

The collaboration between the paper combines and the publishing houses will remain. There would be no point to either side giving it up. But the forms in which it is manifested will inevitably change.

At the combines they are now willingly speaking of a joint-stock amalgamation of funds. To all appearances, the publishing houses will be in a better position next year and will profit from the opportunities opening up. The remainder will be even more strongly in the grip of paper fever.

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Nationwide Shortage of Newsprint: Pulp and Paper
Combines Beginning to Dictate Own Terms

During the years since the advent of glasnost many publications have increased their circulations sharply. Like mushrooms after the rain, many new newspapers are appearing. At virtually every Moscow street corner astute vendors can be seen, offering their editions at 50 kopecks or occasionally a rouble per copy. Where are they getting the paper? It is no accident that the paper shortage has become much more severe. The railway cars and ships carrying the white rolls from the paper combines often arrive at major publishing houses in a partly unloaded condition. This is because a substantial portion of the paper is being resold to new publishers.