

now being carried out in an uncontrolled manner. No concrete action has been taken on this point up to now. The reconstruction died a slow death - only three of the eleven digesters have been replaced. The conveyors have one foot in the grave already. The pulpwood is sorted and graded by hand. This means that women with pikepoles must labour all along the processing line. The very dimensions of the building, which was built in the 1930s, disallows the use of new technology. The major problem, however, is the equipment itself: unchanged since installation, it is still operating at the 1930s level of technology."

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This was the difficult situation facing the Combine in 1988 when the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry ordered it to transfer to the full profit-and-loss accounting system and to self-financing. The shortage of fixed assets at that time increased to a staggering amount - 1.5 million roubles. Timber reserves accumulated during the float season in 1987 were enough to cover demand in just the first quarter of 1988. In spite of this and without any previous agreement with the Combine, new norms for establishing funds for social development were set in February of that year. This had an even greater detrimental effect on the normal rhythm of production. The results were soon in evidence - since the last two weeks of March the Combine, which was operating at only 75% capacity, was transferred by a division of the Promstroybank over to a special credit schedule. A year has passed but one can still catch the echo of these events. This year, for example, salary payments have already been delayed twice - once for ten days! In 1988 the Krasnokamsk papermakers failed to deliver 339.69 million square