

Hundreds of representatives of cooperatives and newly emerged publishers are ready without a murmur to pay two to three thousand roubles for a ton of newsprint. They are offering meat, sugar, vegetables, fruits, mixed fodder and building materials in equivalent value. We saw with our own eyes persistent visitors to Balakhna and Kondopoga who either clung to the coat tails of the directors of the paper combines, or lay in wait for them in ante-rooms, on the street and at the entrances to their homes.

In the case of the leading producers of newsprint the share of the goszakaz has remained at 95-98 percent of their capacities. But even this tiny reduction enabled the Kondopoga PPC, for example, to instantly find some highly profitable foreign partners. In exchange for the paper left for the collective to sell on the free market, the noted "Burda Moden" Company will deliver to the shores of Lake Onega motor vehicles, sanitary engineering equipment, gas and electric stoves for apartments, food products, radio equipment, and machines and assemblies for automatic control systems.

Here is a voice from the banks of the Volga. "If you would give me unrestricted access to just three per cent of our output", says V. Lapukhin, Hero of Socialist Labour and Director of the Balakhna PPC, "I would feed, clothe and shoe not only our own collective, but even an entire district. But whereas at Balakhna, at present they are merely dreaming of getting 15,000 tons of newsprint in three of four years time to sell on the free market, at Kondopoga they have long since passed through this state. They are intent on getting higher margins: on accepting a goszakaz of not more than 70 per cent of the amount produced. The remainder - about 200,000 tons per paper - will be sold abroad, mostly to capitalist countries, at prices of 600-700 dollars a ton.

In a letter sent to M.S. Gorbachev several months ago, the Kondopogans wrote in particular: "This will provide an opportunity, by increasing our exports of paper, which is in great demand on the world market, to renovate