

**HARDWOOD LUMBER.**

The situation in respect to hardwoods is very clearly set forth by the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, from which we quote below:

Never have things looked so bright in the hardwood market as at the present time. The prospects are such as to arouse every dealer's enthusiasm. High prices are now asked for various kinds of hardwood. Everything indicates that prevailing conditions will continue all through the year and that prices may be even higher next winter than this if the consumption of hardwood lumber keeps up the way it has during the winter. Last year and the few preceding years conditions were just the reverse. There was too much lumber on the market, and this,

with a demand that was not proportionate, resulted in prices that were altogether too low. But conditions have changed materially. The dry stock of hardwood lumber has almost entirely disappeared from the market. A heavy demand for green lumber has set in and the prospects are that if the demand keeps up at the present gait, not only dry but green lumber will be very scarce next winter. The call for hardwood lumber, considering the time of the year, is fairly good from the retail lumbermen and the factories, and everything points to an excellent business. Another new element in the hardwood market is the wholesaler himself appearing in the role of buyer. He foresees that the high prices now prevalent will continue throughout the year

and everything tends to boost them even higher, so he intends to get in on the ground floor and is buying hardwood lumber wherever he can get snaps. The hardwood saw mills in the northwest are now operating, as is their custom, in the winter time, but they cannot possibly dry their cuts till late next summer. The consumers will either have to use the green article or go without. Hardwood prices are all the way from five per cent. to 25 per cent. higher than last year at this time. Most of the items in the hardwood market are extremely scarce, but there are a few that are in plentiful supply. But these are what are least desired by purchasers. Elm stocks are low and are bringing good prices. Birch is in poor demand and is only bring-

ing fair prices. But owing to its well balanced stocks prices will advance some when the spring trade opens up. Quarter sawed oak both red and white is practically out of the market. The demand for basswood is strong but stocks are in a depleted condition. Hardwood logging operations in both the south and north are being curtailed by Dame Nature; in the south with too copious flows of rain, and in the north by the labor conditions, men preferring to work in the pineries unless offered higher wages as an inducement.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, of Sandwich, Ont., have placed under contract two-thirds of the estimated cut of lumber of this season.

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