

On behalf of the workers of two related shops - the nation's journalists and papermakers - we put the question point-blank to the management of the Ministry of Railways: Is it aware that through its own fault the country may find itself without newspapers within a matter of days?

Pravda

December 17, 1989

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Allocation of Refrigerator Cars to Ship Newsprint from Kondopoga Results in Heavy Spoilage of Rolls When Unloading

The largest newsprint production enterprise in the USSR -- the "Kondopogabumprom" Production Association -- has been supplying the country's printing houses with high-grade products for 60 years. Many central and local publishing houses, including "Pravda" and "Izvestiya", print on Karelian paper.

This year things are not turning out well for the Kondopoga papermakers. The Solikamsk Pulp and Paper Combine is having difficulty obtaining sufficient supplies of pulp.

Also contributing their "mite" are the Ministry's planners: while they have stipulated that 5,000 more tonnes of paper should be produced this year than last, the funds allocated for the necessary pulp are for two thousand tonnes less. That is why a nationwide search must be made for the valuable component: at Bratsk, on Sakhalin and in Kaliningrad. And then there is the problem of prying loose the freight cars and driving them over vast distances. Shipments moving in the opposite direction and idlings between scheduled stopping places have "eaten up" both time and rolling stock.