

**HARDWOOD PRICES AND DEMAND.**

The American Lumberman makes some timely remarks regarding Michigan hardwoods which, however, apply with some force to the general hardwood market. In hard maple, it is stated, there is no overstock and price conditions are excellent. A value from \$1 to \$2 higher than a year ago the demand is holding up excellently. The only menace to Michigan maple values is the ridiculously low prices at which maple flooring is being put on the market. It is argued by maple producers that maple flooring manufacturers will be unable to replace stock at a price that will show them any profit on flooring at current values.

Grey elm and basswood are the two Michigan woods that have shown the greatest accretion in value during the last year. The demand is stiff at an advance of fully \$5 over one year ago. It goes without saying that the stock in first hands is very light.

Birch has followed the trend of maple values and is about \$2 higher than a year ago. There seems to be a fair stock of birch in sight, but the demand is good.

Black ash has become so limited in supply that it cuts comparatively little figure among the other hardwoods of the state at present. The substitution of other woods is taking place and probably it will never again cut much of a figure as a standard product of Michigan.

Beech has also followed the fortunes of

the maple and birch to the extent that it is in very reasonable demand at values from \$2 to \$3 higher than it was a year ago. On the whole Michigan hardwood conditions are in most excellent shape and the future for these standard woods looks very bright.

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