

For now, however, an unseen railway hand is manipulating the traffic flows, with the result that tens of kilogrammes of paper are being ripped from rolls arriving in a damaged condition.

When will they finally stop wasting time on idle chatter? And when will the Ministry of Railways people learn not only to theorize globally but also to haul freight normally, without robbing the country?

These questions might be considered purely rhetorical, were it not for the fact that in the shop next door, unlike McDonalds, everything is being sold unwrapped.

Gudok

March 10, 1990

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Paper Shortage Made Worse by Mountain of Needless Production Returns

I have familiarized myself with the Minister's Order (prikaz) dated November 24, 1989, "On the Introduction of Operational Returns on Deliveries of Wood". Throughout the period December 1989 to February 1990 our sector's head office is requiring its subordinates at the production sites to submit monthly reports on deliveries of wide-gauge cross-ties to the USSR Ministry of Railways and the USSR Ministry of Transport Construction, and of sawtimber to all of the construction ministries of the Russian Federation and to the Moscow Oblast Building Committee. This is also required for shipments of sawtimber and shipbuilding timber to the USSR Ministry of the Shipbuilding Industry. All figures are to be reported in items handled and in thousands of cubic metres.