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DEMAND FOR HARDWOODS.

There is a constantly increasing demand for the finer grades of wood in the United States for use in the manufacture of furniture and for house finishing. Pine is being rapidly superseded by walnut, cherry, ash, oak and other finer kinds of woods, especially in the east, and the future is pregnant with the grandest results for those who shall engage in the culture of walnut and cherry. It has been demonstrated from actual experiment that a quarter of a century is sufficient time to propagate walnut and bring it to a state of perfection fit for the market. Thus it will be seen that if a farmer could devote sufficient time each year from his other duties to cultivate a single acre of walnut trees in twenty-five years he would begin to realize from his investment, and he would have an annual income from that time forward which would abundantly repay him, and his annual crop of walnut lumber would be found the most remunerative of anything which he could produce from the soil.

Wild cherry is also a wood for which a large demand is springing up, which must inevitably make it very valuable in the future. It is used principally to supply the place of walnut. It is extremely close grained, and can be very highly polished; and is at present very extensively used in making abraded furniture and in the internal fittings of railroad coaches and public buildings.

It would be an excellent thing if the agricultural community could be brought to a realizing sense of the pecuniary advantages of tree culture, as much of the land which is not available, for many reasons, for the production of cereal or vegetable crops, might profitably be utilized in the direction indicated. The agricultural societies throughout the country might accomplish an excellent work by a properly organized effort, and we would impress upon the Bay county agricultural society the desirability of its taking an advanced stand in this direction, by the offer of premiums sufficiently liberal to induce the commencement of this work in our own county. The society might thus be one of the pioneers in the accomplishment of a grand and noble object. Will it make the effort?—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

FURNITURE WOODS.

A correspondent of the *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—There are several small furniture factories at Potsdam that use maple, ash and cherry, derived mostly from the forests of the vicinity. The wood mostly used is ash, and a fine wood for ordinary furniture it is. Variety to plain light color is given by what the manufacturers call imitation black walnut, put on in moldings, veneers, etc. Ash furniture can be afforded much cheaper than walnut, and, if it does not give an apartment as rich an appear-

ance, is handsome enough for any ordinary use. The people in this section of the country, if they are slow, have sense enough to know that they can sleep as soundly in a room furnished with ash as they can in one furnished with walnut, and inasmuch as ash costs less money than walnut, some of the extremely economical people out here would not be able to sleep at all with a tall walnut bedstead, that cost one hundred dollars, beetling over their recumbent forms. The furniture men here appreciate the value of the birch, cherry and maple now standings and nearly inaccessible in the "South Woods," and hope for the time when railroads will be built so that they can be brought out. No better points than Potsdam and Norwood for manufacturing furniture could be found, if the facilities were once supplied for transporting the raw material out of the forest. Enough furniture wood exists in the Adirondack district to furnish another Grand Rapids, and some day it will be sawed in the vicinity and shipped to Boston, New York, and other eastern and southern points, for manufacture into furniture.

THE GUM TREES OF AUSTRALIA.

The ranges are covered with a dense forest of gum trees, in many places of enormous height, standing with their smooth trunks close together and running up often for a height of 200 feet without giving off a branch.

The light-colored stems are hung with ragged strips of separated bark.

The great slenderness of the trunks of these giant gum trees, in proportion to their height, is striking, and in this respect they contrast most favorably with the Californian "big trees," which, in the shape of their trunks, remind one of a carrot upside down, so disproportionately broad are they at their bases. The large species of gum tree, the tallest tree in the world, is *Eucalyptus amygdalina*.

As Baron von Muller says: "The largest specimens might overshadow the Pyramid of Cheops."

Grisebach, in his account of the vegetation of Australia (A. Grisebach, "Vegetation der Erde," p. 216, Leipzig, W. Engelmann, 1872), dwells on the close relation of interdependence which exists between the tree vegetation and the coating of grass which covers the ground beneath it, and remarks that the amount of light allowed by the trees to reach the ground beneath them is rendered more than usually great by the vertical position in which their leaves grow; hence the growth of the grass beneath is aided.

It may be that this, permitting of the growth of other plants beneath them, and consequent protection of the soil from losing its moisture, besides other advantages to be derived, is the principal reason why, as is familiarly known,

two widely different groups of Australian trees, the eucalypti and acacias, have arrived at a vertical instead of a horizontal disposition of their leaves by two different methods. The acacias have accomplished this by suppressing the true horizontal leaves and flattening the leaf-stalks into vertical pseudo leaves or "phyllodes."

The gum trees, on the other hand, have simply twisted their leaf-stalks, and have thus rendered their true leaves vertical in position.

There must exist some material advantage which these different trees derive in common from their peculiar arrangement, and the benefit derived from relation to other plants by this means may be greater and more important than that arising from the fact that the vertical leaves have a like relation to the light on both sides, and are provided with stomata on both faces. In support of this conclusion I was told, when at Melbourne, that when the native vegetation was cleared away from under gum trees they ceased to thrive, and in time perished.

I was shown a number of gum trees, not far from the city, scattered over some public land, covered with only short turf, which seemed to be mostly in a dying condition.—*H. N. Mosely, Challenger Notes.*

AN OUTSIDE CRITIC.

The *Northwestern Lumberman*, of Chicago, in an article entitled "Canadian Lumber Logic," says—Canadian lumber purchasers have learned a lesson. During the depression of some years ago lumber declined to such a notch that the continued advance it has since taken has appeared inordinate to retailers. They, it is stated, unwisely permitted their stocks to run low, either because their faith in a recurrence of the decline was strong or with a view to forcing the market to a point which would suit their notions of what values should be. This policy has been pursued so far as possible by the Canadian handlers of lumber for the last two years, and the same is true, more or less, this side of the border. But the result has simply been in the upward direction, and during the last month prices on several kinds of lumber were advanced in the Canadian market from \$1 to \$2, which is about the same as the Chicago advance. In regard to the reasons of constant advance the manufacturers of lumber point to the fact of an increase in the price of stumpage, labour and supplies of all kinds, which they say has been in a greater ratio than the upward movement in the lumber market.

The argument is carried still further. It is cited that emigration to the United States and Canada has created a large demand for the erection of shelters. At the same time the natural and increasing wants of both countries have cut the same important figures which they

always have. In the Manitoba market the demand has been abnormal. Lumber is constantly and rapidly diminishing in supply, and increasing in the cost of production. Under those conditions the manufacturers insist that nothing but persistent advance can be logically expected. This line of philosophy is then clinched by the argument that with good crops and the absence of financial depression, prices must go up.

It is instanced that lath is in short supply, everywhere, and the mill men do not marvel at it. For years 1,000 pieces of lath, equal to 500 feet of lumber, have been selling for \$1. It is then not strange that operations upon such an unprofitable basis should be curtailed. The mills have preferred selling slabs for fuel to making them into lath. The result is indicated by the recent advance in lath to \$2.25 to \$2.50 per thousand. One Canadian firm states that more orders for lath have reached that house than could be manufactured in three years, and the consequence is a material advance in price.

Of this line of logic many will say it is a bull argument straight from the shoulder. But there are certain facts presented which are hard to get around, and no one will claim that the conditions are just right to sustain the bearish view. Even if the inevitable upward tendency were wholly a bull movement it is plain that no one possesses weights that are heavy enough to hold prices down, and while they continue to ascend, it is best to take the bull and the dilemma by the horns, and buy before stocks get up a peg higher.

It appears the Canadian retailers find themselves with bare yards right on the heels of an advance, when they might have stocked up long ago, and the present advance would in itself have counted for a good percentage of profit. Possibly the American dealers would do well to admit that the bulls are holding prices on their horns, and go in for the needed stock before rates get another toss. There is no telling when a red cloth, in the shape of a coloured census bulletin, will stir up taurus again so that he will brace himself for another pull on the list.

There is some reason for attaching importance to a rise in lumber in Canada, though the advances made by the Chicago Lumberman's Exchange could as well be pointed to. It is possible that in Canada lumber is sold according to the raise, and that it is not necessary to copper an official list in order to get at true values. With the past antics of the Chicago trade fresh in the mind, on the other hand, it is a difficult matter to tell whether an advance advances.

The *Ottawa Citizen* says.—Mr. Richard Nagio has sold a small raft for 25c. per square foot. Messrs. Thistle & Carwell have sold all their square timber in the Quebec market for 3c. per square foot.