

the Kotlass people regarding deliveries, but the directors of the Combine flatly refused to ship the necessary board, even at the prices stipulated. An attempt by the workers' collective at the Combine to influence the Kotlass authorities through the press came to nothing.

Again we felt it necessary to appeal to higher authorities. It didn't help. The Kotlass Combine responded by sending thin board weighing 175 grammes per square metre. It also failed to allot 250-gramme board to the Astrakhan branch of VNIIB which had developed the technology for manufacturing the cores.

The Soviet timber exports agency "Eksportles" is planning a major expansion in 1989 of Kondopoga newsprint exports in return for hard currency payments. The volume is to be raised to 50,000 tonnes. But this is hardly likely to happen. The Kondopogans will be unable to produce the necessary quantity of high quality cores and ensure that the paper is wound onto them to the required standard of excellence. It would appear that the foreign firms will again be refusing our paper.

This red tape is very costly. And who will assume responsibility for the drop in hard currency earnings? Could it be that as before, the Kondopoga Pulp-and-Paper Combine alone will be the loser?

Questions, questions, and still no answers. Meanwhile, the workers of the Main Technological Directorate for Pulp and Paper Production and Wood Chemistry, the scientific research institutes and the forestry enterprises are engaged in a round dance around the cores.

years ago we approached former Deputy-Minister G.F. Pronin with a request that arrangements be made to produce coreboard, and that the necessary