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SOURCE Pravda, No 9, 1949.

N. P. Vinogradov

The name "mountain pine forest" has been given by botanists to pine woods growing in the thick of limestone slopes and cliffs of river valleys in the southern part of the Central Russian Plateau.

The "swamp" pine penetrated further north, following the sand deposits left by glaciers in the Ice and Tertiary Ages, but the chalk pine was limited to its natural habitat. There seem to be no well-defined physiological differences between the two species, but neither variety flourishes under conditions where the other prevails.

In 1940-41, Kutsenko and Gridnev, workers in the Slonov Forestry Department, Novosokol' Nursery, tried without success to cultivate chalk pine trees under the same conditions as ordinary pines. Under controlled conditions, seedlings grew both under the old chalk pines and adjacent on chalky formations in Section 256 of the nursery.

This is of particular interest in view of the great program of field protection and tree plantations, which calls for wooded belts passing through extensive chalk areas along the Ural, the Volga, the Don and the North Donets rivers. In Voronezh Oblast alone there are chalk outcroppings, several thousand hectares in area, most of which are along river banks and ravines. For reforestation, use could be made both of chalk pines and of the scrub vegetation of the surviving mountain pine forests.

Such surviving trees were recently discovered in the Altai, the South Urais, on both sides of the Volga, in the basin of the Donets and its tributary, the Oskol, near Dubno and in several other localities. Those in the Oskol basin were examined, in 1948, by Vinogradov and Golitsyn.

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At the opening of the Galich'ya Gora Forest Preserve, maintained by the Kursk Department of the Society for the Protection of Nature, the Executive Committee of the Kursk Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies passed a resolution empowering the Kursk Administration of Forest Conservation and Forestry to provide for the conservation of the remains of the chalk pine forest in the woods of the "Stenki Izgor'ye" Reservation, organized by V. M. Kozo-Polyanskiy, and to establish a national preserve. The resolution has not been enforced, and there is a real danger that these forests, which could be used as sources of new pine growths, undergrowths, and grassy vegetation, may be destroyed.

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