

Madison's **Lumber Retrospective**

A 60-year walk down
forestry's Memory Lane

118 RICHARDS STREET - VANCOUVER 2, B.C. - PACIFIC 6838

AN INDEPENDENT MARKET SURVEY COVERING FIR, HEMLOCK, CEDAR, WESTERN WHITE SPRUCE

Friday, March 22, 1968.

Following a request by telegram from the Provincial legislature, operators and IWA are again meeting in Vancouver to see if they can settle the six month old southern interior strike.

Formal negotiations have opened in Vancouver for a new contract between the IWA representing 26,000 coast workers and Forest Industrial Relations which bargains for 126 companies. The existing contract expires at midnight, June 14.

A meeting of creditors will be held in Vancouver on March 29 concerning the bankruptcy of Dan Steer Lumber Ltd. in North Vancouver. Company made an assignment on March 12. Extent of liabilities is not reported.

Friday, March 29, 1968.

FIR requested the IWA post a \$250,000 bond to prevent wild cat strikes in the industry. This was immediately rejected by the union.

Hillcrest Lumber Company on Vancouver Island will shut down later this year because it is running out of timber. The mill has been producing 60 million board feet annually for the past 30 years. It has built up an enviable reputation for the quality of its Cedar production.

Hector Stone, president, explained that the company cannot operate profitably by buying logs on the open market because it is not situated on tidewater.

Friday, April 5, 1968.

Lumber sales in eastern Canada are spotty. This market has not become active. Buyers estimate it will be another two to three weeks. One of the problems on the Canadian Prairies is securing green Fir or Fir Larch dimension. The few mills now operating in the southern Interior are not able to supply the demand at a competitive freight rate. Many retailers are substituting P.A.D. Spruce dimension where possible.

Thursday, April 11, 1968.

The B.C. Federation of Labor has given another \$10,000 toward the southern Interior strike fund. A similar amount was contributed some weeks ago. As we reported last week the IWA is seeking a loan from other unions to build up its strike fund.

Contract negotiations on the B.C. coast are suspended until the government appoints a conciliation officer. Contract expires June 14.

Friday, April 19, 1968

The six months old strike in the southern Interior of B.C. could be settled this week.

The IWA will hold a meeting this Saturday, April 20, to recommend acceptance or rejection to their membership. Ballots are already being distributed to members in the southern Interior, but actual voting will not take place until after the meeting.

Horace Simpson, chairman of the employers' negotiating committee, said a directors meeting will be called for this weekend or early next week to consider the recommendation.

Jack Sherlock has also been appointed conciliator for the B.C. Coast dispute.

Friday, April 26, 1968.

B.C. Labor minister Peterson warned strikers that the provincial government will wash its hands of the dispute if the conciliation officer's recommendations are rejected.

So far the strike has cost \$11.5 million in lost wages. A production loss of 280 million board feet of lumber.

Weldwood of Canada has announced that its partnership with The Price Co. Ltd., of Quebec in the Cariboo Pulp & Paper Co. has been dissolved. Weldwood, with its parent company U.S. Plywood - Champion Papers is continuing its plans for a pulp mill at Quesnel B.C. Estimated cost is \$80M.

Friday, May 3, 1968

At the Company's annual meeting in Vancouver this week, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., chairman J.V. Clyne warned labor that there will be a "lengthy strike" if unions persist in demanding additional wages and fringe benefits.

Resignation of Charles A Specht as president of MacMillan Bloedel was announced. No successor is being named now.

A claim by the IWA that the resignation of Jack Muirhead who has been representing employers in current southern interior strike, is evidence of internal strife among member companies, was denied by an association spokesman, who said Muirhead had received an attractive offer in the Vancouver area and has gone there.

The Prince George Forest district log scale published by the B.C. government shows that for the first three months of this year the cut was up approximately seven million board feet over the same period for 1967. Compared with the loss of 140 million feet in the southern Interior during the past three months, this increase is not significant.

Friday, May 10, 1968.

Edward Valpy, Barnett Lumber Industries is new president of the B.C. Wholesale Lumber Assn; E.R. Taylor, Steele Lumber Ltd., is vice president.

The biggest lumber cargo ever loaded in B.C. - and possibly in the world totalling 21 million board feet has sailed for the U.K.

The cargo, valued at more than \$2 million was loaded for Seaboard Lumber Sales for Liverpool destination.

The ship, the Chennai Ookkum carried more lumber above decks than a Liberty's entire cargo of five million board feet.

Japanese businessmen have expressed interest in re-opening the Eureka sawmill at Naniamo. The cargo mill was shut down earlier this year through lack of timber.

Friday, May 24, 1968.

Charles Herbert Grinnell, 72 died recently in Seattle. Mr. Grinnell was founder and first president of Seaboard Lumber Sales Co. Ltd. He retired in 1953.

Friday, May 31, 1968.

The Attorney General of British Columbia, Robert W. Bonner, quit the provincial cabinet this week to join MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., as a senior vice president in charge of administration.

The assets of Perry River Lumber Co. Ltd., at Malakwa B.C. have been acquired by Drew Sawmills Ltd. at Kamloops B.C.

Friday, June 28, 1968

FIR also threatened a coast lockout at member mills unless the wildcat strike not authorized at Weldwood in Vancouver is stopped immediately.

There is mounting pressure from loggers who have left the camps throughout B.C. for the long weekend holiday of July 1.

The IWA reiterated its threat that in event of not being able to reach a satisfactory settlement it would only strike the MacMillan Bloedel operations. FIR announced a strike against one member mill would mean a lockout at all others.

Friday, July 5, 1968

Two thousand MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., employees in Vancouver start their annual vacation this weekend. The Company has threatened to cut off vacation pay in event of a strike.

Friday, July 12, 1968.

The coast wage dispute between the IWA and FIR is settled. Terms of the new contract are now being voted on by the union membership, and the result is expected to be favorable.

This is the first time since August 4, 1967 that B.C. lumber manufacturers have not been faced with a strike or strike threat by a major segment of the industry.

Well known and respected B.C. lumber executive E.L. Sauder, 85, died in Vancouver this week. Mr. Sauder founded the E.L. Sauder Lumber Co. Ltd., here about 1925.

Jack Sisson is new sales manager at Imperial Lumber Co. Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta, he replaces Michael Saiko who is leaving.

Friday, July 26, 1968

Hillcrest Lumber Company on Vancouver Island announced it will cease operations on September 15. Last Spring president Hector Stone explained that the company could not operate profitably by buying logs on the open market because it is not situated on tidewater.

Bulkley Valley Pulp & Timber Ltd. has acquired Smither Planer Co. Ltd. at Smithers B.C.. The acquisition was made by Buck River Lumber Co. Ltd., a member of the Bulkley group. Purchase price was not announced.

Huff Bros. Sawmills Ltd. at Princeton B.C. lost their main building in a fire which did damage estimated at \$50,000 this week.

Friday August 9, 1968.

MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., owners of more than 95% of the outstanding common stock of Kingsway Lumber Company a major wholesale distribution operation in Ontario, has offered to purchase all remaining preferred shares at \$15 per share. Kingsway had sales of \$18 million last year.

Friday, September 6, 1968

Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd., at Cranbrook B.C. reported it net profit for the first six months ending June 30 was cut to \$200,065 from \$531,025 last year. The six month IWA strike hurt earnings. Sales were \$4,122,837 compared with \$5,168,918 in the first half of 1967.

Friday, September 13, 1968

The IWA, at their annual convention in Vancouver this week announced the next contract target will be for a guaranteed annual wage.

The IWA strike fund dropped from nearly \$4 million to just over \$1 million during the seven months of the B.C. southern interior strike.

Friday, September 20, 1968

Noranda Mills Ltd. has shut down their Greenwood division in B.C. because of lack of logs.

Balco Forest Products has formed a partnership with Daishowa Paper Manufacturing and Marubeni Iida Company of Tokyo to build a \$70 million pulp mill at Ashcroft, B.C.

B.C. Forest Products is planning a \$2.5 million expansion of its sawmill at Mackenzie, 125 miles north of Prince George, B.C.

National Forest Products Association fall meeting will be held for the first time outside of the U.S. at the Bayshore Inn in Vancouver, from October 20 - 23.

W. A. Seaman, of Port Arthur, president of the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Association has suggested formation of an Eastern Canadian Lumber Manufacturers Association.

Mr. Seaman suggests the new association would be made up of the Quebec Lumber Manufacturers Assoc; the Maritime Lumber Bureau and the OLMA. That it replace the present Canadian Lumbermen's Association that has now become more of a vehicle for wholesalers and retailers than for manufacturers.

Mr. Seaman also points out that the conventions could become less costly with one annual united convention held each in rotation.