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EXTRACTS FROM THE SOVIET PRESS ON USSR FORESTRY

AND FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Structural Changes in the Ministry of
the Timber Industry of the
USSR 1

The Timber Float: A Successful
Beginning 2

To Be Tested in the Forest 5

Appointments 6

Cubic Meters of Shortwood from the Water... 7

PULP AND PAPER

Lake Onega Still Threatened by Kondopoga
Pollution 8

A Close Look at Operations in the
Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine... 10

Seedling Pots Made From Pulp Fiber..... 20

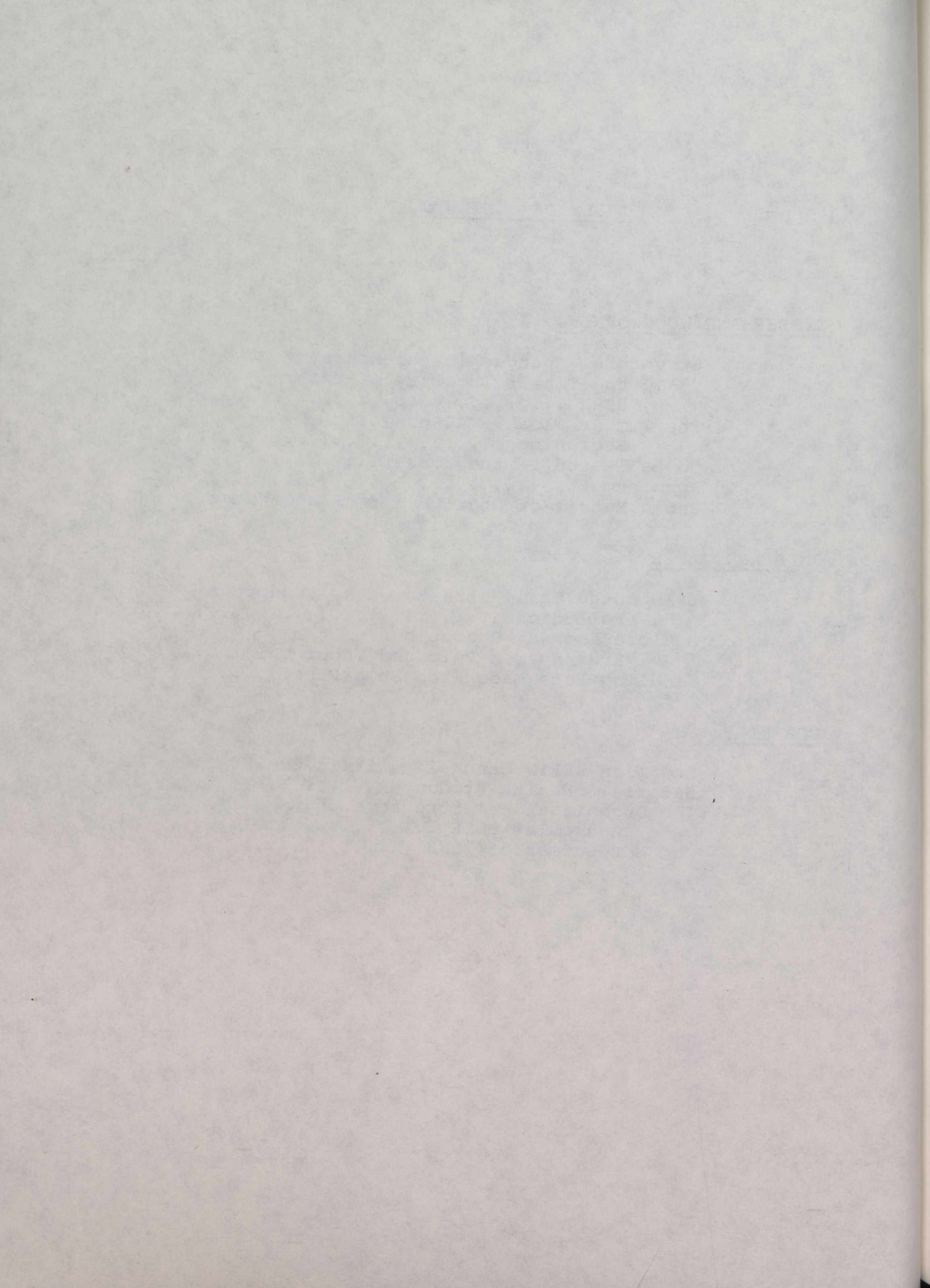
FORESTRY

Georgian SSR: Caucasian Fir in the USA.... 22

Estonia: Health Products 22

The Organizational Structure of
Goskomles USSR 23

The Hot Summer of 1988 32



TIMBER & WOODWORKING

Structural changes in the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR

The "Yugmebel'" Territorial Scientific Production Industrial Association, directly subordinated to the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR, has been formed in place of the "Yugmebel'" All-Union Production Industrial Association, which was abolished as of June 1.

The Central Scientific Research Institute of Economics and Labor in the Pulp and Paper Industry (TsNIIETbumprom) will be liquidated as of July 1, 1988. Areas of responsibility have been re-assigned as follows: (a) the technology of paper products and wallpaper and the fixing of standards for material resources in the pulp and paper industry, to the Central Scientific Research Institute of the Pulp and Paper Industry; (b) the economics, administration, and organization of labor, to the All-Union Scientific Research and Planning Institute of Economics and the Organization of Production Administration and Information in the Forest, Pulp and Paper, and Woodworking Industries; and (c) the design of the equipment component of projects for re-equipping and retooling enterprises, to the "Lesmash" Scientific Production Industrial Association.

Appointments

The following appointments have been made by order of the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR:

Vsevolod Dmitrievich SOLOMONOV, to the post of Head, Chief Production Directorate;

Vasilii Nikolaevich VYSOTSKII, to the post of Head, Chief Directorate of Self-Resourced Enterprise Construction;

Valerii Aleksandrovich OVCHINNIKOV, to the post of Head, Directorate of Work and Equipment Safety;

Vladimir Aleksandrovich KHOKHLOV, to the post of Head, Chief Directorate of Timber Supply and Product Delivery; and,

Grigorii Emel'yanovich YAROVoi, to the post of Head, Administrative Directorate.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

6 June 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

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

The Timber Float: A Successful Beginning

The telephones are ringing constantly in the State Inspectorate for the Timber Float - this is the place where operational information is gathered from industrial associations and enterprises of the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR regarding the situation in the rafting season, which began recently. The walls in the office of Valentin Pavlovich Lyubimov, the Head of the Inspectorate, are covered with maps indicating the areas of special interest - the rivers for log rafting. In a way, the conditions that reign here suggest the front lines. Seizing a pause between

telephone calls, I ask Valentin Pavlovich to characterize the situation on the water routes.

"Spring was long drawn out this year and brought quite a few surprises. There was a sudden warm spell in the European USSR in April, which caused intensive snow melt and a rapid rise in the water levels of river basins on the Upper and Middle Volga, the Vyatka, Vetluga, Luza, and Yug. But this was followed in many of the northern districts by a very considerable cold spell and snow fell in some areas. In the Kirov area, for example, the snow cover exceeded 10 cm as late as May 17. This, of course, delayed rafting operations; the movement and towing of rafts for floating birch became difficult in the Northwestern, Northern, and Northeastern districts, where raft construction points are located where the rafts can be removed by water. It became difficult, but it could not be put off; and this year, as never before, the great majority of rafting collectives in enterprises of the lumber industry had prepared themselves well. Of the 28 organizations in the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR that are engaging in rafting this year, only Murmanles, Amurlesprom, and the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex have not yet begun work, due to hydrometeorological conditions."

Our conversation is interrupted by the ringing of the telephone. The following note is entered in the operational data book: "All rafts have been lifted off and towed from the raft construction points of the Kostromalesprom, Kirovlesprom, Permlesprom, Arkhangel'sklesprom, and Komilesprom industrial associations."

Having settled, quickly and in a business-like manner, a number of problems that had

cropped up during operations and been brought to his attention by the managers of various rafting enterprises, Valentin Pavlovich continued to familiarize me with the situation on the water routes:

"As of today, almost half of the 63.6 million cubic meters of timber planned for this year has been rafted, which is more than during the same period last year. The delivery of logs to their final destinations is also continuing ahead of schedule.

"They prepared well for rafting this year in the Timber Float Directorate. They did not limit themselves to issuing directives and orders to the locals, as so very often happens in the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. They visited the enterprises and solved all of the problems that arose, efficiently and on the spot. This combined effort made it possible to eliminate problems involved in supplying the raftsmen with parts and outfitting, fuel, grease, and cable. The rafting fleet, the floating assemblies, and the crane units were all prepared."

But not all of the reports that arrived on this day were pleasant ones. I became a witness to a rather blunt conversation between the Head of the Inspectorate for Log-Rafting and the manager of Volgolesosplav. The topic of conversation was the 450,000 cubic meters of logs that arrived at the Lower Kama roadstead and intended for the Tatar ASSR and the Lower Volga. But there is no rush on to handle the logs; the loading of the first vessel only began on May 17. There are few coniferous trees in the rafts, and who can guarantee that the logs, obtained in winter at such great labor, will not end up on the bottom? On top of that, the timber has

started off from Kama and there will be even more work to do; everyone will have to get busy on this and the work will not be up to standard.

"And so, the rafting has begun successfully. The rafts are moving along the rivers over an immense territory - from Leningrad Oblast to the Far East, towed by vessels of the river fleet. The work must now be completed neatly and without losses, providing enterprises with the necessary raw material for the winter," concluded V. Lyubimov, and our conversation came to an end.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
14 June 1988
Page 3 (Full text)

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

To be Tested in the Forest

The Petrozavodsk Repair and Machine Shop of the Karellesprom Industrial Association has arranged for the production of hole diggers, which are so useful for planting forests. They improve the quality of regeneration considerably and they reduce labor costs. By the end of this year the integrated administrative logging enterprises of Karelia will receive no less than 50 of these devices.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
14 June 1988
Page 1 (Full text)

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

The Petrozavodsk shop is simultaneously going ahead with the production of another new piece of equipment - a wedger for cleaning shelterbelts.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

2 June 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

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

Appointments

The Council of Ministers of the USSR has appointed: Yu. A. Gus'kov as First Deputy Minister of the Timber Industry of the USSR; K. M. Prodaivoda and V. A. Sentyushkin as Deputy Ministers of the Timber Industry of the USSR; F. G. Liner as Deputy Minister of the Timber Industry of the USSR and Head of the Chief Technological Directorate for the Production of Furniture, Plywood, and Wood Board; and V. A. Chuiko as Deputy Minister of the Timber Industry of the USSR and Head of the Chief Technological Directorate of Pulp and Paper Production and Wood Chemistry.

The USSR Council of Ministers has confirmed I. V. Kopaev, N. A. Medvedev, A. M. Senchenko, V. N. Fedorenko, and M. V. Yakushev as members of the collegium of the Ministry of the Timber Industry of the USSR.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

6 June 1988

Page 1 (Full text)

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

Cubic Meters of Shortwood from the Water

The logs that are floating in the Bratsk Reservoir have become the talk of the town now that the loggers have begun to fish them out. During the last five-year plan more than one million cubic meters of high quality logs were accumulated in the water and then sent for processing. But until recently, the short pieces were left floating in the water. Then innovators from the Porozhskii Rafting Section developed a new technology for processing the shortwood into pulpwood. Working with experts, they put nine units on stream for converting the short pieces to pulpwood. Last year, this made it possible to make use of 40,000 cubic meters of otherwise unclaimed wood. The plan now calls for the reclamation of more than a third of a million cubic meters of floating logs during this year's rafting season.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

7 June 1988

Page 2 (Full text)

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

PULP AND PAPER

Lake Onega Still Threatened by Kondopoga Pollution

An article appearing in 'Pravda' on June 16 of this year harshly condemned the ever-increasing pollution in Lake Onega caused by the effluent from the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine. The article was signed by Yu. Goncharov, a papermachine operator and representative on the USSR Supreme Soviet, S. Mamzelev, the Combine's Deputy Chief Engineer for Environmental Protection, and V. Gerasimov, the Combine's CPSU Committee Secretary. They write that the biological purification facilities built in 1983 with a production capacity of 180,000 cubic meters per 24 hours, cannot fully handle effluent purification. The higher authorities have set a pulp production plan for the Combine that exceeds the annual design capacity by 15,000 tonnes. This has had a negative impact on the operation of the purification facilities.

"The industry executives have forgotten that they selected our Combine to be a headquarters enterprise operating with waste-free technology. The plan was to use the activated sludge obtained as a by-product of the biological purification of the industrial effluent, as a feed supplement for farm animals. This is why millions of roubles were spent on building a drying shop in the purification facility complex." Today, however, this shop is idle since it can't produce the feed supplement when the facilities are overloaded.

Every day thousands of tonnes of harmful organic compounds, which could be used to make protein feed for cattle, are dumped into the lake.

The reconstruction of the yeast shop, however, has come to a stop because of a shortage of capital investment.

The authors go on to state that:

"Yu. Gus'kov, the First Deputy Minister, in answer to a letter from the Karelian ASSR Committee of Public Inspection concerning the unsatisfactory operation of the purification facilities at the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine, has guaranteed that by 1990 the effluent will all be treated. There are no solid grounds for this type of optimism. According to the design plan which was worked out ten years ago, the Combine should discharge three tonnes of organic pollution every day. We actually discharge ten times as much poisonous rubbish. Furthermore, this plan itself is out of date.

"The papers are writing a lot about various Ministries' bureaucratic style of operations. The Ministry of the Timber Industry is no exception. Let's take an obvious case in point... The Executive Committee of the Kondopoga Regional Council informed the Ministry of the Timber Industry and the Council of Ministers of the Karelian ASSR in a letter dated July 13, 1987 of the complaints they have received from the people living in Kondopoga and the surrounding region about the poor operation of the purification facilities. Deputy Minister V. Chuyko sent the letter to E. Sizov, Chief of the Protection and Water Utilization Administration, who in turn sent it to I. Sankin, Chief of the 'Karellesprom' Association. The Chief passed it on to his assistant, I. Genel'. As a result of all this, a resolution was born: 'to work out some proposals in conjunction with the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine and to come to an agreement with the Executive Committee.' Thus, we end up where we started."

What the Ministry of the Timber Industry is doing up to now - i.e. waiting for a miracle at the Combine and for things just to sort themselves out, is tantamount to displaying an unforgivable lack of action - such is the conclusion drawn by the authors of the article. They are asking the Ministry executives to help solve this ill-fated problem. Given the fact that the Combine is transferring to the self-financing system, the workers are worried that now the industry executives will be able to refuse to finance environmental protection measures, stating the enterprise itself is now in charge of all financial matters. "This", the authors believe, "would be extremely unfair, since these problems have been piling up for years and are too great to be solved by just one Combine alone. This is why we are waiting for concrete and real measures."

"Lesnaya promyshlennost' has also written several times about the disaster threatening Lake Onega. We share society's concern over the delay in taking radical measures to protect this great reservoir from pollution. We have to do something before it is too late."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

18 June 1988

Page 1 (Slightly abridged)

A Close Look at Operations in the Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine

N. Saka, the Director of the Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine, gave a self-critical account of operations at the Combine at a recent Party meeting.

"This year, we are working with a set small amount of above-plan profit but it is still too early to speak of a radical change to the better. Nor can we fully settle our accounts with our customers. The flow of complaints and returns because of poor quality has not ceased and we are paying heavy fines..."

The Director gave the Combine a C grade.

The meeting participants, however, were more interested in the future plan of action than in an account of past results.

"Every year we talk about building a finished products warehouse. When will construction begin?" asked a voice from the hall.

"Not this year", the Director replied, "we don't have the money."

When will we stop dumping paper and paperboard?"

"That problem will be solved..."

"What department will our Combine be subordinate to?"

"That's still unclear."

No one was trying to put the Director, who had just recently taken command, in a difficult position: everyone still clearly remembered the hard times in the previous year when they had had three directors. Nevertheless, it was clear that the Combine's communists expected Saka to be more precise as to the enterprise's future prospects.

The Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine is a pioneer of the Siberian pulp and paper industry. Construction began in 1936. The first Siberian pulp was made here in 1960..... The Combine has reached an annual production capacity of 255,000 tonnes. The Combine is valued at 170 million roubles.

What strikes the visitor first on walking through the shops? The abundance of contrasts: the imported conveyor-packaging line equipped with robots and the pike hook held by the workmen; the high-output slashing table and the ancient pulpwood flumes; the newly-constructed buildings and the current production facilities with their gaping windows and walls darkened by damp and time.

"The reconstruction project has been going on for years", Deputy Chief Engineer B. Afanas'ev, our guide, notes. "More than four million roubles have been invested in it. This would seem to be a great deal. But this is the problem: we are really very far behind. To make matters worse, there is no comprehensive design. Everything was done on a patchwork basis. Just take a look at our digesters and everything will be clear to you."

We had a look. It turned out that besides the worn-out main equipment, the pulpers are blessed with a surplus of other disasters.

"Our main problem is poor-quality raw material" - this refrain was heard on everyone's lips, from the workers to the shift foreman. "You can find everything in the chip cars: gravel, coal, metal. The chip itself hasn't been sorted according to species and there is twice as much bark as there should be. This is why we have to add extra acid during the digesting process."

We moved on through the mill and soon found another problem area - the high costs of willful planning. The Combine had just shifted from the production of letterpress paper to wallpaper when suddenly the Ministry issued a decree: "Start making newsprint!" This decision was based on the following reasoning: the newsprint situation in the country has worsened and the Krasnoyarsk mill used to produce it. But this "used to" was ages and ages ago. Since then, newsprint requirements have become more refined. The Siberians' achievements were much more modest. Over the course of the past five-year plan they managed to lower the mass per square meter of paper by just three grammes. "How on earth could we reduce it by yet another twelve grammes?" This question was asked by one of the workers who had been asked to do just that. The Central Scientific Research Institute for Paper quickly put together the technical specifications for the Krasnoyarsk Combine's new product. The Combine was to be allowed to manufacture paper that was heavier than that described in the All-Union State Standard. Temporarily, of course.

"This temporariness is what is worrying us the most", G. Konovalov, the Chief Paper Technologist, notes. "Our Combine has no future as a newsprint producer. If newsprint is in such great demand it would make sense to have one of the papermachines specialize in newsprint production alone. But what is happening now? The No. 1 machine is making wallpaper as before, while the No. 2 produces both wallpaper and newsprint. How much time and effort is spent on resetting the machines! The newsprint weighs almost half as much as the wallpaper. Have a chat with the team leader. He's been in the shop since yesterday. Why did he spend the night here? He was resetting the equipment."

"I'm going to quit!" were the team leader's first words. "I can't handle this stress much longer. Today we shifted from newsprint to wallpaper but in a month we'll switch back. But this is a machine, not a match-box. We've lost so many people because of this and now are working at only half strength. We are supposed to have six workers in our team as is stated in the books, but we actually only have three. How can I expect them to check the machinery accurately and make them carry out preventive maintenance on time?"

Let's take a look at the result of the rash experiment initiated by the 'Soyuzbumaga' Association. First of all, it resulted in an annual loss for the Combine of two million roubles in profits. Secondly, labor turnover has increased (here again, however, one of the major causes was last year's leap-frog of directors, all of whom protested against the capricious directives from above). Finally, it has resulted in a reduction in the quality of the paper mill's work and of the work of the Combine as a whole. Are the printers better off now that their storehouses are filled with broke? Of course not. They are very concerned. In other words, they are ultimately the losers.

That's what the notorious administrative command style has cost the Combine. Nevertheless, despite the grave consequences of poor planning and other mistakes, it is to the Combine workers' credit that they have managed to get through it all. Their first success story cannot be attributed to cosmetic corrections to the production targets or to other indulgences of this kind. They effected an increase in volume of production and raised labor productivity by almost 10% as compared to last year.

G. Shchepina, a worker from the corrugated packaging shop, and a delegate to the Regional Council of People's Deputies, noted that the 'Bratsk Timber Industry Complex' had let the Combine down a great deal. "We were closed down for six full days in January because of the paperboard suppliers. All the same, we managed to catch up. Our true strength is in the team contract system, and in collective responsibility for the state of labor discipline and quality of production. Operations began moving particularly smoothly when the corrugating machine operators and the processors formed a single start-to-finish production team. Now all efforts are concentrated on the final product rather than on intermediary operations."

The corrugated packaging shop is not called the bread-winner of the Combine by accident. Over the course of the first quarter it was slated to provide 1,750,000 roubles of planned profit. It actually contributed 1,851,000. The cost price of the production was reduced by 102,000 roubles.

According to V. Veryasova, Chief of the Planning Division in the Combine, the inter-shop profit-and-loss accounting system will make it necessary to work harder and to count every rouble. Now each shop has a norm for the formation of a material incentive fund. The large part of this is set aside for the 'thirteenth paycheck', some of it goes for bonuses for engineering and technical personnel, the rest goes for material help and awards for saving resources. What does the corrugated packaging shop have in the first quarter? It has approximately ten thousand roubles in its material incentive fund.

Among the new methods stemming from the profit-and-loss accounting agreement among the shops are: the use of limited cheque books, the growing activity of the councils of workers' collectives, the electivity of the directors. The processes of democratization are gaining ground. Nevertheless we are tempted to ask the question: can the Combine, by applying all its forces, manage to solve all the problems that have previously developed, given the new management conditions?

During the first quarter of the year the Combine failed to supply its customers with products worth 1,028,000 roubles. Only 38% of the newsprint produced was A-grade as compared to the planned 70%. Instead of 60% 'B-2' corrugating paper, we got only 9.5%. The Combine received 40 complaints about the wallpaper paper. It paid more than 500,000 roubles in fines in just two months for releasing industrial effluent into the Yenisei River.

There are 960 people on the housing allocation list.

Thus, if we raise the quality and quantity of production to a new improved level, we must find the means for completing the reconstruction and well as for the social programme and for carrying out the environmental protection measures. In order to gain a substantial profit, we need good quality products.

Let's take the corrugated packaging shop as an example. When the new production line for manufacturing box crates frequently shuts down, it is not always the Bratsk suppliers who are at fault. The main problem is that the warehouse capacities were designed just to hold the daily output from the shop, and every additional square meter of packaging

must be placed in the corridors between the units. Shipments of the products outside the mill is often held up because of a shortage of railcars. Yet the Combine Director has told the Party meeting that the warehouse is not being built because of a shortage of funds.

And how can you convince a worker in the paper combine to stay faithful to the operation if the work in the neighboring mill is easier and the salary is twice as high? Will his hopes of obtaining an apartment ever come true? Over recent years, the Pulp and Paper Combine has managed to build three five-storey apartment blocks using the direct labor method. But it was the Ministry who supplied the funds for building them. Now, given self-financing arrangements, the Krasnoyarsk workers are all the more convinced that it will be pointless trying to find money in Moscow.

The difficulties are exacerbated by the fact that, according to the calculations of economists at the Combine, part of the profit which after various deductions should remain at the enterprises, could perhaps be entirely used up in fines levied for discharging effluent into the river. A 1984 ministerial decree called for the construction of environmental protection facilities, including an evaporation station and a shop for neutralizing the water and burning any remains of the effluent, etc. But, as time has amply demonstrated, all these plans have been relegated to the ranks of good intentions.

What is the way out of this labyrinth? The Combine thinks it would be a good idea to ask the Ministry for 14 logging enterprises and to form a timber industry complex. No one views the idea of joining the 'Krasnoyarsklesprom' Association, which

is already involved in several various operations - silvichemicals, furniture production, timber export, pulp production, with much enthusiasm. The Combine workers believe that, if this were to happen, the decades-long history of good equipment supply lines would be broken, first of all. Secondly, they doubt that the loggers would be able to supply the raw material for such a specific type of production. Up to now they have not reckoned very well with the demands of technological progress.

The headquarters of this old All-Union Association, for a long time, issued orders to arrange for the acceptance of raw material primarily in chip form. Because of the Association's insistence, the Combine built a dock for processing chip barges, a dock which is now empty. The 'Krasnoyarsklesprom' Association now prefers to supply the timber in short-length pulpwood form. What will they prefer tomorrow?

On the other hand, the proposed union of the Pulp and Paper Combine and local logging enterprises which have largely depleted timber reserves, is also not the best solution. Remember the sad story of the Kanskiy Sawmill and Woodworking Combine which formed a complex together with ten surrounding logging enterprises. Lesnaya promyshlennost' has written several articles about the fate of such conglomerates. They are all far from that continuously operating comprehensive forestry enterprise which is being suggested in the recent CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers' decree.

The mandate of the times clearly indicates that the Pulp and Paper Combine should become a part of a territorial complex, created not according to

the old pattern, but on a new basis. The experience of the 'Priкарпатles' Association is clear enough evidence: this Association not only managed to collect various types of enterprises "under one roof", but also carried out a deep transformation throughout the entire technological chain. When the Association was originally set up, more than two thirds of the work force was involved in the logging operation but now, only one third of them are loggers. The majority of the workers are involved in timber processing.

At the end of the last five-year plan, 220 roubles worth of goods were manufactured out of each cubic meter of timber logged in the Ivano-Frankovsk region, but output in the 'Krasnoyarsklesprom' Association amounted to only 30 roubles per cubic meter. The Association workers hope to raise this indicator to 32.6 roubles by 1990. How can the loggers, remaining at this miserly level of productivity, ever hope to put the enterprises, which are running at a loss and of which there are many in the Association, on their feet?

Even this 220 rouble level isn't the limit. But it is only through intensive chemical processing of the timber that we can achieve high profitability: the entire Krasnoyarsk Timber Industry Complex, which is now being set up, should be led by the wood chemicals sector. Neither the Complex nor its suppliers will operate on a profitable basis without cooperation and without arranging a single technical chain of production.

After all, what is happening now? At the same time as the papermakers find themselves in dire straits because of a shortage of raw materials and the logging enterprises are urgently ordered from

above to supply the mill with pure sawlogs, the neighboring woodworking combine is burning 150,000 cubic meters of wood waste annually. Most of this waste could be fed to the digesters. The loggers are not at all concerned that they are supplying the Pulp and Paper Combine with unsorted chip which includes both pine and aspen, and a wildly excessive amount of bark. They don't care that the papermakers must therefore add large amounts of chemicals not called for in the plan.

It is high time to do away with this thoughtless wastefulness and to think seriously about rebuilding the unique forest chemicals complex, which operated in the regional center in the 1960s. Only in this way will it be possible to stop the taiga from becoming depleted. Only in this way can the regional timber industry become efficient.

Lesnaya Promyshlennost'

7 June 1988

Pages 1 & 2 (Slightly
abridged)

Seedling Pots Made From Pulp Fiber

Workers from the Pitkyarantka Pulp Mill have found a useful application for wood fiber wastes. They have begun to make small seedling pots out of them. The pots are convenient in that the plant can later be transplanted into the earth in its own container. The covering made out of pulp fibers disintegrates easily in the damp soil and serves as a good fertilizer. Local gardeners and vegetable plot

owners have praised these disintegrating pots highly. The new product is in great demand.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

7 June 1988

Page 2 (Slightly abridged)

The United States of America... K. Karkhmalov, the director of this... self-financing enterprise... along with... Lemnik, and the... which is distinguished for its excellent... properties. We ship up to nine tons of seed each... year to... external trade... Nordmann... crown that is low and dense, is in particular demand."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
USSR released in...
page 2 (Full text)
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Lesnaya Promyshlennost'
Lemnik Kirov, the head of the... department of the... displays product samples--blocks and bottles containing a dark green liquid. I read the colored

FORESTRY

Georgian SSR: Caucasian Fir in the USA

The "Gruzlessemselektsiya" (Georgian Forest Seed Breeding) Enterprise of the Georgian SSR has consigned a large part of its production to the United States: 500 kilograms of forest seeds from tree and shrub species.

"The United States of America", relates K. Karukhnishvili, the director of this self-financing enterprise, "is a regular importer, along with Great Britain, West Germany, Finland, Denmark, and the Netherlands, of our seed stock, which is distinguished for its excellent hereditary properties. We ship up to nine tons of seed each year to Western countries on the basis of Soviet external trade authorizations. The seed of the Nordmann fir, a thermophilic coniferous tree with a crown that is low and dense, is in particular demand."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
4 June 1988
Page 2 (Full text)

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

Estonia: Health Products

Lemmik Krug, the head of the chemical department of the Valgamass Forestry Enterprise, displays product samples--flasks and bottles containing a dark green liquid. I read the colored

labels, which provide exhaustive information on the use of this natural extract from coniferous needles: good for cardiovascular diseases, disturbances of the central nervous system, and for rheumatic pains in the joints. Needle-bearing pine twigs are used to prepare this extract. As much as one and a half tons of this aromatic medicament, which is sought after by medical men and perfumers, are produced each month. It is eagerly purchased by sanatoriums and by Estonian and Latvian consumer cooperative enterprises. This extract is utilized in many varieties of soap, shampoo, and toothpaste.

The personnel of the chemical department are now preparing a new product - needle-powder in small packages; the equipment has already been put in place and checked out.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

4 June 1988

Page 3 (Full text)

The Organizational Structure of Goskomles USSR

The USSR Council of Ministers has approved the organizational structure of Goskomles USSR, the State Committee for Forestry of the USSR, and it is now being implemented by administrative agencies in the forest industry. The organizational structure is as follows:

- A. The central apparatus of Goskomles USSR, consisting of:

- 1) the Chief Scientific and Technical Directorate;
- 2) the Chief Economic Directorate;
- 3) the Chief Directorate of Forest Resources and Forest Utilization;
- 4) the Chief Directorate of Forest Conservation, Forest Protection, and State Surveillance;
- 5) the Chief Directorate of Forest Regeneration and Conservational Afforestation;
- 6) the Chief Directorate of Personnel, Educational Facilities, and Social Development;
- 7) the Directorate of Integrated Forestry Enterprises;
- 8) the Directorate of Forest Chemization and Radiation Ecology;
- 9) the Directorate of Planning and Capital Investments;
- 10) the Directorate of Service and Supply; and,
- 11) the Directorate of External Economic Relations;

B. The subdivisions of Goskomles USSR include:

- 1) the Ministries of Forestry of (a) the RSFSR, (b) the Ukrainian SSR, (c) the Belorussian SSR, (d) the Kazakh SSR, and (e) the Lithuanian SSR;
- 2) the State Committee for Nature Conservation and Forestry of the Georgian SSR;
- 3) the State Committee for Nature Conservation and Forestry of the Estonian SSR;
- 4) forestry production industrial associations which are being formed (a) in the Uzbek SSR, (b) in the Azerbaijan SSR, (c) in the Moldavian SSR, (d) in the Latvian SSR, (e) in the Kirghiz SSR, (f) in the Tadzhik SSR, (g) in the Armenian SSR, (h) in the Turkmen SSR, and (i) in autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts; and,
- 5) the All-Union Scientific Research Information Center for the Forest Resources of the USSR (VNIITSlesresurs).

Our Commentary

The restructuring of forestry affairs in the Soviet Union and the transition to a new organizational structure is one of the important measures aimed at a fundamental improvement in forest management and in the conservation and augmentation of forest resources for present and future generations of Soviet citizens.

The government has made it incumbent on the State Committee for Forestry of the USSR, together with the councils of ministers of the union republics, to provide effective supervision of all the forests of the Soviet Union, to put into practice a unified scientific and technical policy that is responsive to the Leninist concept of utilizing the forests as a common national resource, and to improve surveillance of the utilization of forest resources.

Given the validity of the Law on State Enterprises (Industrial Associations) and the transition of branches of industry to complete profit-and-loss accounting and self-financing that is being carried out on the basis of this law, Goskomles USSR is being called upon to apply extensively economic methods for the supervision of, leasing, and payment for forest resources, to carry out the continuous and efficient exploitation of forests, to combine the industrial and the territorial forms of forest management, and to strengthen its links with the councils of peoples' deputies in order to ensure maximum satisfaction of the demands of the national economy and the general public for various forest products.

Goskomles USSR and its local agencies are required to provide a high scientific and technical level of state management in the fields of forest utilization, regeneration, conservation, and protection, and to ensure the strict observance of the principles of the forestry legislation of the Soviet Union and the union republics by enterprises, organizations, and individual citizens. The purpose of the new organizational structure, which has been designed on the basis of functional criteria, is to overcome narrow industry-oriented and localized

approaches and wasteful attitudes towards the forests and to obtain maximum profit from the exploitation of forest resources for all those who make use of them.

The Chief Scientific and Technical Directorate will deem its most important tasks to be (1) the formulation and implementation of the comprehensive state program known as "The Forest" (Les), (2) the guidance of industrial scientific research institutes and the introduction of scientific and technological achievements and advanced technology, and (3) liaison with the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR, the USSR Academy of Sciences, the V. I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Minlesprom USSR, and other interested ministries and branches of industry, as well as with industrial associations, enterprises and organizations in the various branches of industry for the purpose of accelerating the introduction of advances in science and technology into forest management.

The Chief Economic Directorate has been made responsible for the following functions: (1) conducting activities to formulate proposals for concepts, basic guidelines, and state five-year plans for economic and social development; (2) improving the economic system in forest management; (3) formulating and implementing lease arrangements for utilizing the forests; (4) introducing profit-and-loss accounting; (5) planning, financing, and improving the organization of labor and rates of pay; and (6) accounting records and surveillance and supervising juridical matters.

The Chief Directorate of Forest Resources and Forest Utilization will organize efficient multipurpose forest utilization and will report on

the condition of forest resources, using advanced aerospace devices and automated data-gathering systems. Its functions will include:

- (1) supervising forest management;
- (2) determining in a scientific manner the optimum estimated coupe for each republic, kray, and oblast;
- (3) stabilizing forest land leased for logging after it has been utilized;
- (4) maintaining the state forest inventory and the state forest cadastral survey; and
- (5) formulating the standards and regulations for forest utilization.

The Chief Directorate of Forest Regeneration and Conservational Afforestation will supervise the organization of a system of forest seed production based on genetic principles and the forest cultivation in plantations of nut trees and other valuable species, and, together with Gosagroprom USSR, it will supervise efforts to protect the soil from erosion by wind or water that employ methods of improving land through forestry measures.

The Chief Directorate of Forest Conservation, Forest Protection, and State Surveillance will (1) supervise state forest conservation in the USSR, (2) concern itself with improving the system of forest fire prevention by air and land, (3) carry out the formulation of a comprehensive program for protecting the forests from pests, disease, and industrial waste, and (4) provide state surveillance (a) of the condition of forests, both directly and through state surveillance agencies in the republics, krays, and oblasts, (b) of proper observance of the principles of forestry legislation of the Soviet Union and of the union republics, and (c) of the use of the standardized technical

documentation regarding forest activities that is obligatory for all forest users regardless of the ministerial department to which they are subordinated.

It has been decided that the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee, who will have the responsibility for administering this Chief Directorate, will serve concurrently as the chief State Forestry Inspector of the USSR.

Agencies for state surveillance of the condition, utilization, regeneration, conservation, and protection of forests will be established within ministries of forestry and state committees for forestry (nature conservation / in union republics), and in forestry production industrial associations in those union republics that do not have a ministry or state committee and in autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts. In oblasts and rayons in which forests appertaining to the state have been assigned or transferred on lease to Minlesprom USSR, state forest inspectorates will be established under the jurisdiction of forest agencies of the union republics.

A proposal for a Statute on the State Surveillance of Forests is currently being formulated.

The ministers of forestry or deputy chairmen of the state committees for forestry (or nature conservation) of the union republics, who are responsible for surveilling the condition, utilization, regeneration, conservation, and protection of forests, and the managers of forestry production industrial associations in (non-union) republics, krays, and oblasts will serve as the chief state forest inspector in those republics, krays, and oblasts, respectively.

It has been deemed advantageous to organize the 'Soyuzvneshles' (All-Union Firm for the Export of Forest Products) foreign trade firm on a profit-and-loss basis as part of the 'Funduk' Scientific Production Industrial Association of Moscow Oblast, with the right to engage on its own authority in export and import transactions involving products of the forest industry.

The All-Union Scientific Research Information Center for the Forest Resources of the USSR was organized as of July 1, 1988 from sub-units of the Moscow Specialized Forest Management Enterprise, the Moscow Aerospace Forest Management Survey, 'Lesproekt' All-Union Industrial Association, the computer center of 'Suyuzgiproleskhoz' (State All-Union Institute for the Planning of Forest Management), and the Central Office of Scientific and Technical Information, with all the privileges of a scientific research institute of the first category and with the obligation to provide analytical information to all planning agencies and forest users.

It has been decided that the Chairman of the State Committee for Forestry of the USSR will be provided with five deputies, including a first deputy, who will be the Chief Forester of the USSR, and two deputy heads; one for the Chief Directorate of Forest Conservation, Forest Protection, and State Surveillance, and the other for the Chief Directorate of Personnel, Educational Facilities, and Social Development.

Goskomles USSR will number a total of 45 members and the Collegium of the Committee will consist of 10 members. Besides the members of the Collegium, Goskomles USSR will include outstanding scientists and experts, the ministers of forestry,

chairmen of state committees for forestry (nature conservation), and the managers of forestry production industrial associations of the union republics, and the managers of ministries and departments of the USSR that have retained certain functions in regard to the supervision of forest management and nature conservation.

The maximum number of personnel in the central apparatus of Goskomles USSR will be 300 individuals.

The order regarding the new organizational structure of the State Committee, which was published on June 7, 1988 by academy member A. S. Isaev, Chairman of Goskomles USSR, has now come into force.

Appointment

The Council of Ministers of the USSR has appointed Anatolii Ivanovich PISARENKO as the First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Forestry of the USSR and Chief Forester of the USSR.

A. I. Pisarenko was born in 1929. He is a member of the CPSU and a Russian, and he completed his higher education at the Bryansk Forestry Institute with the degree of Engineer in Forestry. He is a Doctor of Agricultural Sciences.

After graduating from the Institute, A. I. Pisarenko held managerial posts in forestry in Rostov Oblast, the Kalmyk ASSR, and Stavropol Kray, and at "Soyuzgiproleskhoz", where he was a directorate head from 1965. He was Deputy Minister of Forestry of the RSFSR from 1968 until 1975 and he

served for a time as Advisor to the President of the National Institute of Forest Development and the Utilization of Forest Resources of the Republic of Cuba. Since 1987 he has been Director of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Chemization in Forestry.

A. I. Pisarenko has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and various medals.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

16 June 1988

Page 2 (Full text)

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

The Hot Summer of 1988

It is quiet and cool in the office of E. A. Shchetinskii, Deputy Head of the Central Board for Forest Conservation and Protection of the Ministry of Forestry, Russian SFSR. You would not believe that just yesterday all of Moscow was suffocating from a heat wave that was unusual for the beginning of June. It seemed as if the very pavements were melting and not even the shade could protect you from the fierce, hot sun. More objective confirmation of this subjective impression came from the bulletin lying on the office table. Dry but expressive, it reported the number of forest fires recorded across the Soviet Union. The forest has been visited by flames all too often during these first days of summer.

"The first forest fires were recorded by the Forest Conservation Service in April in certain parts of the Trans-Baikal", explained G. I. Zinov, Chief Inspector of Operations. "These did not give the foresters too much trouble. As a rule, the hot points of these fires were extinguished within a day of their discovery. But then the onset of summer gave us cause for alarm as more than a hundred fires broke out in the forests every day."

-- What has been the total number of forest fires so far this year?

"More than five thousand fires had been pinpointed in the RSFSR by June 8. The number for this same period last year was a little less: 4,500."

"A good indication of the danger posed by forest fires in the European portion of the RSFSR is given by the situation in the Meshchera Lowland, located at the junction of three oblasts - Vladimir, Ryazan, and Moscow. The basic difficulty in control in the areas are the dry pine forests and peat bogs, which react quickly to any rise in temperatures. In the recent past, 122 fires covering a total area of 85 hectares have broken out in Vladimir Oblast; 69 fires in Ryazan Oblast, covering 41 hectares; and 122 fires in Moscow Oblast, covering 30 hectares. The intensive efforts that have been made by the Forest Conservation Service are reflected in the fact that most of these fires were eliminated on the same day that they were discovered and before they had spread to more than one hectare of surface area."

The telephone rang. It was V. A. Naumov on the line - the Head of the Forest Conservation and Protection Section of the Ministry of Forestry, Mari ASSR.

"Two more fires have just been added to the 109 already recorded", he told us, "and this is in spite of the rain that we had a few days ago. Here and there thunderstorms have announced their presence - twenty fires have broken out in the forests due to lightning. When we compare this to last year, we find that the number of fires has increased four-fold. We have adopted extreme measures - the public has been forbidden access to the forests and observation and surveillance have been increased. The personnel of the central apparatus of the Ministry who have been on duty the last few days have themselves alone arrested 22 individuals for infractions of fire safety regulations. So, in spite of the drop in temperatures and the recent heavy showers, the situation remains critical. This is also confirmed by the map that I was shown by E. A. Shchetinskii, Deputy Head of the Central Board for Forest Conservation and Protection."

"The oblast system map is plotted from data supplied by the Meteor satellite", he told us. "It helps provide us with a picture of the situation as it develops for thousands of kilometers around Moscow. Nine fires are active in the Barguzin' Rayon, for example, and tomorrow that rayon will be covered with cloud and will have rain - the forest fire danger will be reduced."

-- Do the data that you obtain by satellite enable you to forecast the forest fire situation for a long period of time?

"Not yet, unfortunately. Nor does the hydrometeorological center provide special 'forest fire forecasts'. The basic operational responsibilities of the Forest Conservation Service are well known and they include: forest fire

prevention and publicity; the detection of the focal points of forest fires; fire fighting; and dealing with the aftermath of forest fires. But in Canada, as an example, the range of responsibilities includes forecasting the extent of forest fires and the risk of fire in the forests."

-- Would you consider it beneficial to have such a forecasting service in the Soviet Union?

"Without a doubt. So far, we have only the technique worked out by the Leningrad Scientific Research Institute of Forestry, which is capable of providing a forecast that covers one or two days. This is obviously inadequate. We must concentrate our efforts on developing a long-range 'forest fire forecast'".

-- How well equipped is the Forest Conservation Service?

"If we are talking about minor fire-fighting equipment, this is available. But there are not enough fire-fighting vehicles - cross-country vehicles and motorcycles. Chemical fire-fighting stations are equipped at 60 per cent (of their table of equipment strength - Tr.) with this type of equipment, and forestry enterprises at 40 per cent. The foresters of the Baikal have been provided with all of the equipment provided for in the resolution of the CC CPSU and the USSR Council of Ministers for protecting this unique natural resource."

"Unfortunately, it must be mentioned that the experts at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Forest Conservation and the Mechanization of Forestry have still not provided forestry with efficient designs. The introduction of

the special TLP-4 fire-fighting tractor into service has been delayed (and Lesnaya promyshlennost' has written about this more than once)."

"Alas, as in years past, we are forced to conclude that some officials are irresponsible. Thus, for example, the fire in the Svetlovskii Forest District of the Bodaibo Forestry Enterprise, Irkutsk Oblast, was officially registered on May 7. But as early as April, some smoke from burning peat at the location of an abandoned wood fire was observed seven to ten kilometers from the settlement of Perezov, where the forest district (headquarters) and the Prilenskoe Air Detachment are located. But neither the forest district personnel nor the air detachment personnel took prompt action. Comrade Sukhorukov, the air observer, responded to appeals made by the forest district to the air detachment by replying that the fire was in the zone of ground responsibility, that the smoke-jumpers were resting after having just extinguished a different fire, and that there was no helicopter and other equipment for landing the smoke-jumpers. The helicopter did not arrive at the air detachment until 1630 hours on May 8; then men were sent to the fire when it had already spread to 30 hectares. Three bulldozers and ten men arrived from 'Lenzolota' - but not until May 10, after a decision on the matter had been taken by the rayon Emergency Fire-fighting Commission. As a result of these tardy actions, the fire was not put out until May 13, after it had spread over an area of 2,700 hectares of forest and 400 hectares of non-forest. On the order of the Irkutsk Directorate of Forestry, A. M. Kolpakov, the Director of the Bodaibo Forestry Enterprise, and V. F. Malyshev, the enterprise's Chief Forester, were severely reprimanded and the responsibility of the acting forester, D. N. Vintskovskaya, was made the subject of an investigation.

On the whole, the Forest Conservation Service of the RSFSR performs successfully. The average extent of a forest fire has amounted to 4.4 hectares this year. Last year the figure was much higher - 60 hectares. We are gladdened by the fact that the enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry are actively participating in fire-fighting, thus protecting the source of their raw material."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

11 June 1988

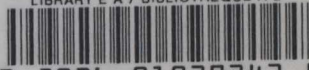
Page 1 (Full text)

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

The fire broke out in the forest of the Bodaibo Forestry Enterprise on May 10, 1958. The fire spread rapidly and by the end of the day it had covered an area of 2,700 hectares of forest and 400 hectares of non-forest. On the order of the Irkutsk Directorate of Forestry, A. M. Kolpakov, the Director of the Bodaibo Forestry Enterprise, and V. F. Malyshev, the enterprise's Chief Forester, were severely reprimanded and the responsibility of the acting forester, B. N. Viatkovskaya, was made the subject of an investigation.



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