

# 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

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER September 27, 1958.

Longshoremen in B.C. started loading ships again Wednesday morning. The strike was settled on wage increases totalling 21 cents in a two year contract; a better pension plan, jointly administered; an 8 hour day and improved holiday pay.

October 13, 1958.

Strikes threaten Northern Spruce areas of B.C. and Fir and Larch mills in the South. IWA wants a 15% increase. Conciliation board recommended two three-percent increases over two years for Fir and Larch and no increase in the North on a one year contract.

October 31, 1958.

At least 40% of B.C. Interior Fir and Larch production will be stopped if IWA strike takes place at 31 major operations in Southern Interior of B.C. IWA want \$1.72 an hour base rate compared with current \$1.53 an hour.

November 12, 1958.

Employees of 15 mills in the Southern Interior of B.C. voted to strike last Friday. Fifteen others have voted against striking in the current IWA wage dispute at Fir and Larch mills. Only the 15 who have voted to strike will be able to do so under B.C. Labor laws. This leaves at least another 50 mills in the Southern Interior who will still be shipping lumber.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER December 15, 1958.

The 17% freight rate hike is causing confusion across the Canadian Prairies. Many manufacturers and wholesalers were out of the market this week, while they tried to figure out how much the increase would be from various shipping points.

On the B.C. Coast the powerful B.C. Lumber Manufacturers Association which represents majority of Coast shippers has swung into the freight rate fight. While many mills are not set up to cut a volume of lumber for Canadian rail market, the increased freight rate has upped the price of plywood.

Cargo Report MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER January 15, 1959.

United Kingdom buying for November was better than it has been for several months, but the order file compared with last year is down 87 million board feet. There has not been any further news from U.K. as to what sort of reception the Russian 200 million b.f.m. offer on first open water basis has received.

January 15, 1959.

Chief Justice Gordon McGregor Sloan, timber adviser to the B.C. Government died Wednesday at age of 60.

## 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
1957:	906	1341	1756	1006	1171	1680	1767	1883	1530	1627	1466	1225	17358
1958:	1532	1760	1696	1283	1628	1943	2362	2686	2442	2671	2183	1846	24032

Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association and IWA at Penticton have been holding marathon meetings in an effort to settle the strike of Interior mills.

## MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

February 14, 1959.

In Vancouver this week Western Plywood Co. Ltd. announced they will build a new plywood plant on the B.C. Lower Mainland this summer. At annual meeting, President John Bene reported sales up 10% to end of fiscal year October 31, 1958. Net earnings were \$661,696 a gain of \$95,087 over previous year. Sales totalled \$16,386,279 compared with \$15,456,375 in 1957.

After a 72 day strike in the Southern Interior of B.C. the IWA employees are back at work with a 16 cents an hour increase. Employees will receive eight cents effective February 1; four cents September 1; and four cents March 1, 1960. Basic pay before the strike was \$1.53 an hour.

## MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

March 30, 1959.

On the B.C. Coast, talks between IWA and Forest Industrial Relations continue over the new contract to replace the present one which expires June 14. The union has stated that this year it will not work after June 14 unless a new contract is signed.

James Goodfellow Robson, one of B.C.'s best known lumbermen passed away this week at 70 years of age. Mr. Robson was former President of Timberland Development Company which was known all over the world for their famed "long sticks". A philanthropist, Mr. Robson gave away nearly \$1,000,000 to various causes during his lifetime.

## MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

April 27, 1959.

The Canadian rail market absorbed 11% of B.C. lumber production in 1958 according to B.C. Lumber Manufacturers annual statistical report. Last year B.C. mills cut nearly five billion board feet of lumber. Eastern Canada took 334 million board feet; of which 219 million came from Interior mills and 115 million from Coast mills.

April 13, 1959.

March was a record shipping month for mills served by Pacific Great Eastern Railway. A total of 2837 cars of lumber were shipped or 85,000,000 b.f.m. April shipments will be down because of breakup.

## MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

May 30, 1959.

IWA turned down a B.C. Coast offer of a wage increase of 12¢ an hour over a two-year period. Union is sticking out for a 20% wage boost this year on their contract which expires June 14 with a "no contract no work clause". Union claimed the wage offer is actually over three years because they settled without an increase in 1958.

Forest Industrial Relations offer for manufacturers here was a seven cent boost this year and five or six cents next year depending on worker classification. This would raise the basic rate to \$1.79 cents an hour this year and \$1.89 in 1960.

JUNE 19, 1959

B.C. Department of Labour announced this week that a Government supervised strike vote of IWA at B.C. Coast mills will be held on Friday, June 26.

IWA has set July 6th as strike deadline for B.C. Coastal operations. This followed a government supervised strike vote which resulted in 90.7% members voting to strike. One bright spot in the deadlock is both FIR representing operators and IWA have announced they are willing to continue to negotiate to reach a settlement before the strike becomes effective.



July 3, 1959  
B. C. Department of Labor announced today, Friday, that it will act to prevent the IWA strike on the B.C. Coast. Strike is set for 11 a.m. Monday, July 6th. Union wants a 20% pay increase on the present average hourly rate of \$2.20; plus fringe benefits. Companies through Forest Industrial Relations offered a 12 cent hourly increase over two years, plus a six cent hourly increase this year for tradesmen.

July 10, 1959.  
The strike of 27,000 IWA workers on the B.C. Coast ended its first week without any sign of a settlement. No meetings are scheduled between IWA and FIR. The strike has cut B.C. shipments to U.S. by about 50% or some 80,000,000 f.b.m. a month. At end of this week some B.C. Interior mills reported U.S. transit shippers are offering higher prices for green Fir dimension.

July 24, 1959.  
P.G.E. mills had a banner shipping month in June when 3195 cars of lumber rolled off this line according to railroad officials. This is the biggest shipping month for lumber in the history of the railroad.

July 31, 1959  
B. C.'s Premier W.A.C. Bennett said in Vancouver this week that the Coast lumber industry can afford an immediate wage increase of 12¢ an hour instead of the management offer of 12¢ over two years. His statement met with approval from the striking IWA, but received a frigid reception from Forest Industrial Relations which represents management.

August 14, 1959.  
The IWA strike drags on. The union refused Provincial Premier Bennett's request for a public accounting of their strike fund on the grounds it would tell the employers how long the fund would last. Premier Bennett said he had received letters from wives of the strikers stating they need financial help. Married IWA workers get \$14 a week from strike fund if they can show they need help. Single men get \$8.00 per week.

The fire at Pohle Lumber Company at Terrace B.C. has eliminated one of the few Cedar mills which are now operating. No announcement has been made by Pohle management as to whether they will rebuild the mill.

August 22, 1959.  
The lumber industry will know within another 10 days if current negotiations between operators and IWA are successful. In progress under government-appointed mediator Dr. John J. Deutch is a bid to settle the dispute now in its seventh week. The new mediator is former head of UBC economic department and is regarded as one of Canada's top economists.

#### MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER August 22, 1959.

About the only item in demand across Canada is plywood. The few mills in B.C. who are not strikebound report they could take enough plywood orders now to keep them in full production through most of the winter. A new plywood mill will start in B.C. this week. This is SAVONA TIMBER CO. LTD. at Savona which according to well known lumberman Don King will produce CD Interior type plywood.

September 11, 1959.  
The B.C. Coast lumber strike came to an end at 4 p.m. Friday when an overwhelming majority of manufacturers agreed to accept the Deutsch formula. Earlier in the week IWA voted 70% to accept the Report which gives the union 10¢ an hour increase for the next two years, plus other concessions. B. C. logging camps, shingle mills and manufacturing operations will all be operating again by Monday, September 14.