

This is why many workers are leaving the plant and moving away.

The Kama Pulp and Paper Combine which was one of the Soviet Union's first paper mills, and one of its largest paper suppliers, servicing many publications, now finds itself in a dismal situation indeed. N.P. Seleznev, chief technician at the Combine since 1980, has been greatly disturbed by the Combine's poor performance over the past decades. "The first brick was laid in the 1930s. At that time the country needed cheap paper for textbooks. The raw material was brought in and made into No. 2 grade book paper. The Combine performed well, producing a large supply of both cheap and good-quality paper.

"In 1976 the Combine failed for the first time to meet its production target because of a shortage of timber. The age of the facilities was also beginning to tell - a complete technical retooling was in order.

"Plans were drawn up. The project was approved by the Ministry in 1978. But this approval was just the beginning of a long process. The reconstruction project kept on being delayed.

"Then we received word that all ministry projects would have to be re-examined and those which were not up to world-standard would have to be revised. The Kama project, of course, was not up to scratch.

"The Combine has not received its staple timber assortment since 1976. It has informed the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry more than once that the process of coordinating planned output and supply of raw timber material has broken down and is