

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

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There were some individual mill settlements ranging up to five cents an hour. Other strikers, chiefly C.I.O. returned to work at pre-strike wages, while a fact finding board recommends a settlement.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Oct. 1, 1954.

During the past 14 years since softwood plywood imports from dollar areas have been restricted to shipbuilding, there have been important changes in the pattern of production by B.C. mills.

Before the war U.K. purchased panels for doors. Today sheathing grade for concrete forms is an important part of production. Sales managers here say it will take time to educate U.K. buyers to these new uses for plywood.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Nov. 15, 1954.

Plywood sales, along with lumber is also starting to hit the skids. One large operation reports they have laid off 338 employees. They still employ 1581 persons in plywood production.

The plywood industry hopes to sell considerable volume to U.K. to tide it over winter months. Also it is expected the St. Lawrence Seaway will use large quantities of plywood when they start pouring concrete next Spring. Meanwhile the industry faces a four month seasonal slow down. As we noted in our last report, some plywood manufacturers are already giving special discounts to jobbers.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Dec. 13, 1954.

That there is a lot of lumber in the bush, waiting for the planers is backed up by the following facts:

Canadian National Railway car loadings (see over page) show that a total of 7,272 cars of lumber were shipped from Prince George during the period of January 1, to October 31, this year. Taking an average of 30,000 f.b.m. per car, total shipments during this period were 218,160,000 f.b.m. According to official lumber tally scale of Prince George Forestry Department, the cut during this 10 month period was 320,000,000 f.b.m. Therefore the amount of lumber cut, but not shipped for the first 10 months of this year is roughly 100,000,000 b.f.m. or equal to one third of the cut. This does not include the carry over inventory from last year.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Jan. 3, 1955.

Volume wise B.C.'s drive to increase sales to U.K. has paid off. This year shipments will total some 675,000,000 feet; up 35% from 500,000,000 in 1953; but still under the 10 year peak of 1952 when B.C. shipped 772,527,000 feet.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Jan. 15, 1955.

Production wise mills are still struggling with mild weather. Cold snaps do not last long enough to freeze roads for heavy traffic. Manufacturers estimate production is still off about 40% from normal. There is little chance of it catching up now.

MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd. reported total receipts of \$142,590,658 for their fiscal year ending September 30. They had a net profit of \$12,759,572 or 8.57%. Receipts were up \$14.4 million over the previous year and profit increased \$1.4 million. Board chairman H.R. MacMillan noted that federal, provincial, district and municipal taxation is now consuming between 60% and 65% of the forest industry earnings of B. C.

NUMBER OF LUMBER CARS LOADED FROM MILLS IN
P.G.E. AREA EACH MONTH

| | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1953 | 513 | 802 | 909 | 535 | 701 | 909 | 1051 | 1055 | 1009 | 1124 | 861 | 829 | 10298 |
| 1954: | 675 | 1029 | 1225 | 755 | 781 | 1088 | 1425 | 1319 | 1265 | 1374 | 1354 | 1172 | 12290 |

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

Feb. 12, 1955.

According to real estate estimates in Montreal area a minimum of 11,000 homes will be built this year - which is almost 40% of the total homes built in the Province of Quebec last year - 26,182 completions.

Figures released for B.C. sales to U.K. for 1954 show this area sold just over a billion board feet - or roughly one third of the total B.C. Coast production (see Cargo Report). The current order file is sufficient to take mills here well into summer. U.K. shipments from B.C. were 284,650,000 b.f.m. of Douglas Fir; 300,012,000 Hemlock; 17,166,000 Cedar; 37,462,000 Western White Spruce.

Vol. 8 No. 9

March 14, 1955.

International Woodworkers of America will demand a 10 cent an hour wage increase from British Columbia coast lumber and logging operators.

Other demands include a full union shop; three additional paid statutory holidays; "portal to portal" pay; fare allowance, and an industry wide joint contributory medical plan.

FIRST PLYWOOD MILL FOR SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Savona Timber Co. Ltd., Savona, B.C. reported they intend to construct a plywood manufacturing plant at the current mill site. This is the first plywood plant in the Southern Interior of B. C.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

April 30, 1955.

There were many unhappy lumber retailers across Canada last week. Retail lumber yards who had to buy common green dimension for inventory reported the wholesale price today is equal to the retail price. Some retailers who had contracted to deliver lumber to building projects this month, found it was costing them more to replace this stock, than they were selling it for.

Vol. 8 No. 14

May 30, 1955.

In Vancouver the IWA and lumber operators are deadlocked in the current wage dispute. They cannot agree on a chairman to head the government appointed conciliation board. The appointment has been left to the B.C. Minister of Labor. This will have to be made very soon as the current contract expires June 14.

Lumber shipments from Quesnel area will be delayed at least a week, due to rail washout on Pacific Great Eastern tracks. Shipments from Clinton, Williams Lake and McAlister area are not affected.

IWA are voting on acceptance of industry offer of 10¢ an hour increase, plus other benefits over the next two years. While all locals have not been heard from, it is reasonable to expect that this pact will be ratified.

During a recent trip through the Southern Interior mills we noted more people trying to buy lumber than ever before. We counted calling cards of 47 buyers at one mill. These were for a six week period.

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MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

July 15, 1955.

Smashing all previous production records, Prince George mills have produced 40% more Spruce during the first five months of this year; have shipped 12% more. Most recent inventory now at Prince George is roughly 90,000,000 board feet measure. Plus another estimated 60,000,000 carry over from last year. (See overpage).

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

August 13, 1955.

According to C.P.R., C.N.R. and P.G.E. railway officials the present box car shortage which is affecting all producing areas of B.C., is likely to remain for a few weeks yet. Railway officials say the shortage is caused by increased lumber shipments from B.C. mills to United States. Once these cars get over the line, it is very difficult to get them returned in a reasonable time. P.G.E. area is worst hit. Southern Interior, Coast and Prince George are roughly 25% short on the cars required (See Individual

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

August 29, 1955.

With a changed outlook for a bumper Prairie crop, buying on the Canadian prairies is very active. B. C. mills report heavy demand from Prairie buyers for plywood sheathing, which is very tight at mills here.

Calling at more than 50 mills in the past few days through Merritt, Ashcroft, Kamloops, Barriere, and Vernon area, we could not find any surplus of green Fir and Larch dimension. All mills we called at had order files from six weeks to two months ahead. Most were turning down orders every day. While looking over some of the business on the books at various mills we noticed the tendency to sell at less 2% only. Most business on the books through this area was for U.S. accounts with delivery dates up to six weeks. There have been very few cancellations from either Canadian or U.S. buyers this summer, although some orders are long overdue.

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Northern Interior Lumberman's Association at Prince George reports a two year agreement with IWA effective August 31.

I.W.A. got 3¢ an hour increase (\$1.37 to \$1.40) additional statutory holiday, with pay. Workers now get three paid holidays a year. Forty hour a week clause, which means time and a half will be paid for all Saturday work, regardless of number of hours worked during the week. Most mills will now be on a five day week.

Some mills which normally cut Cedar are cutting Hemlock, others find it more profitable to sell their logs to U.S. buyers, who always seem to need them.