

**HARD MAPLE.**

HARD maple, or rock maple, as it is called in the eastern states, is one of the most staple of all our native woods, and in gross bulk it is the most plentiful of all the hardwoods. At first thought this would seem to indicate that it should be an easy and profitable wood to handle. But the reverse is the case, as many an operator has discovered by experience, to his sorrow and the depleting of his pocket book.

In the first place, a large percentage of growing trees are so defective that they will not produce merchantable lumber sufficient to pay for hauling the logs to the mill. Another large proportion of the logs will barely pay for logging

and saw bill, and a large proportion of the logs apparently good and sound, are found on sawing to be worthless.

There is probably no kind of logs in the entire list so deceptive in appearance and so hard to inspect and scale satisfactorily as hard maple.

A good buyer and scaler of maple logs is a rarity and a treasure to the saw mill man. Where there is one who can make his winter's scale of logs come within a whole row of apple trees of the actual product of merchantable green lumber as shown at the tail of the mill, there are nine who will scale so wildly that if their work was on anything except hard maple, they would be run out of the country.

But the trouble does not stop here, for let the mill scaler scale never so wisely, if the lumber is put into pile to await weather drying before shipment, the discrepancy between the shipping clerk's scale and the mill scale will be enough to take away the breath of the novice in the business, and generally, to cap the climax, when the mill man gets his returns for his dry stock shipped to the consumer, he generally receives another paralyzing shock.

Altogether, although hard maple is an honest, reliable and valuable wood and one of the most important in all the list of the native species, it is, nevertheless, about the most unsatisfactory to handle in the whole catalogue. - Hardwood.

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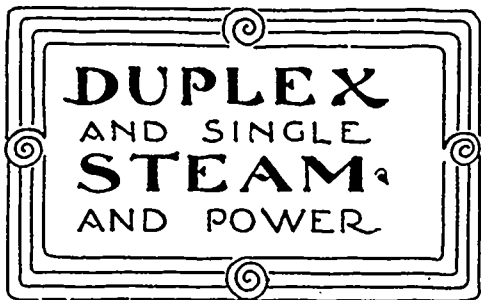
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