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EXTRACTS FROM THE SOVIET PRESS ON USSR FORESTRY
AND FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES
August 1989

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

TIMBER & WOODWORKING

Overview of M.I. Busygin's Tenure as Minister...	1
Appointments.....	13
Extracts from an Interview with V.I. Mel'nikov, Minister of the USSR Timber Industry.....	14
State of the Timber Industry in Mid-1989.....	17
"Lesdrevmash" Exhibition - 1989.....	22
Larch Exports to Japan.....	23

PULP AND PAPER

Looking for Environmentally Sound but Effective Pulping Technologies.....	24
Competition Launched for Environmentally Safe Bleached Chemical Pulping Process.....	25
Kama Pulp and Paper Combine on Downward Course..	26
Segezha: New Paper Bag Line.....	31
Production Difficulties at the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine.....	31
Balakhna Paper Shipped by River.....	32
Robot Device Installed at Newman Pulp and Paper Mill: Kalinin Oblast.....	33
Pulp Exports from the Amursk Pulp and Paperboard Combine.....	33

FORESTRY

Forestry Operations Report: January-June 1989...	35
Forest Fires Raging in Tyumen' Oblast.....	38
Unique Experiment Aimed at Genetic Upgrading of Forests.....	39

ENVIRONMENT

Destruction of Northern Taiga Threatens Native Populations.....	41
Ambitious Pollution Control Programme Hampered by Equipment Shortage and Scarcity of Foreign Currency.....	45

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TIMBER & WOODWORKING

Overview of M.I. Busygin's Tenure as Minister

The USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry has been increasingly criticized over recent months on a number of accounts: a bad environmental protection record; low production; inability to provide necessary consumer goods and services to the population; shoddy products. This has given rise to a leadership review. M.I. Busygin's record as Minister of the Timber Industry was discussed in detail at the July 10 session of the Supreme Soviet. Some points raised by Busygin, his supporters and his detractors are summarized below.

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Extracts from Minister M.I. Busygin's Speech.

The Soviet Union logs a total of 385 million cubic metres of timber annually. Of this, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry takes roughly 215 to 217 million cubic metres. Approximately 70% of this is processed by the Ministry's paper industry and woodworking enterprises while 30% is supplied to the economy in roundwood form.

The timber industry introduced up to five million square metres of housing over the years 1986-88. Preschool facilities, schools, hospitals, clinics and clubs were also built. But this is not enough. There are currently more than 200,000 people on the industry's waiting list for housing. The Ministry has drawn up a programme of non-industrial construction for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan which calls for more than 2 million square metres of housing construction annually and for the construction of various social services buildings.

Popular demand for non-industrial goods such as furniture, wallpaper, skis, stationary, etc., is not being met, largely because of a shortage of

highly productive equipment and good-quality materials. This year's furniture production plan (7.7 billion roubles worth or 78% of total national production) is being fulfilled. The 1990 plan target is a billion roubles more. By 1995, furniture production will reach 12.5 billion roubles. Production may be able to satisfy demand by 1992-93. Market demand for wallpaper, skis and other wood products will be met by 1991-92. The value of production of non-industrial goods for 1990 as a whole will amount to more than 12 billion roubles - 1.8 billion roubles more than last year.

The timber industry is committed to not increasing logging volumes. The timber logged will be more thoroughly processed and we will make better use of waste products.

Destruction of young stands through the use of imperfect logging technology causes the most harm to the environment. The caterpillar tractor remains our main piece of logging equipment. Unlike foreign countries, particularly in Scandinavia, where only wheeled tractors are used, the wheeled tractors preserve the soil and the young trees. We have worked out a programme and have already begun to substitute the old technology with the increasing use of wheeled tractors in the forest.

The pulp and paper industry now utilizes increased amounts of recycled water and recovers more pollutants. It has also reduced atmospheric emissions. At the same time we are working at improving production and technical methods by economic means, in order to improve the ecological situation in our enterprises' zones of activity. We have developed and are currently implementing a comprehensive environmental improvement programme.

It covers a number technical retooling projects and the construction of new purification facilities using new technology and new types of equipment.

The Ministry, its directors and I were shaken by the severe yet justified criticism we received over the environmental damage caused by the Priozersk Pulp Mill on Lake Ladoga and over the unsatisfactory state of affairs at the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine. I can tell you now that the Priozersk mill has been closed down, is being retooled for furniture production and will operate as such. We are currently working on a plan whereby the Baykal'sk combine will respecialize in some form of environmentally pure production. We will meet the 1993 deadline set for new production.

The Mary Pulp and Paper Combine's purification facilities, which are now under construction, are designed to clean effluent for the entire city of Volzhsk and from a number of other local enterprises as well. The Mary plant is acting as a contractor. Construction will be completed during the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan.

(Asked what measures he will take to reduce timber losses during the loose float, Busygin replied as follows:)

First of all we need to stop the loose float altogether. In 1965 these operations were conducted on 1,146 rivers, and a total of 100 million cubic metres of timber were floated downstream. Now there are only 197 loose float rivers handling 25 million cubic metres. The RSFSR Council of Ministers has targeted 1995 as the last year for loose float operations but we believe that such activities will cease by 1992, or 1993 at the very latest.

We are making major efforts to transport the logs by boat, especially on Lake Baykal. Traditional raft floating operations result in few losses but we will be making sure that all raft construction is carried out in accordance with strict regulations.

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M.I. Busygin's Answers to Selected Questions

Question: Marshes in Karelia have been drained as a result of an intensive land amelioration programme. Trees were planted but either didn't grow at all or did very poorly. The marshes used to supply the local population with berries but now there are none. What can be done with these drained marshes? Can the draining work be reversed?

MIB: Our Ministry and a trust from the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry took over these plots a year and a half ago. We are now carefully studying the situation with A.S. Isaev. We will stop drainage work where this is required and will carry out restoration work where this is deemed really necessary. We have already stopped 80% of our marsh draining operations.

Question: What do you intend to do to improve the environmental situation in Segezha, Pitkyaranta, Kondopoga and Lyaskelya?

MIB: The Pulp and Paper Combines in Segezha, Pitkyaranta and Kondopoga all have purification systems. If there are any environmental problems there it means that the existing equipment is not being utilized properly. If I continue in my present position I will send a group of experts to these mills to advise on operation techniques.

Lyaskelya is another kettle of fish. Pulp production has been stopped since last year. Together with foreign firms we intend to build a joint enterprise for the production of 200,000 square metres of newsprint annually in the Lyaskelya-Kharlu region. The enterprise will be environmentally pure producing the newsprint out of 50% thermopulp and 50% waste paper.

Question: How do you intend to remove the more than three million cubic metres of submerged timber from the Bratsk reservoir?

MIB: Up to now we have collected more than 250,000 cubic metres of timber from the Bratsk reservoir and approximately 100,000 cubic metres from the Ust'-Ilinsk Timber Industry Complex. But timber is still piling up on the banks and removal operations should continue for some time. We have been offered help in this endeavour from cooperatives and also from foreign companies.

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Other Speakers

I.N. D'yakov, First Secretary of the Astrakhan Oblast Party Committee.

M.I. Busygin noted that the current furniture deficit throughout the country amounts to approximately five billion roubles, which means that popular demand stands at approximately 12 billion roubles. The industry produces just 7.5 billion roubles worth of furniture annually. But Busygin neglected to reveal how much furniture is produced annually in the USSR for the administrative sector. More than 500 million roubles worth of furniture is

produced for this sector each year. This flow of furniture should be stopped. Let the bureaucrats sit on old chairs and give the new furniture to the people.

Approximately 77 million cubic metres of timber end up as waste in the Soviet Union annually and only 43 million cubic metres are used in production. Obviously we should be logging less timber and making better use of wood wastes.

V.V. Antanaytis, Department Chief of the Lithuanian Agricultural Academy:

The Environmental Concerns and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources Committee has received many letters of complaints against Busygin and the Ministry of the Timber Industry, citing incidents of anti-environmental policy and environmental degradation. We have divided the "sins" of the Ministry into four groups. Our first concern centres on the depletion of forests in inhabited regions of the country. Our forests are threatened. No-one needs to tell us where this will lead. It is quite a paradox that here in the world's richest forest nation there is currently a shortage not just of timber but of paper and other wood products.

Secondly, the Ministry is clearly unable to deal with the environmental problem. The forest destruction results in an ecological imbalance. This can be seen in many regions of the country. Large-scale environmental pollution can also be observed. Only one third of the Ministry's enterprises have purification facilities and in most instances these plants are poorly run.

The third problem is our failure to utilize raw material - timber - in a rational manner. We have perhaps the world's worst track record in this respect. It suffices to say that we utilize no more than 70% of the timber we log.

Finally, the Ministry has failed to meet market demands for paper, furniture, railway ties, and a number of other products. Busygin has been in charge of this sector of the industry for fifteen years. These fifteen years have shown us that he is incapable of doing a good job. Those who love nature should not support his candidacy.

V.S. Yakutis, Team Leader from the Pinchuga logging enterprise of the "Boguchanles" Association.

Unlike the previous speaker, I support Busygin. I believe we should identify major environmental hazards outside the industry. Among the major culprits are the oil and gas industry, as well as the power industry, which has "drowned" tens of millions of hectares of forest.

I have identified several areas in which improvements could be made. Firstly we should establish only permanently-operating enterprises. We will log less wood but make better use of it. For example, in the Lesosibirsk okrug we harvest 14 million cubic metres of timber annually and four million cubic metres are left as waste. The "Boguchanles" enterprise cuts 400 cubic metres of soft-wooded broadleaved timber for which there is no application. We need wood fiberboard and wood particle board plants to utilize these resources.

Secondly, we need to stop the loose float immediately.

Thirdly, there is some confusion as to who is the master of the forest. Independent loggers and organizations flock to the Krasnoyarsk Kray and to the Sakhalin Oblast from all over the country. The timber logged in this way is used in agriculture. Surely it would make more sense to establish specialized plants for the production of agricultural items within the Ministry itself.

Production plans have to be kept in line with reality. A minimum of at least 50% of the profit accrued should remain at the enterprise.

Logging of Siberian pine forests must be stopped. Felling operation across the country, starting in Sakhalin, should be curtailed.

The practice of dynamiting stumps must also be stopped.

Finally, my main concern, - something must be done to protect the forest from fire. The government and the Ministry have to spend more money on firefighting equipment.

S.V. Ignatov, Chief Economist of the "Pomozdinskiy" State Farm in the Komi ASSR:

The logging plan in the Komi ASSR is oriented primarily on the extraction of conifers but over the last few years we have been growing more than 40% hardwoods in our "plantations". Logging enterprises, therefore, while harvesting conifers, tend to leave a great deal of valuable hardwood timber standing or even trampled under the caterpillar treads.

Twenty years ago an agreement was signed whereby Bulgaria could harvest timber in the Komi ASSR. Large-scale felling operations were envisaged. Any further agreement should specifically ban overcutting and should ensure that both partners participate in reforestation and in the comprehensive processing of the timber. Foreign companies should also contribute to the social development of the area in which they harvest the timber. The Ministry has overlooked this for years and its bureaucratic style of management is facilitating the further plundering of our national treasure.

M.I. Busygin is a typical example of a Soviet bureaucrat. One is horrified at the thought that he may again be permitted to destroy our wonderful industry..... He is an old-fashioned Minister; perestroika under his management would be a hopeless endeavour.

S.V. Pil'nikov, Secondary School Teacher in Pitkyaranta (Karelia):

We are faced with a number of problems in Karelia. We have set up a number of comprehensive enterprises where loggers and wood processors work side by side. Unfortunately, relations between the two groups are strained. Secondly, we are faced with a severe overcutting problem. There are not enough forests. Thirty years ago we had reserves of 775 million cubic metres of mature timber but now have less than half this amount. This is enough to last just another twenty years. Stricter regulations have to be applied. We support the expanded use of wheeled tractors in logging operations and have found our several dozen Scandinavian units more productive and manoeuvrable than Soviet machines.

V.V. Volodichev, Team Leader of an Installation Crew,
Construction and Installation Train No. 274,
"Angarstroy" Construction Association, Vikhorevka:

Logging operations in the Irkutsk Oblast yield 35 million cubic metres of timber annually. The region produces practically all the Soviet Union's cord rayon pulp and more than half of its viscose pulp. The effectiveness of timber utilization in the Oblast is constantly declining. At the end of the 1960s, for example, one rouble of capital investment in the timber industry yielded more than two roubles of wood products but now this figure has fallen to 50 kopecks, and will amount to 20 kopecks at the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan according to a Ministry of the Timber Industry plan. The plan for the second phase of the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex, slated at 200,000 tonnes of dissolvable pulp replacing the capacities of the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine, is a good example of the low level of technological, ecological and economic projects developed for the large timber industry complexes. The cost of the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine together with the town and the purification systems amounted to 310 million roubles but the second phase of the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex which is slated at the same level of production, cost more than 3.9 billion roubles. To make matters worse, the technical level and environmental consequences of the construction turned out to be worse than those of the first stage. The plan was developed at the end of the 1960s. As a rule, the Ministry of the Timber Industry does not follow up on the consequences of its decisions and projects. It is trying, for example, to place the capacities of the Priozersk Pulp Mill into the Bratsk Timber Industry Complex under the guise of reconstruction, even though the environmental

situation in Bratsk has already reached critical proportions. The Ministry of the Timber Industry has transformed the Tikhorevka river into a sewage drain for the industrial region. The Ust'-Ilimsk reservoir has been polluted by effluent along a 140-kilometre stretch. Fish in the Bratsk reservoir are perishing on a massive scale. Instead of gradually phasing out the Bratsk Timber Industry Complex, the Ministry asks for an increase in pulp production each year. The Ministry is not used to economizing. The additional sum of more than 100 million roubles was set aside to build purification facilities at the Selenga Pulp and Paperboard Combine, but no-one gave any thought to replacing the worn out and obsolete equipment which was installed more than 30 years ago. The Ministry of the Timber Industry persisted in trying to have the forests in the Kuytun region included in the timber reserves of the second phase of the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex, an inadvisable approach not only from the economic point of view but also in that it would disrupt the economic base of the sparsely populated native regions in the North. The Ministry tends to make its plans without any reference to the richness and composition of the actual resource base. This results in substantial losses to the enterprise, overcutting and in the physical destruction of the forests.

Yu.V. Neelov, President of the Executive Committee of the Surgut Regional Council of People's Deputies, Surgut:

I too have doubts about M.I. Busygin's candidacy. In the summer of 1988, the Perm' Housebuilding Combine (administered by the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry) began to manufacture houses which released a poisonous gas - phenol. These emissions were 500-600 times more concentrated

than the maximum permissible limit. One couldn't even go into one of these houses, let alone live in it. These houses were shipped all over the Soviet Union but most were concentrated in the northern section of the Tyumen' Oblast . We began to bombard the Ministry with urgent requests to do something. The Ministry established five commissions to look into the problem which finally recommended some stupid engineering solutions such as covering the walls with a plastic film, then with plaster and mastic. We asked the Ministry on several occasions to determine whether the Ministry of Health considered the houses safe to live in, but to no avail. Meanwhile, children and large families were living in them. The children developed allergic reactions etc. The local Soviets were left to deal with the problem while the Ministry did nothing. Finally, a Ministry of Health commission did arrive and concluded that it was too dangerous to live in the houses and that everyone should be relocated immediately. But where can all these people be housed in the Tyumen' Oblast ? We have 100,000 square metres of spoiled housing. This represents more than 3,000 families. Where can they go? How much did the spoiled housing cost? How much of it is still lying around at the construction enterprises? Who will take responsibility for this disgrace?

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(M.I. Busygin's candidacy was then put to a vote with the following results: for - 85, against - 272, abstentions - 42. Busygin announced his intention to retire.)

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
10 July 1989
Page 1, 2 & 3 (Excerpts)

Appointments

V.I. Mel'nikov, formerly First Secretary of the Komi Oblast Party Committee, has been appointed Minister of the USSR Timber Industry. Speaking before the USSR Supreme Soviet, Meln'nikov commented on the current state of the industry and, particularly, on the everyday social and working conditions facing its workers, before outlining his views on future developments in the industry. He noted that although the Soviet Union has the world's most extensive timber reserves, per capita consumption of many timber and paper products lags several times behind that of other developed nations.

V.I. Mel'nikov indicated his awareness of the poor living and working conditions faced by industry employees and vowed to make social development a top priority. He believes that all possible financial resources should be diverted to housing construction, for example, including funds obtained from cuts in proposed industrial construction.

Among other priorities mentioned by the speaker were: improving forest utilization; improving loose float operations on large and small rivers; and the establishment of an industry-wide engineering base. With reference to the unfavourable environmental consequences of current industrial activities, he proposed the implementation of a number of measures, including the observation of correct technical and production procedures in all timber industry enterprises, and the repairing of existing pulp and paper industry purification facilities, or the construction of new plants. This programme would be carried out in tandem with a further increase in the volume of production.

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The USSR Supreme Soviet has confirmed the appointment of N.N. Vonontsov as Chairman of the USSR State Environmental Protection Committee.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
5 August 1989
Page 1 (Excerpts)

Extracts from an Interview with V.I. Mel'nikov,
Minister of the USSR Timber Industry.

V.I. Mel'nikov, newly elected Minister of the USSR Timber Industry, in a recent interview with "Lesnaya promyshlennost'", commented on some of the major problems facing the industry today.

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The Soviet timber industry's contribution to the national economy has dropped from 6.7% forty years ago to the current level of 4.1%. The post-war decision to create timber industry enterprises operating on a temporary basis together with the chronic shortage of funds available for construction of new capacities, have had a detrimental effect on the development of the industry.

Over the past three decades 447 timber industry enterprises and 1,344 logging camps have been closed down. We expect that in the next ten to fifteen years approximately 100 logging enterprises will have completely exhausted their logging resource base and will also have to be closed. The shortage of funds and resources has practically ruled out

construction of new facilities. Construction undertakings for the beginning of the current year amount to just 39% of the norm.

The level of labour mechanization in logging operations stands at just 46%. More than half of the industry's employees are involved in manual operations. Our logging equipment is obsolete.

The logger's job is made all the more difficult by the extremely unfavourable living conditions. The introduction of new housing per worker in the logging industry stands at almost half that of the country's average. Logging settlements are provided with only 60-70% of standard preschool facilities, schools, clubs, clinics and hospitals. The low profitability of the logging enterprises makes it impossible to increase resources spent on solving social problems.

When one adds to all this the fact that the logging sector is one of the few branches of the timber industry which does not have a six-day work week, one should not be surprised that approximately 20,000 workers leave their jobs each year.

The situation is no better in the wood processing sectors. Fifty-eight percent of the existing pulp and paper enterprises, for example, were already in operation at the beginning of the twentieth or even the end of the nineteenth century. The service life of the equipment has been extended to 65% longer than the norm. Only 20% of our paper and paperboard machines meet contemporary worldwide standards.

Now let us take a look at what these deficiencies are costing us. Growth in the chemical

and mechanical wood processing sector is proceeding at a five times slower pace than in the 1970s. Production of the main types of wood products per cubic metre of logged timber in the USSR is three times less than that of the USA and 2.5 times less than Sweden, Canada, Czechoslovakia and the GDR.

We can protect our forests by logging whatever is required to perpetuate the biological life cycle of the forest. This is why I am against excluding vast tracts of forests, particularly in the European and Urals areas where most of the country's timber is harvested, from felling. Here logging is prohibited on an area exceeding 60 million hectares. The preserved forests are rotting as they stand with the result that every year tens of millions of cubic metres of timber are lost.

Increasing the amount of timber logged up to a reasonable limit is one way of eliminating the country's wood products shortage, which is currently estimated at 20-25 million cubic metres annually. Another way to do this would be to increase output of useable products per cubic metre of timber processed.

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The Ministry has developed a programme whereby the demand for furniture will be met in full by 1993 and the required quantities of various popular types of printing paper will be produced by 1994. This will require an allocation of 11.2 billion roubles during the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan. Preliminary data indicate that a lesser amount will be allotted.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

28 August 1989

Page 1 (Excerpts)

State of the Timber Industry in Mid-1989

Our correspondent recently spoke to I.N. Snakin, First Deputy Minister of the USSR Timber Industry, about production results in the first half of the year.

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In the first half of the year the industry met only 98.2% of its contracted deliveries target. As a result, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry currently owes the economy 244 million roubles. The most worrying shortfalls were in deliveries of commercial timber (1.3 million cubic metres), sawlogs (809,000 cubic metres), mining timber (140,000 cubic metres), lumber (338,000 cubic metres), etc.

What is the problem? After all, production targets for timber extraction, crosscutting and even for commercial timber were fulfilled over and above plan. It would appear that all the conditions for the realization of the assortment plan were met. Nevertheless, as many as 307 or 38.1% of the ministry's 805 associations and enterprises failed to meet their contracted obligations. One of the main reasons behind this shortfall is the inadequate supply of rolling stock: over the first six months of the year railway workers failed to supply timber industry enterprises with more than 144,000 units of rolling stock. Because of this, 71,000 railcars of timber were loaded behind schedule. Railcar turnover time in timber industry enterprises averaged 1.8 hours longer than usual. This resulted in a fine of more than five million roubles. All this money comes out of the profit-and-loss accounting funds of industry enterprises, which are still on a rocky financial base.

We must look at the effect that the increasing independence of the enterprises and associations has had on the industry. It is no secret that this year the timber limits designated by the USSR State Planning Commission were far from adequate for executing the state orders. For example, 32.5% of the plywood and 18.3% of the wood fiberboard required for wooden housing construction was unavailable. The already demanding state order for consumer goods was increased by a further 205 million roubles. We understand the importance of this state order and we are also aware of the general financial situation throughout the country as a whole and therefore we don't object. It would, however, be beneficial to delete the following materials: 50,000 cubic metres of lumber, 127,600 cubic metres of wood particle board and 5.2 million square metres of wood fiberboard.

How do the workers react to all this? They react in a normal way: they just don't accept these production plans. This is why there are refusals to agree to unrealistic delivery contracts. In this way, approximately one million cubic metres of commercial timber, the same amount of lumber, more than 3.5 million railway ties, and other items were refused.

I certainly don't want to place all the blame for the industry's shortcomings on the shoulders of its suppliers and various higher planning and procurement organizations. Their "corrections", of course, have had a palpably negative effect on operations in the timber industry. I am convinced, for example, that we should no longer tolerate the unjust way in which responsibility for delivery shortfalls is

determined. We have to pay much more for lengthened turnover time than the railroads pay for falling behind in car deliveries.

Let's now turn to some of the defects within the industry itself. The sharp drop in production from last year's high levels gives grounds for concern. This applies to logging, sawmill operations, and pulp and paper production. At this time last year, for example, timber extraction, cross-cutting, and commercial timber output volumes were 5.3 million, 5.2 million and 3.7 million cubic metres higher than at present. Although this trend is understandable it is nevertheless disturbing.

The explanation is a simple one: deteriorating forest resources, ever-increasing extraction distances, personnel problems, and an inadequate equipment base exacerbated by the shortage of spare parts. The severe consequences of natural disasters (fires, floods, etc.) also play a significant role. All this is true yet no one has made allowances for it. Industry workers are now eager to reach last year's production level at the very least. First of all they have to force production of commercial timber, the demand for which is increasing not day-by-day but hour-by-hour. The same holds true for commercial pulp, production of which fell 13.7 tonnes behind plan during the first six months of 1989. Newsprint production was also low - 5.2 million square metres below target.

I will not dwell on the technical and technological solutions to these problems. Our workers are well aware of them. But they are more worried about the economic aspects. This is not surprising: this is the second year (the third year for some) that our enterprises are operating in

conditions of a radical economic reform. And not all of them are adapting well. Why do the "Novgorodlesprom," "Sevzapmebel'," "Murmanles," and "Udmurtles" associations and the Ministry of Timber Industry of the Belorussian SSR manage to make their contracted deliveries while the "Komilesprom," "Sverdlesprom," "Tyumen'lesprom," "Dal'lesprom" and many other associations are unable to do so? There is no simple answer. One thing, however, is clear: those associations which don't wait for instructions from above, which display socialist enterprise and which boldly introduce progressive forms of management, are the very ones which are dealing best with the reforms.

I would note, however, that the radical reform has had an overall positive effect on the financial and economic state of our industry. This can be seen in the fact that reserves of stocks are currently one billion roubles below the norm. USSR Promstroybank loan debts have been reduced almost fivefold: only 38 debtor-enterprises remained by July 1, 1989. This year the number of planned loss-incurring enterprises has been reduced by 117 and currently amounts to 113.

There is no doubt that the introduction of the interbranch rated price system within the industry has had a positive impact on the enterprises' financial situation. The ever bolder steps towards the transition to leased and cooperative forms of management have also proven profitable. At present 119 enterprises in all, including 16 which were previously loss-incurring or scarcely profitable, are operating under lease. Besides this, the industry has 770 cooperatives, including 437 manufacturing consumer goods, 107 producing timber products and 139 providing paid

services to the community. Both lessees and cooperative workers are contributing to the financial well-being of the industry. Thanks in large part to them, the Ministry's above-plan profit for the first six months of the year reached 493.5 million roubles. The lion's share of this (295.2 million) was obtained by reducing the cost price of the products: expenditure per rouble of commercial output amounted to 77.51 kopecks against the planned figure of 79.56 kopecks. Total productivity of labour as compared to the same period in 1988 increased by 5.7% against a planned increase of 3.6%.

In spite of this, there are still more negatives than pluses. We are not making up for the shortfalls quickly enough. I believe the slow mastering of administrative independence both locally and throughout the ministry as a whole, is the main problem to be overcome. We recently obtained a minor victory over the USSR State Standards Committee in this respect. It is certainly no secret that many of the technical norms set for timber products are out of date. Who, if not the industry itself, is best to judge what should be considered commercial timber within the context of inter-branch transactions within the industry. The State Standards Committee agreed with this conclusion. We were able to convince the bureaucrats that the rigorous length and quality requirements set for various assortments were not always justified when dealing with industry users. In this way the commercial timber category now encompasses an extra 1.5 million cubic metres. In a number of cases we are no longer obliged to cut off butt-ends or cross-cut to length.

The search for improving performance continues at the enterprise level as well. Here we must touch upon the profit-and-loss accounting

system. We have decided, for example, to eliminate construction work not provided for in the plan, to further combat the non-rational utilization of resources, and to improve the quality of production with all the means at our disposal. The state acceptance (gospriemka) system has been helpful in this respect; 124 enterprises and associations are currently working under this system.

Bringing new capacities on-line is an important element in our race to catch up. Unfortunately, in the first six months of the year the plan for the introduction of new timber extraction capacities was fulfilled by just 77%. New capacities for the production of wood particle board and furniture are being introduced before schedule and operations of this kind have been successful in commercial pulp and paper production.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

3 August 1989

Page 1 & 2 (Slightly
abridged)

"Lesdrevmash" Exhibition - 1989

The fourth "Machines, Equipment and Instruments for the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry" Exhibition known as "Lesdrevmash-89" will take place in Moscow's Krasnaya Presnya exhibition centre from September 13 to 22, 1989. More than 400 companies and organizations from 18 countries will take part including Austria, Bulgaria, Great Britain, the GDR, the FRG, India, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Japan.

The Soviet display will occupy centre stage at the exhibition. Approximately 550 displays will be mounted by more than 150 enterprises and organizations from 35 All-Union and Republic Ministries. Only those items which possess promising export or manufacturing potential will be display.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

15 August 1989

Page 4 (Excerpts)

Larch Exports to Japan

Japanese firms have recently shown a considerable interest in buying larch from the Sakhalin Oblast. This wood is used in housing construction, hydraulic construction, for laying foundations and in building ports, airports and industrial premises. Most of it, however, is used in furniture production and for finishing housing.

New Zealand used to be Japan's major supplier of larch but this wood was of poorer quality.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

29 July 1989

Page 3 (Abridged)

PULP AND PAPER

Looking for Environmentally Sound but Effective Pulping Technologies

How to protect forests from acid rain caused by sulphur and nitrogen oxides is one of the major environmental problems faced by developed nations in the Northern hemisphere. The sources of this type of pollution are hidden away in furnaces fired by natural fuels, and in some basic technical processes.

Sulphur and chlorine, the two most harmful reactants in the chemical pulping process, should be used in sharply reduced quantities or entirely eliminated. Only in this way is it currently possible to lower the toxicity of both pulping effluent and atmospheric emissions, thereby improving environmental conditions and eliminating the terrible stench associated with pulp and paper industry towns.

Application of oxygen-alkali pulping helps reduce pollution. Today more than 50% of all oxygen-alkali facilities are located in Europe (mainly in Switzerland) and 40% in North America and Japan. Utilization of these facilities over many years has shown that the oxygen pulping process uses less power and helps reduce dirt and resin content and yellowing in bleached pulp.

Acting upon an All-Union Scientific Production Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (VNPObumprom) recommendation, the industry is planning to build an experimental-production shop for unbleached oxygen-alkali pulp at the Syas' Combine. This plant will be rated at 35,000 tonnes per year and will be equipped with "Ekotsell" (Ecologically

sound) technology. The first planning documents have been drawn up and the equipment has already been ordered.

But there is one disturbing detail. At one time the Amursk Combine conducted some experimental tests on oxygen-alkali pulping of viscose pulp. The experts now refuse to have anything to do with it. According to the Chief Engineer of the "Khimvolokno" Production Association in Krasnoyarsk, this was because Soviet pulping experts had still not managed to dissolve enough oxygen in the alkali and, more importantly, disperse it evenly throughout the boiler. This is why the resulting pulp was of such low quality and could not be used to manufacture chemical threads.

The new plant does, however, intend to use a radically new pulsation method for dividing the chips into fibres. Perhaps this will make it possible to avoid past mistakes.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
1 August 1989
Page 2 & 3 (Excerpts)

Competition Launched for Environmentally Safe
Bleached Chemical Pulping Process

The USSR State Committee for Science and Technology has announced a competition for the development of an environmentally harmless bleached chemical pulping technology. The aim of the competition is to create the most efficient, economical, low-waste, waste-free, environmentally safe technological or technical solutions for the

production of high-quality bleached chemical pulp. Winners will receive a first prize of 20,000 roubles, two second prizes of 10,000 roubles and four incentive awards of 5,000 roubles each.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

8 July 1989

Page 1 (Excerpt)

Kama Pulp and Paper Combine on Downward Course

The Kama Pulp and Paper Combine's paper machines, digesters, grinders and pulp drying machines were idle during the first four months of this year for a total of 2,823, 2,456, 3,809, and 2,254 hours, respectively. The paper machine operators, backtenders, machine tenders and cuttermen had nothing to do for 86 days out of 120 simply because there was a shortage of timber. The operators of the No. 6 paper machine, which produces 90 g offset paper for use in children's books, are now on their second month of "holiday".

The city of Krasnokamsk is the same age as the Combine and all the impersonal architectural grayness of the past decades is reflected in its greenish streets as well. The counters in the stores are either empty or are blocked by long line-ups of shoppers. Sausages are rationed at 800 g per person per month. Sugar, soap and detergent are also rationed. People don't hide their feelings and are frankly indignant: "What is going on? Krasnokamsk has its own meat factory yet there is no meat to be seen ..." The housing situation is bad as well. Almost half of the Combine's workers are waiting to be allocated housing ...

This is why many workers are leaving the plant and moving away.

The Kama Pulp and Paper Combine which was one of the Soviet Union's first paper mills, and one of its largest paper suppliers, servicing many publications, now finds itself in a dismal situation indeed. N.P. Seleznev, chief technician at the Combine since 1980, has been greatly disturbed by the Combine's poor performance over the past decades. "The first brick was laid in the 1930s. At that time the country needed cheap paper for textbooks. The raw material was brought in and made into No. 2 grade book paper. The Combine performed well, producing a large supply of both cheap and good-quality paper.

"In 1976 the Combine failed for the first time to meet its production target because of a shortage of timber. The age of the facilities was also beginning to tell - a complete technical retooling was in order.

"Plans were drawn up. The project was approved by the Ministry in 1978. But this approval was just the beginning of a long process. The reconstruction project kept on being delayed.

"Then we received word that all ministry projects would have to be re-examined and those which were not up to world-standard would have to be revised. The Kama project, of course, was not up to scratch.

"The Combine has not received its staple timber assortment since 1976. It has informed the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry more than once that the process of coordinating planned output and supply of raw timber material has broken down and is

now being carried out in an uncontrolled manner. No concrete action has been taken on this point up to now. The reconstruction died a slow death - only three of the eleven digesters have been replaced. The conveyors have one foot in the grave already. The pulpwood is sorted and graded by hand. This means that women with pikepoles must labour all along the processing line. The very dimensions of the building, which was built in the 1930s, disallows the use of new technology. The major problem, however, is the equipment itself: unchanged since installation, it is still operating at the 1930s level of technology."

.....

This was the difficult situation facing the Combine in 1988 when the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry ordered it to transfer to the full profit-and-loss accounting system and to self-financing. The shortage of fixed assets at that time increased to a staggering amount - 1.5 million roubles. Timber reserves accumulated during the float season in 1987 were enough to cover demand in just the first quarter of 1988. In spite of this and without any previous agreement with the Combine, new norms for establishing funds for social development were set in February of that year. This had an even greater detrimental effect on the normal rhythm of production. The results were soon in evidence - since the last two weeks of March the Combine, which was operating at only 75% capacity, was transferred by a division of the Promstroybank over to a special credit schedule. A year has passed but one can still catch the echo of these events. This year, for example, salary payments have already been delayed twice - once for ten days! In 1988 the Krasnokamsk papermakers failed to deliver 339.69 million square

metres of printing paper to the country's publishers. It also failed to generate 4.5 million roubles of planned profit.

It's a vicious circle. The shortage of timber has disrupted the rhythm of the production processes. This distribution stifles any willingness to work hard and results in breaches of the technical standards. Qualified staff leave. Unskilled workers come to take their place which results in more downtime of the equipment caused by accidents, which in turn increases production disruptions.

The Kama Pulp and Paper Combine's main product is printing paper. One thousand square metres of No. 2 book paper costs the publishers 16 roubles and 45 kopecks. It costs the Krasnokamsk papermakers 17 roubles and 68 kopecks to produce it. It's not difficult to calculate their losses when you realize that each day they produce more than ten million square metres of paper. The situation is easy to explain: the costs of the raw material, chemicals and materials have risen considerably over the past few years while the price of the paper has remained the same. The raw material suppliers stand to gain a lot as do the publishers - remember how rapidly the price of books has risen. It is only the papermakers, like poor relatives with outstretched hands, who have not had any of this good fortune visited upon them. They operate an unprofitable business, worrying about how to make an extra kopeck or two.

"This isn't work, it's complete chaos," comments one worker. "You work for one hour then spend two doing nothing. There are no semi-finished products to work with."

"The Ministry calls for increased production but the plant needs reconstruction," adds another.

A young woman graduate of the Krasnokamsk Technical College now working in the pulp cleaning section can barely be made out in the steam. It is as hot as a sauna. "I've been working here for three years, but usually technical college graduates leave as soon as they get here."

The Chief of the wood pulp shop wonders what can be done to improve the situation. "The pulp cleaning equipment is overloaded. Our workers don't stay. Who wants to fix a piece of equipment that has already been fixed a thousand times before? Our young specialists work the three years they are required to by law after leaving the institute and then take the first bus out."

One gets a depressing impression: having squeezed everything it can out of the Combine, the Ministry has thrust it into the maelstrom of the profit-and-loss accounting system, leaving it to sink or swim.

Yet the papermakers want to work and do a good job. In order to achieve this a lot has to be done. Since the beginning of the year the Combine has fallen behind in deliveries. It owes 532 tonnes of paper to the USSR State Publishing Committee, 439 tonnes to the publishers of "Krasaya zvezda" and "Izvestiya" and 420 tonnes to "Periodika".

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

13 July 1989

Page 1 (Abridged)

Segezha: New Paper Bag Line

The new line in the "Segezhbumpron" Production Association's No. 2 paper packaging shop has gone into production. The line consists of highly mechanized and automated imported equipment and produces high-quality low-format paper bags. They are used for shipping cement, asbestos, lime and other loose materials. A second similar line is to be put on stream in September. The Segezha papermakers intend to produce approximately 70 million paper bags on the two machines by the end of the year.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

17 August 1989

Page 1 (Full text)

Production Difficulties at the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine

The paper shortage in the Soviet Union is increasing in line with demand. Despite the shortage, hundreds of tonnes of newsprint have piled up in the production shops and warehouses of the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine because of a shortage of rolling stock. To make matters worse, the Combine fell 2,000 tonnes behind in newsprint production during the first six months of 1989.

V.Z. Lopukhin, Director of the Pulp and Paper Combine, had this to say about the deteriorating situation.

"It would be possible for us to make up the shortfall by the end of this year. But in order to

do this we will have to put operations in the Combine in smooth running order in the shortest possible time. This, in turn, depends on whether we receive our raw materials on time. To an even greater extent it depends on the ability of the ministries of river and rail transport to coordinate their activities."

The Balakhna papermakers certainly have a right to complain. The rolling stock arrives at the Combine in dribs and drabs. Less than half of the cars meet the specifications set for transporting paper.

The Combine is incurring considerable losses as a result. So far this year alone it has run up a fine of 58,000 roubles for paper spoilage. Last year's fines amounted to 400,000 roubles. The Combine could easily end up paying a million roubles by the end of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

31 August 1989

Page 1 (Abridged)

Balakhna Paper Shipped by River

Customers of the Balakhna Pulp and Paper Combine receive most of their goods by rail. Quite a lot of paper, however, is shipped each year by river shipping organizations. During the current navigation season, for example, the Combine has already shipped more than 4,000 tonnes of its products along the Volga River to Moscow, Kazan', Saratov, Rostov and other cities. Approximately 45,000 tonnes of paper still remain to be shipped.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
6 July 1989
Page 2 (Excerpt)

Robot Device Installed at Neman Pulp and Paper Mill:
Kalinin Oblast

The robot now installed at the Neman Pulp and Paper Mill is able to weigh the paper sheet instantly, determine its thickness and width, observe other quality parameters and guard against breakage. This technically advanced instrument, equipped with electronic pickup elements, can do the work of many inspectors. The robot was installed on the No. 8 machine, which manufactures expensive grease- and water-proof paper.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
29 July 1989
Page 2 (Full Text)

Pulp Exports from the Amursk Pulp and Paperboard
Combine

The Amursk Pulp and Paperboard Combine has produced more than one thousand tonnes of viscose pulp in excess of the plan and the state order target since the beginning of the year.

Many factors contributed to this success including: a stable supply of raw material and electric and thermal power; the considerable skills of the engineering staff and qualified workers who even while working on old equipment are able to exceed projected capacities by an average of two percent.

The Amursk Pulp and Paperboard Combine's products have been well known for a long time not only in the Soviet Union but abroad as well. Romania and Poland are long-time and steady partners. An agreement setting up direct deliveries of pulp to the People's Republic of China has been signed. In this year alone, 7,585 tonnes of pulp have been exported.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

29 July 1989

Page 1 (Excerpts)

instantly, determining its thickness and width, observe other quality parameters and guard against breakage. electrically actuated mechanism, equipped with a electric pickup element, can do the work of many inspectors. The robot was installed on the No. 2 machine, which manufactures expensive grades and wet-strength paper. The robot will allow the use of the

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
29 July 1989
Page 2 (Full Text)

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
29 July 1989
Page 1 (Excerpts)

Pulp Exports from the Amursk Pulp and Paperboard Combine
The Amursk Pulp and Paperboard Combine has produced more than one thousand tonnes of wet-strength paper for the plan and has a large order backlog since the beginning of the year. The combine has and will continue to produce high quality products. Many factors contributed to this success including: a stable supply of raw material and energy and thermal power, the combination of the engineering staff and qualified workers who even while working on old equipment are able to exceed projected capacities by an average of two percent.

FORESTRY

Forestry Operations Report: January-June 1989

During the first half of the year, forestry enterprises and associations executed the state order for the main types of forestry and industrial production and capital construction. Preparations for transferring the industry's enterprises over to the profit-and-loss accounting system are well underway. The Collegium of the USSR State Committee for Forestry (Goskomles) has analysed results so far this year.

.....

Reforestation operations have been conducted on an area of 629,000 hectares (101.4% of the six-month plan and 61.8% of the annual plan). 96,800 hectares of shelterbelts (81.7% of the annual plan) have been established. The area of forest plantations set up using comprehensive mechanized technology has increased. Intermediate felling in young stands has been carried out on 482,300 hectares (104% of the state order). Intermediate and salvage felling operations have yielded 20.3 million cubic metres of merchantable timber (109% of the state order).

Forestry enterprises in the Uzbek, Azerbaydzhan and Tadzhik SSRs, however, failed to carry out their seeding and planting plans. Azerbaydzhani and Turkmen enterprises fell behind in establishing protective stands. Set objectives for establishing shelterbelts in the Uzbek, Turkmen and Tadzhik SSRs, the Chuvash and Tatar ASSRs and the Kuybyshev, Kurgan and other RSFSR oblasts, were not met.

During the period there were 12,200 forest fires throughout the country. These fires affected a total area of 372,800 hectares. 2,900 forest fires encompassing 306,200 hectares of forest area occurred in forests under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. The Sakhalin, Tyumen', Irkutsk, Novosibirsk and Tomsk oblasts, the Khabarovsk Kray and the Komi ASSR had particularly high incidences of fire.

The industry reached the projected production levels for the main product types except for deliveries of export lumber (98% of the state order).

The state order for the production of commercial timber (104%) and consumer goods other than foodstuffs (107%) as well as for the provision of paid services to the community (122%) were all fulfilled over and above plan.

Although the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry and the Georgian, Azerbaydzhani, Latvian, Armenian and Estonian SSRs reached their planned volumes of production, there was, nevertheless, a slowing down of the pace of growth against the comparable period of 1988.

123 enterprises, including 117 administered by the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry, failed to fulfill their contracted obligations for product deliveries. They failed to deliver products valued at 4.2 million roubles.

RSFSR and Latvian SSR enterprises failed to execute the state orders for a number of industrial products.

The Ministry of Forestry of the Komi ASSR and the Kirov, Tomsk and Yaroslavl' Forestry Technical Production Associations were unable to effect a radical improvement in forest food product harvesting and processing.

The plan for the total area of new housing introduced was fulfilled by 101.8%. 102.5% of available state centralized capital investment funds were utilized.

Nevertheless, the state of the construction sector gives cause for concern. The Ministries of Forestry of the Kazakh and Lithuanian SSRs, and the Forestry Production Associations of the Uzbek, Azerbaydzhan, Kirghiz, Tadzhik, Armenian and Turkmen SSRs, failed to utilize their designated funds for capital investment. The Ministry of Forestry of the Belorussian SSR introduced only 58.8% of the planned total area of new housing, while this figure fell to 13.6% in the "Kirgizles" Forestry Production Association and barely topped 59.3% in the "Turkmenleskhov" Forestry Production Association. Construction of preschool facilities as well as health and cultural centres has also fallen behind schedule.

Fixed capital for the introduction into operation of commercial establishments and restaurants/cafeterias is not being realized in a satisfactory manner. Over the first six months of the year facilities valued at just 23,000 roubles, or 3.1% of the annual plan, were introduced.

The industry generated a profit of 3 million roubles over and above plan (101.1% of plan). Enterprises in the RSFSR and in Azerbaydzhan, however, failed to produce the planned profit. As

compared to the first six months of 1988, the pace of profit growth has slowed in the Estonian and Moldavian SSRs. Three enterprises in the RSFSR and five in the Georgian SSR have failed to eliminate their planned losses. Seven planned profit-incurring enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry have been operating at a loss.

Expenditure on labour payments is increasing for no apparent reason. Enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry, and the Ukrainian, Azerbaydzhani, Tadzhik, Armenian and Kirghiz SSRs have allowed average wages to increase at a faster rate than overall labour productivity.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

3 August 1989

Page 2 (Slightly abridged)

Forest Fires Raging in Tyumen' Oblast

Hot, dry weather is the major contributing cause of the numerous forest fires burning in the north of the Tyumen' Oblast. The fires have covered such an extensive area that a state of emergency has been declared in three regions. Approximately one hundred fires are currently raging in the Oblast. More than 40,000 hectares of forest have burned, half of which were destroyed by crown fires which are particularly difficult to combat.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

22 July 1989

Page 3 (Full text)

Unique Experiment Aimed at Genetic Upgrading of Forests

The first encouraging results in the restoration of our country's forest lands have been obtained by the scientists of the Institute of Forests of the Urals Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In many areas of the Perm' Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk and other Oblasts in the Urals that have never been completely "rescued" from the age-old taiga, young shoots of the finest species of trees are ripening in full force. These are not artificial plantings, but rather the regeneration of forest wealth by Nature herself, occurring through the application in practice of the theory about the creation of genetic forest reservations.

When marking out felling areas the largest, healthiest, most resistant and productive trees indigenous to the particular habitat are preserved from felling. Throughout the entire country mini-preserves are being established. In this way, the entire range of trees occurring under the natural conditions of a given locality can be preserved to save the gene pool from fellings.

The Institute has drawn up guidelines for the establishment of genetic reservations. An identify card will be made out for each reserve, that is, a unique charter of immunity, to which is appended a map of the locality. Indicated there on are the geographic position and quality of the reserve, and any authorized industrial activity.

Preserves have already been established in the Tyumen', Chelyabinsk, Orenburg and Kurgan' Oblasts, the Udmurt and Komi ASSRs and elsewhere.

Not all is smooth sailing in the introduction of scientific ideas to forest use. The lands needed for preserving a gene pool are often located impossibly far from the industrial areas.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'
20 June 1989
Page 2 (Slightly Abridged)

ENVIRONMENT

Destruction of Northern Taiga Threatens Native Populations

Aboriginal tribes of hunters and fishermen have lived in the Primorskiy Kray (Maritime Province) since ancient times. Further development of the traditional way of life of the Udegeys, Nanays and other local populations has, however, now become impossible. The main reason for this can be found in the barbaric logging practices common to the Ussuri taiga.

Over recent years a considerable area of forest in the Krasnoarmeysk region, lying close to Iman Udegey settlement areas, fell to the axe. The native inhabitants were forced to leave their village of Ostrovnoe and, scattered throughout the region, ceased to exist as an ethnic group.

Today it is the Samarga Udegeys, living in the village of Agzu in the Terney region, who are threatened. The Samarga Udegeys constitute the only territorial group which has safeguarded its traditional culture in a pure form. It would appear that nothing could endanger them. They live in distant regions accessible only by helicopter. Problems first surfaced, however, in the Khabarovsk Kray where Cuban loggers were conducting clear felling operations in the Sukpay river basin. They then began to feel the effects of the "Primorsklesprom" Association's logging operations in the Primorskiy Kray.

The USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry signed an agreement with Cuba on 16 January 1987

permitting the Cubans to log in the Sukpay river basin. The Sukpay Timber Industry Complex was set up after this agreement and was allotted, among other logging tracts, the taiga area around the Samarga basin.

The Samarga Udegeys appealed to the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee and to the USSR Supreme Soviet to stop these encroachments on their territory. "We are very concerned about these developments", they wrote, "and fear that the forests, rivers and fish will disappear as a result of the felling. This has already occurred in the southern Primorskiy region (in the Iman and Biki Udegey lands) and among the Udegeys of the Khabarovsk Kray."

The Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee upheld the Udegeys' request, recommending to the RSFSR Council of Ministers and the USSR State Planning Committee in March of 1988, that the Samarga River basin not be given over to the Sukpay Timber Industry Complex for exploitation. The Committee noted that native hunters and fisherman live in the Samarga basin and that large-scale felling would "result in a change in the river's hydrological regime, the depletion of fish reserves, the depreciation of the hunting grounds and would, as a result, have a detrimental effect on the Udegeys' national culture and traditions."

Right after the Supreme Soviet sent a positive response, however, the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee, together with a number of logging interests, issued a proposition on "the establishment of a comprehensive enterprise for the production and utilization of forest resources in the Samarga basin." This enterprise would come under the

jurisdiction of the "Primorsklesprom" Association. The Executive Committee also plans to commence construction of a logging road linking Sukpay, Agzu and Samarga in 1990. More than 700,000 cubic metres of timber would be extracted annually along this route. This is being done in order to "protect the way of life of the local population - the Udegeys, whose main occupations consist of hunting, fishing and gathering medicinal plants."

When was the Executive Committee acting in good conscience - when it wrote to the Supreme Soviet and the State Planning Committee that felling the taiga forests would change the region's ecology and worsen living conditions for the Udegeys or when it decided to fell the forests itself with the aim of "preserving the way of life" of the Udegeys?

The Samarga Udegeys subsequently replied: "We categorically object to the proposed logging operations...We do not want to end up in the same position as the Udegeys living in Krasnyy Yar in the Primorskiy Kray and Glavsyugi in the Khabarovsk Kray: they can no longer hunt or fish because of the commercial exploitation and subsequent destruction of the forests."

It is strange that the people attending the 29 December 1988 meeting of the Executive Meeting were restricted to representatives from various logging associations, the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry, the USSR State Planning Committee, the "Primorsklesprom" Association, the State Institute for the Planning of Logging, Rafting and Woodworking Enterprises and Lumber Transportation (Giprolestrans), as well as territorial forestry production associations.

One can't help but wonder why representatives from the RSFSR Main Administration for Hunting, the "Primorokhota" (Primorskiy Kray Hunting) Production Association, and the Society for the Preservation of Nature weren't invited as well.

These organizations believe that in order to preserve the Ussuri taiga and to develop the local economy it would be best to reclassify the valuable stands as nut-industry zones where not only timber is extracted but nuts, berries, honey, furs, meat, game, medicinal plants and other forest products are collected commercially as well.

The Udegeys living in the village of Agzu have protested the planned road construction fearing that easier access to their traditional lands would bring strangers to the region with a resulting increase in forest fires and looting of the forest riches. This has already occurred in the Pastun and Terney regions where logging operations have been conducted.

It is hard to predict how the Udegeys' battle to preserve their land will end, but one thing is clear: without the taiga the native populations of the north will be unable to retain their identity and preserve their lifestyle.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

8 July 1989

Page 2 (Abridged)

Ambitious Pollution Control Programme Hampered by
Equipment Shortage and Scarcity of Foreign Currency

The USSR State Committee for the Environment has in its possession a document analysing observational data on air quality in 534 urban centres. The document reveals that the content of sulphur dioxide in the air was 20 per cent higher in 1988 than in 1987, and that of formaldehyde, 8 per cent higher. This is mainly on account of harmful substances emitted by enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry and Ministry of the Timber Industry (USSR Minlesprom). Within Minlesprom, the worst offenders are Archangel, Bratsk, Baykal'sk, Kaliningrad and Amursk.

Pollution of such rivers as the Voloshka and Puksa (Archangel Oblast), Pel'shna (Vologda Oblast) and Vikhoreva (Irkutsk Oblast) and of many other bodies of water is on the conscience of workers in the sector.

The Deputy Head of USSR Minlesprom's Directorate of Nature Conservation and Water Use, V. Zvyagin, stated that the atmosphere at Archangel is currently being polluted by two pulp and paper combines: Archangel and Solombala. The maximum permissible concentration of methyl mercaptan is being exceeded in their emissions by at least ten times.

The problem can only be solved by building nature conservation structures. Some work has already begun, as part of a programme agreed with the Oblast Executive Committee and sub-units of the RSFSR Ministry of Water Utilization and Control (Minvodkhoz) and the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology (Gosgidromet).

The programme envisages the attainment of sanitary norms in stages by 1995. The cost will be almost 200 million roubles. The problem is getting the necessary equipment. At present there is no prospect of obtaining this from domestic sources, and to import it, currency would be needed.

Here also, the situation is complex. The products of the combines, as distinct from most of what is being produced in our country, are in heavy demand abroad. The difficulty is that, due to increased demand at home, only limited quantities are being exported.

The article went on as follows: The Council of People's Deputies for the City of Bratsk has requested USSR Minlesprom to take additional measures to improve the state of the atmosphere and has taken a decision not to build a cooking unit for viscose production.

The Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine has curtailed its consumption of water by 25 million cubic metres and work has begun on installing a closed water cycle at the Selenga Pulp and Paperboard Combine. To improve the air quality at the Baykal'sk Combine it is intended to treat the waste liquor prior to combustion so as to minimise the sulphur dioxide concentration in the flue gases.

The pollution problem in the Voloshka and Puksa rivers could be solved, when the existing mills are closed and other compensating capacities are built. The pace of construction at present is unfortunately, much less than desired. As for the Pel'shna, its fate is wholly dependent on the implementation of conservation measures at the

Sukhona Pulp and Paper Mill and the Sokol Pulp and Paper Combine, and consequently, on the availability of financing and equipment.

What was referred to as a very important document was signed at USSR Minlesprom in December 1988: the State Programme for the Construction of Nature Conservation Works and the Accomplishment of Other Measures During the Period 1988-1995. According to it, pulp and paper mills must phase out the discharging of polluted waste waters into bodies of water and reduce to set norms emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere.

The intention is to attain by 1990 planned indices for the quality of purified water and atmospheric emissions at all of the sector's enterprises where purification systems exist or are being introduced.

The third stage of the programme will be realized, in the main, by 1995, by which time, engineering solutions are expected to ensure enhanced standards of air and water quality.

The final stage will be this devising of fundamentally new, ecologically safe technologies, highly efficient methods of water use and air and water purification, and ensuring the rational use of energy and raw materials.

In concluding, it is stated that although the plans drawn up at the Ministry are encouraging, as to how realistic they are, only time will tell.

emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. are selected into bottles of water and reduce to the minimum most phase, but the discharge of polluted water. According to the plan and other measures, the following actions are planned for the period 1988-1990:

- 1. Improvement of water purification systems and the construction of new water purification plants.
- 2. Improvement of water supply systems and the construction of new water supply plants.
- 3. Improvement of water treatment plants and the construction of new water treatment plants.
- 4. Improvement of water distribution systems and the construction of new water distribution plants.

The third stage of the programme will be implemented in the main by 1990, by which time engineering solutions are expected to enable improved standards of air and water quality. A series of measures are also expected to be taken to improve the water supply and water treatment systems. The following actions are planned for the period 1990-1995:

- 1. Improvement of water purification systems and the construction of new water purification plants.
- 2. Improvement of water supply systems and the construction of new water supply plants.
- 3. Improvement of water treatment plants and the construction of new water treatment plants.
- 4. Improvement of water distribution systems and the construction of new water distribution plants.

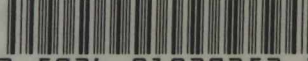
The following actions are planned for the period 1995-2000:

- 1. Improvement of water purification systems and the construction of new water purification plants.
- 2. Improvement of water supply systems and the construction of new water supply plants.
- 3. Improvement of water treatment plants and the construction of new water treatment plants.
- 4. Improvement of water distribution systems and the construction of new water distribution plants.

It is concluded, it is stated that with the plan drawn up at the Ministry the environmental situation in the country will improve as to how realistic they are, only the Ministry can judge. The plan is being prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and is being discussed with the relevant ministries and departments.



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