration in Viscose Pulp at the Amur Pulp and Paperboard Combine*

Amur viscose pulp bears the State quality seal, a fact that could begin a good story telling us that the Amur workers are the only ones to win the badge of honour among the viscose manufacturers. What we'll talk about, though, is the opposite. Subcontracting plants are saying it; Amur viscose pulp quality will not stand up to any kind of criticism.

"Just read this" - and a specialist acquaintance handed me a bulky document file.

I plunged into the papers, official correspondence among deputy ministers of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry and the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR, the Deputy Chairman of the State Standards Committee (Council of Ministers, USSR), the chiefs of All-Union associations and directors of enterprises and scientific research institutes.

So what's the problem?

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

First, let's go back about fifteen years. At that time, workers at the Krasnoyarsk Khimvolokno (Chemical Fibre) Industrial Association went up in the world, dramatically increasing their output. Those were the years when the Krasnoyarsk workers held a solid lead in industry competition among allied enterprises. They had something to be proud of: the lowest basic raw resources and materials consumption rates and the least waste, with a concurrent sharp rise in textile yarn-making speed. The yarn that they turned out almost invariably merited the quality seal and first-grade stamp. The Krasnoyarsk chemical workers' output exceeded the textile industries' capacities by almost a third. They were helped to work in this way by their subcontracting plants - the workers of the Amur Pulp and Paperboard Combine, who delivered excellent-quality, i.e., Grade I, viscose sulfite pulp.

It would seem that such collaboration should have only strengthened with every passing year. Instead, this is what happened. Beginning in 1979, the Krasnoyarsk workers suddenly began receiving Grade II, and from 1980 Grade III, pulp, in ever-increasing quantities. To make my point, I shall quote a few telling figures. In 1976 the Krasnoyarsk chemical workers received 99.25 percent Grade I pulp and only hundredths of a percent of Grade II pulp. By as early as 1983, however, the picture had gone the other way: the percentages for first and second grades were 8.1 and 83.1 respectively, and on top of this, Grade III pulp had appeared in the amount of 8.8 percent.

In 1984 the authorities established for the Amur Pulp and Paperboard Combine a new production program, nowhere scheduling the manufacture of

Grade I pulp, an astonishing slide in less than ten years from the highest achievements to the lowest quality level. In the chemical industry, first-grade textile yarn output fell, while raw resources and materials losses, the numbers of yarn winders, and key personnel turnover all rose steeply.

Now for the story's technical side. Viscose sulfite pulp grades differ from one another in the content of their main component: alpha cellulose. The first grade used to contain not less than 93 percent alpha cellulose; second grade, 92 percent, and third grade, 90 percent. Third grade, incidentally, is in chemists' opinion not at all suitable for producing viscose textile yarn.

Since January first last year, pulp classification by grades has no longer been valid, as authorities have now developed a new GOST (All-Union State Standard) defining superior, first- and second-grade pulp output. The names, of course, are neither here nor there. Just one thing amazes us: the new GOST has lowered the requirements for the general quality level of viscose pulp. Today, the superior pulp grade contains 0.5 percent less of its basic component. This means that more resins, fats and mineral impurities have remained in the pulp, giving rise to the voluminous and as yet, I think, incomplete, correspondence among executives in the two ministries.

The chemical people write: "Processing pulp with 92.5 percent alpha cellulose impairs textile yarn quality and increases the consumption of carbon disulfide, pulp and scarce caustic soda. Production costs have risen by an average of 41 roubles 87 kopecks for each tonne of yarn..."

Former Deputy Minister of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry, G.F. Pronin, answered: "At present, only first- and second-grade pulp is being manufactured. This situation arose because Ministry of the Chemical Industry enterprises refused to certify superior grade pulp, despite the fact that GOST approved the superior quality category by mutual consent of both parties. The refusal to certify has deprived the Ministry at the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR enterprises of their incentive for producing superior quality output ..."

The chemists on the other hand believe that the Grade I pulp manufactured by the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Combine must become the analogue of Soviet-made pulp. Its quality is high, and it is in no way inferior to non-USSR analogues".

Nor is the USSR State Standards Committee standing apart from the fray: "... We consider a further increase in the alpha cellulose content to 93 percent to be economically unfeasible, since it considerably reduces finished output yield in the case of both the supplier and the consumer without significantly affecting viscose fibre quality..." (I would note that western companies consider it profitable to raise the alpha cellulose content even as far as 94 percent).

The Ministry of the Chemical Industry does not agree with the State Standards Committee's conclusion. And so forth and so on ...

I do not presume to judge who is innocent and who is guilty in this real-life story. Here the experts should have the last word. As I see it, however, the correspondence has highlighted a number of interesting questions.

As we all know, hundreds and hundreds of USSR enterprises manufacture not a finished product, but rather only intermediate products, semifinished goods, and various component systems for other enterprises. Why? So that output can lie around for long years in dusty warehouses? Common sense suggests that the industry will be better off if a semifinished product in all its parameters meets only the strictest requirement: satisfying the consumer directly. Only he, and no one else, has the right to dictate his terms.

Another thing. If meeting society's requirements is to be based on lowering prices and raising quality, how can we justify lowering the quality of viscose pulp and raising its price? How could this have happened "by mutual consent" of the parties concerned?

Our Commentary

Putting it more simply, the deterioration in quality, and the rise in price of viscose yarn, costs us all dearly. You, reader, have only to glance into your clothes closet, look at the garment labels, and you will see that "viscose" is recorded indelibly in your apartment. And if it has become worse and more expensive, you won't likely remain calm about it.

Yes, in recent years the people at the Amur Pulp and Paperboard Combine have begun to work better and are making the most of their productive capacity. Work disruptions, however, are still not uncommon; some of them happened in the current year too. At this enterprise, then, perestroika is only at the beginning of the road, something that the Amur

workers should think about. We hope that the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry and the USSR will help them to do just that.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

22 October 1987

Page 2 (Full text)

Poor Heat and Steam Supplies at the Kaliningrad Pulp and Paper Combine

Last winter the Kaliningrad Pulp and Paper Combine had quite a bit of trouble supplying heat and steam to the Combine and the papermakers' housing and service centres. Lesnaya promyshlennost' has raised this issue before. Among the factors blamed for this state of affairs were the unsatisfactory operation of the thermal electric power centre run by the enterprise and the improper utilization of resources. How prepared is the Combine for the coming winter season?

"Six of the ten boilers in the thermal electric power plant and the remaining ones will be ready soon. All work is proceeding according to schedule," Yu. Kuborskiy, the Chief Electrical Engineer of the Combine, notes.

This doesn't seem bad. Following schedule, however, is only one side of the coin. The boilers had been inspected and repaired last year as well, and the commission approved them for operation. Nevertheless, unexpected breakdowns occurred: there was an extreme shortage of heat and steam in the middle of the winter.

What is the problem? The boiler system in the enterprise is old; for a long time no-one has tried to improve it. The equipment is always repaired in a rush and in a haphazard fashion. The engineers themselves call it a makeshift operation. After three to four months the boilers go on the blink again, sometimes several at a time.

Inadequate purification of the water used also contributes to the breakdown of the equipment. The water purification system is only geared to treat a certain amount of water at a time and this is sixty tonnes less than the hourly maximum capacity of the thermal power station. This means that whenever a large amount of heat and steam is needed some of the water is unpurified. They have been talking about building a new water purification station for several years now at every conference devoted to the development of the production facilities. The planned date for the introduction of this facility is 1989.

Another reserve that could be used to provide steam in the combine is also being under-utilized - condensate recovery. From 120-130 tonnes of condensate can be recovered when the plant is utilizing 200 tonnes of steam per hour. At present, however, no more than only 50 to 60 tonnes are being recovered. All the rest is dumped in the sewage. The existing equipment would allow for the recovery of the condensate. However, up to now no-one in the shops has been concerned enough to keep track of steam utilization or to attempt to reduce consumption. This, in spite of the fact that the plant will transfer to a profit- and loss-accounting system as of January 1. This means that the time has come to eliminate spendthrift habits and to manage things carefully and wisely.

This is all the more important given the fact that consumption is increasing from year to year sometimes without any valid reason. In 1982, for example, the set norms for heat consumption used in cooking chemical pulp at the Pulp and Paper Combine amounted to .92 gigacalories per tonne but this year increase to 1 gigacalorie (actually in the first six months of the year consumption amounted to 1.06 gigacalorie per tonne). Consumption norms in paper production grew in this same period from 2.26 to 2.65 gigacalories per tonne.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

17 October 1987

Page 1 (Slightly abridged)

Innovations Save Money at the Neman Pulp and Paper
Combine (Kaliningrad Oblast)

Innovators at the Neman Pulp and Paper Mill plan to save the enterprise no less than 300,000 roubles by the beginning of November. They have developed and introduced more than 100 innovative techniques over the current year. Among the most valuable of these is an improved method for chemical water purification proposed by the Chief of the thermal electric power station, V. Ushakov.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

13 October 1987

Page 1 (Full text)

Newsprint Production Competition Results

The Balakhna, Kondopoga and Solikamsk Pulp and Paper Combines have fulfilled their January-June socialist obligations for newsprint production ahead of schedule. They produced a total of 150 million square metres of newsprint in excess of the plan. They surpassed their targeted increase in labour productivity.

The Collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Industry's Trade Union awarded first place in the competition to the Balakhna mill.

The Kondopoga Combine was given a special prize awarded for the highest increase in labour productivity and the best product quality indicators.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
17 October 1987
Page 1 (Abridged)

Better Equipment and Working Conditions Required by Start-Up Technicians in the Field*

Specialized trouble-shooting organizations are, as a rule, in operation when pulp and paper industry enterprises start up new machinery and update obsolete units. They take on the most difficult work, requiring highly skilled technicians. I myself am in this business: I detect and eliminate malfunctions in the electric drives of paper-making machinery.

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

When we arrive at a paper-making enterprise, varied industrial equipment that has come to the plant from dozens of Soviet and non-USSR manufacturers has already been installed here and is in fact continuing to be installed. All of this, gathered in one production flow, is for the time being only so much lifeless metal. Into it we must breathe life, and set it in intelligent motion. Briefly, we must bend the power latent in this machinery and reckoned at many hundreds of kilowatts, to human will. This, then, is our task in industry. But are we up to the task?

A persistent tendency has developed in the last two decades: skills growth among maintenance personnel has lagged significantly behind the increase in the complexity of electronic equipment now in operation, and in electric drives.

Now, I can finally talk about our own woes. First on the list is the lack of handy, up-to-the-minute portable instruments and automatic recorders and devices for debugging. Next, the authorities have allotted us very little living space, so in recent years many talented specialists have left for other organizations. Or take the average age of troubleshooters. It is growing all the time and has now come up to 39 years. Nor does everyone get the frequent, long out-of-town assignments that they liked any more. Again, the unique experience that a troubleshooter accumulates in one place cannot always be used. And either a man's performance begins to slip, or he leaves.

We have, for the time being, solved this problem by organizing in our directorate a group for developing nonstandard electronic equipment for electric drives. This has to be done, and very

urgently, but, frankly, the scope of a troubleshooting directorate is too narrow for this sort of undertaking. Besides, the problem of creating new-generation electric drives is so serious that it must be handled on an industry-wide scale. Even this, however, is not enough. In the pulp and paper industry, we can see little sense in raising only electric drives and automation equipment to a new level. What about upgrading the design of the machinery itself, and the processes? Can we really leave them as they now exist? I feel that we must progress in a whole range of issues involving the creation of new technology for the paper industry, a task only for a vigorous organization. With this in mind, I propose to examine the question of creating a mechanical engineering design and manufacturing association within the system of the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

1 October 1987

Page 2 (Excerpts)

Archangel Pulp and Paper Combine: Effectiveness of the "Health" Programme

The programme designed to improve the health of workers in the Archangel Pulp and Paper Combine has had the desired results: the number of people falling ill has been markedly reduced and continues to fall.

The medical diagnostic equipment, installed on the orders of the trade union committee, is linked directly to the combine's computer. The computer draws up each patient's examination chart and

compares the results with the previous examination. Using this automated system of medical examination, the combine was able to treat 15,000 patients over the year, three times more than last year.

"During their lunch break," V. Vorob'ev, the Deputy General Director notes, "the workers have time not just to eat but also to get an "oxygen cocktail" or calm their nerves in the psychotherapy office. Each division of the Combine has facilities of this type. Thirty-six saunas operate in the Combine daily. The workers built the rest and hygiene rooms and the saunas themselves."

The "Health" programme here is already so complex that it couldn't operate without the help of a computer. The programme covers everything from improving the ventilation systems to teaching the workers' children how to swim. Special sections cover sports, nutrition and household services. The enterprise has allocated six million roubles to the "Health" programme over the course of the current five-year plan.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

10 October 1987

Page 3 (Full text)

FORESTRY

Restructuring the Wage System in the Forestry Sector*

In its wage levels, forestry is far from being in the forefront of USSR industries, offering as it does inadequate incentive for the labour of skilled workers and specialists. All of this leads to a lack of personal responsibility, lessened financial concern in work results and, consequently, high turnover among key personnel. We must make wages the basic economic inducement to promote efficiency and quality of work.

As we all know, any rise in wage rates and office workers' salaries should derive from capital earned by the workers themselves, a specific principle governing careful wage fund expenditure. This wage fund economy comes from:

- a) saving labour by mechanization;
- b) improving production technology and organization;
- c) reviewing output rates and bonus payments;
- d) consolidating enterprises and workshops;
- e) downsizing management, and so on.

A standardized wage scheduling method is now being introduced. Under this standard an enterprise, when it increases its production, receives additional capital for paying wages. This basic approach has been secured in The State Enterprise (Association) Act.

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

Forestry wages have risen by an average of 15 percent. As practice has shown, however, many enterprises still prefer to reduce directly the numbers of workers in low-level units: forest wardens, expert foresters and, less often, forestry inspectors. We can only be alarmed at this, for such an approach does little to help increase production or improve technology, not to mention measures for mechanizing and reducing manual labour. Production specialization and concentration are developing on only a limited scale. Local agencies are unfortunately not radically restructuring their managements; they are playing essentially a waiting game and have leaned towards getting a capital allotment from the budget, rather than seeking financial resources from within. During inquiries we found that, for example, in the Irkutsk Forestry Directorate and in the Uzbekistan Ministry of Forestry, officials made virtually no attempt to find funds for conversion to the new payment modes, standardizing documents lay undistributed, and both enterprise directors and the workers at large knew only by hearsay the gist of the improved pay system.

We can provide incentives for doing more work with fewer people only if advanced forms of organizing labour and paying wages are introduced everywhere: payment by the job, indirect piece work (in service industries) and contracts made with worker teams and whole bodies of employees.

We are aware of the experience of the Goryachiy Klyuch Logging and Sawmill Operation in the Krasnoyarsk Kray, where authorities made maintenance crew wage payment directly dependent on final results: the crew got 30 kopecks for each cubic meter of timber handled on the lower landing. Administrators used this crew as a basis for establishing an All-Union School of Advanced Practice.

Fourteen industry enterprises are conducting an experiment in introducing contract principles of organizing labour in forest districts and workshops. The organizations involved include the Kurlovskii logging enterprise of Vladimir Oblast, the Bilimbay forestry enterprise of Sverdlovsk Oblast, the Shepetovka forestry enterprise of Khmel'nitskiy Oblast; the Telekhany forestry enterprise of Brest Oblast, and others. These employee bodies are establishing a single wage fund and guaranteeing a total wage sum for performing a prescribed amount of work. They are increasing the workers' financial concern in the final result of their labour and in operating with fewer personnel.

The key occupation in the industry is that of the forestry expert. In all areas - the forest district, the nursery, the local timber conversion point, the workshop, and in collecting and processing by-products - he is the chief official. For a long time, few volunteered for this position, since the salary was only 105 roubles. The wage rates have now risen, but, as before, they are not all that high. Certification of ranks by classes - "Expert Forester II, Class I" - should increase personal commitment. In this case, the salaries rise by another 10 to 20 percent. Meanwhile, many enterprises are belittling the role of forestry experts and establishing for them a minimum wage of 130 roubles; these organizations neither certify nor make provision for bonuses, all of which leads to the same lack of personal responsibility.

The forest industry now has about 109,000 forest wardens. Their salaries have risen by an average of 35 percent, requiring over 40 million additional roubles. How are we to find these funds? Here we can have no single approach, but shall rather take a look at what the regions are doing.

The Birzhay Forest Industry Association in the Lithuanian SSR. Transportation here is good, and illegal fellings are nonexistent. The forest tracts comprise stands with a low fire hazard. The forest protection service has transportation facilities. Twenty-one out of 45 forest wardens have remained in the association.

Severo-Uralskii (North Urals) forestry enterprise, Sverdlovsk Oblast. Fire incidence here is high, and authorities have worked hard to make the forest-fire service more efficient. Management has organized mobile fire suppression teams, improved the spotting and warning system, built roads to serve as fire breaks, and systematically trained workers in forest fire protection. Some reduction in the numbers of forest protection workers is feasible.

Kaliningrad Directorate. The administration is retaining all 207 forest wardens and hiring an additional fifty-two forestry experts. Forest districts and forestry enterprises are amalgamating. Economists, mechanics, supply agents and others are joining forest district staffs. Additional funds for increasing the salaries of forest wardens, forestry experts and other low-level workers are to come from reducing the staffs of forestry enterprises when the latter are consolidated.

We often hear the cry, "You can't cut back on forest wardens!", but no uniform approach exists here either; each region has its own ways of handling the issue.

A major problem for the forestry industry is to make the bonus system more efficient. Today this scheme works fairly well in the Baltic republics, but not as well in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine or

Belorussia, while the situation is even worse in the Central Asian republics, Transcaucasia, and Kazakhstan. For example, in the Latvian SSR specialists and office workers get an average of up to 40 roubles monthly in bonuses for the basic results of their economic activity, while in the Turkmen SSR and Azerbaydzhan SSR the corresponding figure is less than 1 rouble. Can we seriously regard this as material incentive?

In converting to the new wage system, many enterprises face the task of both earning and finding the funds, not only for the new salaries and wage rates, but also for bonuses. Today, an enterprise director is allowed, by agreement with the trade-union committees, to establish a common financial incentive fund, to combine in it all the funds for special bonus award systems, and to direct these funds toward stimulating the most important areas of production, forestry primarily. He is permitted to approve the bonus provision of an agreement independently. Authorities have increased the maximum bonus rate to as much as 75 percent of salary.

The criteria for awarding bonuses to directors have changed. In forestry the most important such values have become the incorporation of young stock into the category of valuable tree stands, and meeting plans for intermediate felling (weeding, cleaning or thinning) to grow such stands. These criteria reflect important stages in silviculturists' work and are aimed at improving production efficiency.

Some regions contain a fairly large number of low-capacity forestry enterprises with, as a rule, only two or three forest districts each, and small

staffs. In Azerbaydzhan, for example, a forestry enterprise staff included the following: a director, a chief forestry inspector, an engineer, an economist, a technician, two or three accounting personnel, a secretary and a cleaning lady. Their average pay was 125 roubles. If only managers are converted to the new wage rates, practically all other specialists will have to be dismissed. What can we do? We see one solution. We must amalgamate various establishments and review their management structure. We must create the so-called forestry operation (proizvodstvo), a new structural subdivision of the base forestry enterprise association, which acts as the latter's branch. The forest districts are subordinate to it, and a director is in charge.

This reorganization will enable management to concentrate mainly on forestry proper while transferring some of its functions, for example, planning, construction, marketing, sales, and so on, to the base forestry enterprise. Opportunities for downsizing administrative staff will arise at the same time.

Logging and woodworking operations can also be instituted for performing forest industry work, a move which will allow us to intensify intra-establishment specialization and relieve forest districts from excessive loading with industrial activity.

If, in an administrative district, forest area is small and work volumes are low, we can leave an amalgamated forest district as an alternative to a forestry enterprise. Authorities, incidentally, have proposed doing this in Bashkiria and Kaliningrad Oblast. In this case, pay administrators can

establish for a forestry inspector, his assistants and other specialists high wages with allowance for class level and bonuses. The forestry inspector is quite capable of representing forestry in a region.

The new wage system offers extensive opportunities for reorganizing regional directorates into commercial forestry associations pursuing intra-establishment specialization and concentrating production.

When improving pay, we should take a more careful approach to the names of the forestry enterprise structural subdivisions, by no means a trifling detail. For example, in the Bobruysk forestry enterprise, Belorussian SSR, a small woodworking section received the official designation of "woodworking plant". The administrators, however, overlooked one fact: in plants, additional leave is not specified for frame saw and lathe operators. Actually, if we analyze the situation, this forestry enterprise has only a primitive woodworking shop section, which must be named for what it is, and the workers should be given the benefits to which they are entitled. Here and there such plants are subordinated to forest districts, which is completely wrong. In the first place, if authorities did establish a woodworking plant, no matter to whom it has been subordinate, granting preferential leaves is prohibited. Secondly, a forest district should be concerned with its own forestry affairs.

Small woodworking operations should be termed "workshop sections", and administrators should try to subordinate them to a local timber conversion point (if it exists) or lower landing. In this case, woodworkers in forestry enterprises will have the right to a long-service bonus in the regions where it has been specified.

Improving the forester's pay system is inseparable from initiative, the search for new forms of work and the conversion to primarily economical management methods.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

13 October 1987

Page 2 (Abridged)

Vyritsa: New Briquette Manufacturing and Seeding Line

Designers at the Vyritsa Experimental Mechanical Plant of the Leningrad Scientific Research Institute of Forestry are working on developing a flow line for the mechanized cultivation of seedlings. They have decided to improve the well-known briquetted seedling planting method. This will be done by developing a group of machines which will mechanize various processes including the preparation of the soil, the filling in of the containers, storage and transport.

A mechanism for filling net containers has already been manufactured.

The designers believe that the new line will make it possible to prepare no less than 80,000-100,000 seeded briquettes per hour.

The workers plan to manufacture the first prototype of the new line by the end of this year.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

24 October 1987

Page 2 (Abridged)

Planting Stock Produced in the Namangan Oblast State Forestry Enterprise

The Namangan Oblast State Forestry Enterprise has sent its first lot of planting stock to its clients. The enterprise has more than 4.5 million saplings of decorative trees and shrubs ready for autumn planting. The foresters prepared sea buckthorne and Schrenk's spruce (picea schrenkiana F. et M.) saplings for the first time, in addition to the traditional species. Besides this, workers in the forestry enterprise's nursery have completed bud-grafting half a million hybrid rose shrubs and wild fruit tree saplings.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
22 October 1987
Page 2 (Full text)

Buryat ASSR: Sea Buckthorn Plantations Fight Back the Sands

People living in the Kurumkan state farm in the Buryat ASSR have harvested the sea buckthorn now growing in areas which used to be covered in sand dunes. The miraculous Siberian berry bushes were planted here in order to stop the sands from spreading over the fields and pasture lands. They adapted well to this environment. The bushes easily withstand the severe Baykal area winters and strong winds. Sea buckthorn plantations have also replaced empty deserts in other regions of the Buryat ASSR.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
15 October 1987
Page 2 (Full text)

Azerbaydzhan SSR: Almond Harvest

The almond harvest has begun in Apsheronok. This season a good harvest is expected on the lots which have been developed with the new "maritime" and "mountain" strains from the Nikitskiy botanical garden. The foresters plan to supply the confectionary and medical sectors with more than 300 tonnes of shelled almonds.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

13 October 1987

Page 3 (Full text)

Siberian Nut Pine Nature Reserve

Yet another nature reserve zone has appeared on the map of Siberia. It consists of a grove of Siberian nut pines growing in the Sedel'nikovo region of the Omsk Oblast. The executive committee of the Omsk Oblast Council has proclaimed the unique grove, which covers almost 300 hectares, a natural monument.

The set of environmental protection measures worked out by the Oblast executive committee and by the local forestry administration will help preserve yet another unique feature of the Siberian region for posterity.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

13 October 1987

Page 1 (Full text)

BAM Zone: Ul'kan Forestry Enterprise

It is hard to imagine that just a scant ten years ago this area was virgin taiga. Its peace was disrupted by the builders of the Baykal-Amur Trunk Railway Line (BAM). The Ul'kan forestry enterprise was then built in the BAM zone. It had a stable workforce with practically no labour turnover.

The workers' wages are no lower than those in neighbouring enterprises. This is the direct result of good labour organization. Particular attention is paid here to everyday conditions, living conditions. The workers' houses have central heating, piped in water and practically all of them have a small vegetable plot.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
13 October 1987
Page 1 (Excerpt)

Environmental Watch: Lake Baykal*

The second conference - out of town this time - of the Interdepartmental Lake Baykal Natural Conservation Commission took place at Baykal'sk. The Commission was created by a decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU (Communist Party, Soviet Union) and the Council of Ministers USSR entitled "Measures to Ensure the Conservation and Rational Use of Natural Resources in the Lake Baikal Basin from 1987 to 1995".

* Translated by the Secretary of State
Translation Bureau, Multilingual Services
Division

O. Numerov, Deputy Chief, Natural Conservation and Water Consumption Directorate, Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR, and a conference member, related the following to our correspondent.

The Commission heard the reports of a number of ministries on progress in implementing the decree. As Yu. Gus'kov, First Deputy Minister, Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry USSR, informed the Commission, the Baykal Pulp and Paper Combine is updating its power engineering facilities in order to reduce pollutant emissions to the level of maximum permissible concentrations. Engineers have developed measures to curtail water consumption and waste water discharge by 25 million cubic metres annually. Authorities have confirmed that planned pulp production at the Baykal Pulp and Paper Combine will not be increased.

The Selenga Pulp and Paperboard Combine is building a closed water consumption system, whose initial unit this organization anticipates putting into operation in 1989. We must, however, note that the Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions of the USSR has so far not implemented the Commission's decision to deploy the necessary building plant and machinery at the site of the Combine.

Under a joint agreement with the Ministry of the River Fleet RSFSR, during this year's navigation season officials introduced experimental haulage of timber in ships equipped with systems preventing the pollution of water bodies, instead of rafting. In October, forestry authorities intend to test a power-operated cable installation for skidding timber in mountainous terrain.

The Commission studied the matter which is presently disturbing the public most: the construction of a conduit for diverting the waste waters of the Baykal Pulp and Paper Combine into the Irkut River. Now, on the initiative of the Interdepartmental Commission, a group of ecological experts is appraising a construction feasibility estimate.

The Commission also heard and discussed reports on progress in formulating a master concept for developing the Lake Baykal Region; the creation of an integrated territorial natural conservation scheme; the state of affairs in the national parks; the elaboration of scientific standards relating to impact on the Baykal ecosystem, and others.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
3 October 1987
Page 1 (Slightly abridged)

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