

Meanwhile, the directors of the Combine and the Ministry of the Timber Industry are adhering to the old way of doing things: the funds being allocated are for the development and introduction of new paper production capacities, and only then (the leftover funds) - for what in their view is of secondary importance: transport and warehousing facilities.

Incidentally, references to the importance of the latter can be heard at every level. In actual fact, the unloading and loading tracks have no direct egress to Pravdinsk Station serving the enterprise. They have become a peculiar kind of trap: you don't bring freight cars prepared for onward forwarding from the sidings, as the rolling stock is currently being processed at loading areas and warehouses situated immediately adjacent to the station.

Having made a saving in one area, we lose in another: last year alone fines for above-the-norm demurrages of freight cars exceeded 400,000 roubles. Whereas in 1988, despite the six hours norm every car was standing idle there for nine hours, the figure today has already reached 17! In a mere six months, 3,000 cars have been lost for loading purposes.

"We are prepared to supply the Combine every day with 100 or more cars filled with raw material", says the Pravdinsk Station Master, O. Stolyarova. "The enterprise, however, is in a position to unload at best a total of 85. This is because the delivery of all of the cars, positioning them for loading and cleaning those that have been unloaded is accomplished by way of a single duct, along one track only. Under these conditions how can one expect to achieve a rhythmic pattern of operations and accelerate the rates of turnaround?"

Yet another "impasse" is the level crossing of the track linking the station with the pulp and paper combine. This is the site of the Gorkii - Ivanovo highway where there is a heavy flow of traffic. While motor transport is being let through, shunting operations come to a halt. What ought to be done is to build an overpass or a motor by-pass, even though either solution would be costly.