

Production of Paper at Kondopoga Hampered by Undersupply of Pulp

Telegrams, letters and teletype enquiries have literally crammed the desk of R.V. Yushkova, Head of the Sales Department at the "Kondopogabumprom" Production Association. The telephones are ringing continuously: "Send paper! The issuing of newspapers is being held up". "Never has the supply of empty railway cars for the loading of finished products been so poorly handled as it is today", replies Rimma Vladimirovna.

It turns out that month by month the Oktyabrskaya Railroad has been failing to meet the Kondopogans' requests for railway cars, and that in their place it often sends refrigerator cars and even flatcars. In October, for example, the railway workers failed to provide cars for the export of 5,219 tonnes of newsprint, with the corresponding shortfalls for November and December being 6,724 and about 5,000 tonnes of newsprint respectively. The mountain of paper in the warehouses is growing larger by the hour.

A second reason for the enforced idleness in the paper mills is the lack of pulp, which has resulted in a loss of more than 300 machine-hours. The shortage of semi-manufactured products is having a particularly severe effect on the very new and high-speed eighth and ninth papermaking machines, which are operating on imported pulp. Since the start of the year the Kondopogans have been undersupplied with it to the extent of about 400,000 tonnes. They are being let down particularly badly by the collective of the Solikamsk Paper Combine.

Nor is the situation any clearer with respect to the availability of pulp in the year about to begin. The Kondopogans have already twice sent their contracts to Kaliningrad, Vyborg and Sakhalin and everywhere they have refused to sign them. Currently, in Karelia they have