REMARKABLE HARDWOOD SITUATION.

Perhaps we have made the observation before, but it will bear repetition, that in the hardwood business the precent is a really wonderful condition. Probably never before, in proportion to the demand; has there been such a small amount of hardwood lumber available. The scarcity of dry stock affects everybody but the few licavy consumers and perhaps a few heavy dealers who contract their supply so far ahead that they are not affected by the conditions of a year. Not only is this so but all parts of the country are in substantially the same shape. There is no lumber worth speaking of anywhere at the mills or in the markets of the east or west.

The American Lumberman says that the scarcity is almost the same in all the more plentiful supply than others, but in none is there a satisfactory quantity. Not only are consumers and dealers looking for stock but manufacturers themselves. There are many heavy saw mill men who have their regular trade that they wish to supply. Being unable this year to meet the requirements of their customers from their own stocks they are in the market for additional supplies. Producers who never did such a thing before are now trying to buy. This is particularly noticeable with the quartered oak producers. Instances have been known where such people have within a week paid \$4.a thousand more for common quartered oak than they would have had to pay four weeks ago and they are unable to find at any price the quantity that they want.

As to first and second quartered oak the market is almost bare and it is hardly possible to quote a price which will fairly représent the market. In Chicago there is a wide range, with its lowest limit at above \$60. Red quartered is practically exhausted. An anomalous condition is seen in the prices of plain sawed red and white oak. They are almost as scarce as quartered sawed, but the price has advanced hardly at all within the last six months. One reason for this may be that the supply of plain sawed oak can be replenished with much ease as compared with quarter sawed, though, of course, in either case there remains the problem of

In cottonwood there is an unheard of situation. Within a few weeks there was a sale of a considerable quantity of log run cottonwood at \$17.50 on barge. We do not have to think back very far to the time when anything over \$10 would have been a fair price.

Another wood of the rame general diffe ent kinds of woods. Some are in oclass as cottonwood and poplar is bass-

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