

The collective had given the Ministry plenty of notice of its intentions. There, however, a very different view was taken of these ideas. Disregarding the interests of the Bratsk workers, the officials at the Ministry demanded fulfilment of the production plan for commercial pulp to the extent of the entire 610,000 tonnes, that is, they included in the plan what the Siberians had only intended to provide over and above it.

Naturally, the administration and the Council of the "Bratsk Pulp" Association's workers' collective were unable to agree to the plan being adjusted in this way. They therefore refused to sign the agreements for the delivery of the illusory 10,000 tonnes of output. By its arbitrary decision the Ministry threw all of the charts into a disarray and brought chaos to the enterprise's plans. Why should the Siberians strain themselves any longer, if all of the output, as in the years of stagnation, is again to be reduced to one level, with the immediate producer receiving nothing from the sale of it? As regards wages, the output of these additional amounts of pulp would have resulted in an increase of no more than four roubles on the average.

Nevertheless, the collective of pulp makers are holding to their belief that the Law on State Enterprises will prevail. The agreement on the sale to Japan of 5,000 tonnes of unbleached pulp derived from production wastes was signed for the second time. But such a piffling amount no longer suits the workers' collective. Accordingly, as recently as last year the Association entered into talks with the Soviet-Syrian joint venture known as "Lexica", which encompasses "Soveksportkniga" (Soviet Book Exports), the Syktyvkar' Timber Industry Complex and the Syrian firm "Kuli". The Bratsk workers' new partners need