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THE USSR TIMBER INDUSTRY DURING THE PERIOD 1945 - 1950

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In 1940, the timber industry of the USSR hauled 246 million cubic meters of timber, including 117.9 million cubic meters of industrial timber. In 1940, it produced 34.8 million cubic meters of lumber, 712,000 cubic meters of plywood, and 9.9 million cases of matches.

In 1950, the enterprises of the Ministry of Timber Industry USSR are to haul 114 million cubic meters of timber, 42 percent more than in 1940. This figure is to include 82 million cubic meters of industrial timber, 83 percent more than in 1940.

In 1950, the mills and plants of the ministry are to produce 15 million cubic meters of lumber, a 24-percent rise over the prewar level; 600,000 cubic meters of plywood, and 9.9 billion boxes of matches. Match production will be held to the prewar level, and further expansion will not be required immediately after that level has been reattained, since 9.9 billion boxes fully meet the demand of the population.

Furniture production in 1950 has been set at 270 million rubles, a 26-percent increase over 1940. Production of acetic acid is to total 15,000 tons in 1950, or 50 percent more than in 1940. Rosin output is to be 45,700 tons in 1950, or 28 percent greater than in 1940.

Planned timber-haulage increases in 1950 over 1940 and 1945 for various regions are shown in the following table (in percent):

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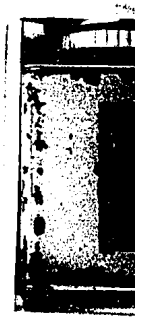

Region	Increase in 1950 Over 1940	Increase in 1950 Over 1945
Arkhangel'sk Oblast	42	195
Komi ASSR	28	98
Karelo-Finnish SSR	64	403
Kirov Oblast	123	251
Molotov Oblast	162	352
Gor'kiy Oblast	49	282
Bashkir ASSR	239	459

By 1950, timber haulage is to be 63 percent greater than in 1940 in West Siberia, 42 percent in East Siberia, and doubled in the Far East (Sakhalin included).

Timber haulage in Kostroma and Yaroslavl' oblasts, Krasnodar Kray, Tatar and Udmurt ASSR, and the Ukrainian SSR is also to exceed the prewar level by a considerable margin.

Logging

For opening up new forest massifs in mostly lightly populated areas, the Five-Year Plan envisages construction of 660 mechanized timber-haulage roads. New road construction in some regions has been preliminarily planned as follows:

Region	Railroads	Roads for Mechanized Haulage
North	38	142
Northwest and Karelo-Finnish SSR	47	86
Urals	39	94
East Siberia and Far East	28	161

In 1950, 75 percent of all felling and skidding work is to be mechanized. By the end of 1950, more than 26,000 electric saws and 6,500 electric power plants are to be operating in the forests. By 1950, 70 percent of all loading is to be mechanized.

During the postwar plan period, the Ministry of Timber Industry is to receive the following equipment: 26,100 electric saws; 6,500 electric power plants; 12,000 tractors, including 7,500 skidding tractors; 2,000 loading cranes; 470 steam locomotives; 1,420 motor locomotives; 25,000 narrow-gauge flat cars for both steam- and motor-locomotive draft; 7,000 trucks with trailers, 2,500 bulldozers; and 500 motorized graders.

The Five-Year Plan envisages a broader use of rail transport for timber haulage. While one fifth of mechanized haulage was by rail before the war, one half is to be by rail in 1950.

Horse-drawn haulage will still comprise 45 percent of total haulage. In round figures, 50 million cubic meters of timber will still be hauled by horse draft in 1950.

At present, roughly half of all logging work is performed by seasonal workers -- kolkhoz workers and individual peasants. It is planned to reduce the seasonal workers' labor contribution to 25 percent in 1950, so that 75 percent of all felling, skidding, haulage, and loading will be performed by permanent timber industry workers by 1950.

New plants are to be built in the Molotov area because logging along the Kama River is to be increased considerably. The plants in Sverdlovsk, Khabarovsk, and Kaliningrad are to be rehabilitated, and a special experimental plant is to be created for TsNIIME (Central Scientific Research Institute of Power Engineering and Mechanization of Logging).

The Main Administration of Mechanization has a Central Designing Bureau which is charged with providing models of new machines capable of increasing labor productivity in the forest.

Forestry

The most important task of forestry is to prepare the base for logging operations. In Soviet practice, the terms "known forests" and "unknown forests" have come into being. It is the task of forestry to convert USSR forests from unknown into known forests and to estimate their resources in terms of timber which the USSR has at its disposal.

The Five-Year Plan envisages organization of 197 million hectares of forests, which will also be inventoried, aerially photographed, and aerially inspected. Detailed inventory will be made of forests located in areas with a high exploitation priority.

Another important task of forestry is the rehabilitation of forests by sowing and planting in denuded areas and in areas short of forests, such as the Baltic countries, Transcaucasus, Central Asia, North Caucasus, Leningrad Oblast, and others.

During the plan period, it is planned to sow and plant 296,000 hectares, establish tree nurseries and plantations on 14,000 hectares, procure 3,190 tons of tree seeds, and maintain 422,000 hectares of valuable planted forests so as to increase their productivity.

By the end of 1950, it is planned to patrol 300 million hectares of forests with 200 forestry planes. This area compares with 80 million hectares patrolled in 1940. Not only forests of the Ministry of Timber Industry but also kolkhoz forests and forests of local importance are included in the plan figure.

Labor Productivity and Wages

In 1950, labor productivity is to have increased 54 percent over 1940 in logging operations and 30.5 percent over 1940 in the manufacturing branches of the timber industry. Annual output per worker in logging and floating operations is to grow from 1,845 rubles in 1940 to 2,852 rubles in 1950. The increase in labor productivity will be considerably greater than the increase in the number of workers since this number is to increase only 12 percent.

In harmony with the growth in labor productivity, wages of felling and hauling workers will rise to 6,230 rubles in 1950 as compared with 2,980 rubles in 1945.

It is planned that wages in sawmilling rise to 5,500 rubles annually in 1950, which will be 74 percent higher than in 1940 and 22 percent higher than in 1945. The wages of engineering and technical personnel amounted to 7,142 rubles in 1940 and 8,871 rubles in 1945. According to plan, they are to rise to 12,700 rubles in 1950, a 78-percent increase over 1940. Office employees are to receive a 28-percent increase.

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Besides rehabilitating furniture factories in the Ukrainian SSR, the RSFSR, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, it is planned to build new factories in Chelyabinsk, Magnitogorsk, Sverdlovsk, Arkhangel'sk, and elsewhere.

Plywood Industry

During the plan period, the plywood industry is to increase output of water-resistant plywood and polished (shlifovannaya) plywood.

Match Industry

To achieve production of almost 10 billion boxes of matches in 1950, it is planned to build nine new factories, to expand existing factories, and to replace almost all of the equipment of the latter.

During the plan period, 34 automatic machines are to be installed in the new factories and 18 in the expanded and rehabilitated factories; 41 worn-out machines in existing enterprises are to be replaced.

During the plan period, the geographical distribution of the match industry is to change considerably. In 1940, Belorussia produced 28.7 percent of all matches made, the central regions 46 percent. By 1950, Belorussia's contribution to total match production is to be only 15.7 percent, and that of the central regions 23.4 percent. The match industry is to be distributed more evenly throughout the USSR.

Average annual output per automatic machine in 1950 has been set at 92,000 cases, including 100,000 cases in existing factories and 80,000-85,000 cases in new enterprises, depending on the length of time during which new equipment will have been utilized.

Wood-Chemical Industry

Rosin production is to increase from 35,700 tons in 1940 to 45,700 tons in 1950; 82 percent of the 1950 goal is to be produced from soft resin, 18 percent, by extraction. Output of acetic acid is to rise from 10,000 tons in 1940 to 15,000 tons in 1950. To attain this program, it is planned to build five new plants and to expand the existing Vakhta Plant.

It is planned to construct large acetic acid plants and to reconstruct and expand the Asha, Syavskiy, and Dmitriyevskiy chemical plants.

The plan envisages development of the tapping sector of the industry. Collection of soft resin is to rise to 51,000 tons in 1950, as compared with 49,000 tons in 1940 and 20,000 tons in 1945. The area of tree stands utilized for tapping is to rise to 515,000 hectares in 1950. Exploitation of pine stands by tapping is to be extended from the present 5-6 years to 10 years, before the stands may be cut down.

Machine-Building Industry

The Main Administration of Mechanization of the Timber Industry was created during the war. Gross output of logging machinery during the plan period is to increase to 276 percent of the prewar level.

In 1950, the enterprises of the logging-machinery industry are to produce 1,500 electric power plants, 2,000 electric saws, 4,000-5,000 narrow-gauge flat cars, 62 tugging cutters, 3,000 truck trailers, 30 motor locomotives, 200 loading cranes, 200 bulldozers, and 30 self-propelled timber-haulage ships. They are also to make repairs on 1,500 trucks and tractors and 1,000 tractor and truck motors.

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Output per worker in the manufacturing branches of the timber industry amounted to 9,328 rubles in 1940; in 1950, it will have increased to 12,176 rubles, a 30.5-percent increase. At the same time, the number of workers is to decline from 237,000 in 1940 to 224,000 in 1950, or to 95 percent of the 1940 number.

Construction

During the first three five-year plans, capital investment in the Ministry of Timber Industry amounted to 4.5 billion rubles. During the fourth plan period, it is estimated that 4 billion rubles will be invested in the ministry, distributed as follows (in rubles):

Logging and floating	2,352,000,000
Sawmilling and wood processing	490,000,000
Furniture industry	180,000,000
Plywood industry	180,000,000
Wood chemistry	150,000,000
Match industry	245,000,000
Machine building	150,000,000
Other	173,000,000

Of the 4 billion rubles, 800 million rubles are to be spent for housing.

During the plan period, 172 new factories and plants are to be built, 187 rehabilitated, and 173 redesigned. In 1950, it is planned to haul 40 million cubic meters of timber, or more than one third of the planned total, on newly built timber-haulage roads.

By 1950, roughly as many as 100,000 workers are to work in construction organizations.

Scientific Research Work

TsNIIME is to occupy itself with questions of mechanizing laborious operations such as felling and bucking, creating machines for limbing, improving skidding equipment, and designing road-construction machinery which can be used in the forest.

Raft building is already comparatively well mechanized, but other floating processes are only slightly mechanized. The Central Scientific Research Institute of Timber Floating is to develop better loading equipment for lifting timber out of the water into barges. The objective is to mechanize all floating operations completely.

The Central Scientific Research Institute for Mechanical Wood Processing faces the tasks of developing the continuous, or conveyer, production method and designing new, more productive machines.

The main tasks of TsNIIF (Central Scientific Research Institute of Plywood) are to develop new forms of plywood and to study their physical and structural qualities.

TsNILKhI (Central Scientific Research Institute of Wood Chemistry) faces the task of obtaining higher acetic acid yields from wood, expanding the range of chemical products, and exploring the possibility of setting up small mobile units for processing cutting area waste materials.

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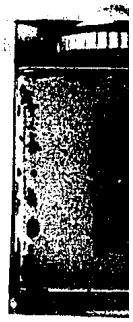

TsNIILKh (Central Scientific Research Institute of Forestry) faces the task of solving problems concerning practical application of colchicine for the rapid growing of forests.

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