

As for their article on the development of a domestic papermaking machine-building arm, the editors intend to publish it as well in due course.

### The Paper Business is Important

V. Melnikov, Minister of the Timber Industry of the USSR:

TO SAY that the paper situation has been greatly aggravated is tantamount to saying nothing at all: there are many acute problems confronting us these days. However the situation has reached the point where today's paper shortage threatens to grow into tomorrow's famine unless radical measures are taken.

At the present time 37 kilograms of paper and paperboard per capita are being produced in the country. By way of comparison the figure is 306 kg in the USA, 235 kg in Sweden, and 254 kg in Finland... While we lead the world in forest reserves, we occupy only 42nd place in per capita paper and paper consumption. What is the explanation?

It stems from the fact that the industry has virtually stopped developing. Its average annual growth rates have dropped from 9 percent in the 8th Five-Year Plan to 1.6 percent in the current one. Whereas during the period 1971 - 1975, pulp production capacity placed in service accounted for 2,360,000 tons, during the 12th Five-Year Plan new capacity is expected to reach only 65,000 tons. The same can be said about the production of paper and paperboard.