

# 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

CARGO REPORT MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Oct. 1, 1953.

Canadian National Railways have placed embargo on lumber shipments within a twenty mile radius of Prince George.

Timber importers in U.K. hope to get the licensing of consumption lifted this month. Exporters here agree it will help exports. None think it will boom business back to 1951 when B. C. shipped 763 million net to U.K.; but it will help to move more than the 450 million feet shipped during the past year.

Shipments of Western White Spruce from Fort George Forest District were halted Monday.

Forty major manufacturers are strike bound, over a wage dispute with I.W.A. Mills are picketed to stop lumber shipments.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Nov. 1, 1953.

Western White Spruce mills in Prince George area are still strike bound, for sixth consecutive week. Two mills shipping W.W. Spruce have secured injunctions to restrain IWA picketing. They are White Lumber Ltd., at Red Rock and Pacific Western Planing mills at Quesnel.

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Close mouthed exporters in a competitive market are reluctant to state the amount of new business on their books. Our survey among tidewater mills, and parcel exporters, indicates an aggregate of more than 300,000,000 board feet of Douglas Fir and Hemlock is booked for U.K., South Africa and Australia.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Dec. 14, 1953.

Lumber exporters in B.C. are supporting a move by the Canadian Government to write a new trade agreement with Japan, which they say offers potential outlet for lumber. That country has dollars to buy.

Shipment of pre-war Jap squares are out now, say B.C. exporters, because they are used in plywood mills. Japan is currently buying Cedar logs. B. C. would like to sell her lumber.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Jan. 2, 1954.

H. R. MacMillan of MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd., warned stockholders that "there is no pronounced trend in sight in the lumber market." He was referring specifically to export markets and noted lumber prices fell an average of 13% below 1952 level, while manufacturing costs increased to 56.5% for wages.

LOG SCALE VANCOUVER FOREST DISTRICT (MILLION FEET)

OCTOBER - 1953: D. Fir 91,326: Cedar 38,693: Hemlock 61,805: Other 21,907

NOVEMBER - 1953: D. Fir 134,982: Cedar 53,006: Hemlock 83,978: Other 25,791

Total 11 months 1953: 2,776,908 M : Total 11 months 1952 - 2,553,774 M.

The IWA is smarting under the report by Judge Lord who was appointed by the British Columbia government to investigate the dispute. After a public hearing the judge rejected the union bid for a compulsory checkoff because he said "it is impossible to suggest this is a responsible union".

The judge recommended settlement on the basis of a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cent hourly wage increase; single plant maintenance of membership and reduction of the holiday qualifying time.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

Jan. 15, 1954.

Southern Interior Operators and IWA are currently meeting in Vancouver in an effort to reach a settlement of the three-month old strike. Union rejected Conciliation Board award of a 3¢ hourly wage hike.

WESTERN WHITE SPRUCE RAIL SHIPMENTS FROM PRINCE GEORGE

Carloads	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1952	297	333	889	267	554	638	789	831	733	788	643	531	7293
1953	533	634	659	326	521	757	821	868	632	12	34	66	5863

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

Feb. 1, 1954.

The new IWA contract calls for a 4 cent an hour wage increase, which became effective January 27; another 3 cent increase on Sept. 1, and another 3 cents on September 1, 1955. Settlement also includes three statutory holidays - one to be implemented each year until the total is reached and

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

Feb. 13, 1954.

Wholesalers and retailers from Vancouver to Montreal are complaining about credit buying. In Quebec and Ontario several wholesalers reported accounts are taking up to 60 and in some instances 90 days on the 2% 15 day basis. one example last week where it was cheaper to buy timbers from warehouse stock in Ontario than they could be purchased from B.C. or Oregon. These timbers were offered from Ontario warehouse for \$4.00 per M under Coast prices.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

March 1, 1954.

An increase of six cents an hour, plus overtime on Saturday for B. C. long-shoremen, has resulted in an increase of 50¢ per M on loading costs here.

We were informed by one bank manager in a very small community which relies on Spruce as its chief source of income that debts to merchants in town now total \$108,000 - all of which is overdue. There is no reason to assume that this is an isolated area.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER

April 15, 1954.

Buyers in Boston and New York complain prices are too high and have just simply refused to buy Hemlock at \$61 F.A.S. B. C. mills backed by U.K. orders have been equally adamant and held to their asking price which is comparable to what they can get in U.K. It has simply resolved itself to a position as to which side will weaken first - and how much.

IWA has announced they will not seek a cash wage increase for their 32,000 members when talks get underway in mid April. They will seek full union shop; nine paid holidays instead of three; employer paid medical services through the industry and payment of fares from point of hiring to point of employment, These fringe benefits will cost employers about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour, say IWA.

Forest Industrial Relations representing employers pointed out that the proposed changes in the contract are simply wage increases disguised in another form.

Annual report of Canadian Western Lumber Co. Ltd., revealed that net income for 1953 totalled \$3,071,273 an increase of \$192,262 over 1952. The report said 33 percent of lumber sales by volume went to Canada, 38 percent to United States, 12 percent to United Kingdom, 10 percent to other sterling areas

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The threat of C.I.O. strike in U.S. became more real Friday afternoon. U.S. manufacturers refused the 12½ cent an hour wage increase. They offered last year's contract. It is possible by Monday morning that most of the Douglas Fir mills on U.S. Pacific Coast will be strikebound.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER May 15, 1954.

Reduction of freight rates on lumber and plywood from B.C. Coast points across Canada was announced last week at Board of Transport hearings in Vancouver. Plywood rates will be 20% over new lumber rates.

IWA in Prince George area say they will ask a 6 cent across the board wage increase, nine paid holidays, 40 hour week, plus other concessions. Negotiations are starting this month.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER June 1st, 1954.

We had a remarkable instance in one large city of "people only believing what they want to believe". Calling on wholesalers we asked if their gross profit was up or down for the first four months of this year compared with last year. In every instance we were told it was down. An examination of the books proved however that in 65% of the instances gross profit was up this year from a few hundred dollars to several thousand in some cases. The explanation was that general talk said business was bad.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER June 28, 1954.

Green dimension prices continued upward as U.S. lumber strike ended its first week.

In Summary: Dimension prices continue to rise daily as U.S. buyers crowd the producing areas for quick shipment. There is little chance of a break in the U.S. strike for at least another two weeks.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER July 31, 1954.

According to C.N.R. just over 500 cars of lumber were shipped from Prince George during the first two weeks of this month. July will set an all time record for monthly shipments.

The U.S. mill strike continues. No immediate break is in sight.

Meetings between IWA and operators in Portland last week failed to break the deadlock.

MADISON'S CANADIAN LUMBER REPORTER Aug. 28, 1954.

There is a slow but gradual settlement of the U.S. lumber strike. Some smaller mills have started up again. Last week two sawmills and a plywood plant of Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, under AFL jurisdiction accepted a 2½¢ an hour increase. Most of the company operations under CIO could not decide on the offer and the company withdrew it. The slow but steady back to work movement continues.

Bad weather, rain and mud, is delaying logging from Alberta to Burns Lake, British Columbia. This is the worst summer on record. Many operators cannot get into the bush.

WESTERN WHITE SPRUCE LOG SCALE (Mills tributary to Areas)

(Amount of lumber produced F.B.M.)

JULY 1954:	Pr. George	11,335,426	JULY 1953:	Pr. George	19,345,232
Total to end			Total to end		
July 1954:	Pr. George	78,959,509	July 1953:	Pr. George	197,660,074