

cost. Oftentimes the low cost machine does better and more efficient work. In such cases the supplanted inefficient machine has to be sold at its value for scrap iron, although it may have recently cost many hundreds of dollars. The best wood working machinery shops, being in a continuous stage of experimentation, the progressive manufacturer is constantly watching for any change which will reduce the cost of production. The special courage of manufacturers to pursue this continuous improvement is one of the most important factors in the development of the furniture industry. The possibility of finding a valuable device has brought out many special machines, also an infinite variety of tools. Success in producing such improvements has often enriched the inventor handsomely. By such methods rapid progress has resulted. The old time shop is distanced completely unless it expends a good portion of its income in constantly adding new and important features of beauty and adaptability. The modern cabinet maker is very far removed from what a cabinet maker of the pioneer period represented.

No country is too remote from market not to be utilized if it yields a sufficient quantity of timber suited for furniture purposes. As the native lumber is being used up the mahogany of Cuba, Central America and Southern Africa is streaming our way, for the ambition of Grand Rapids manufacturers embraces every avenue of possibility. Improved effects and beauty in figured woods appear to know of no limitations. All the attendant materials which enter into the product of furniture are undergoing the same revolutionary period as did the machinery department. At one period marble was a very large factor, and then gradually fell into almost total disrepute, and was discarded. Making glass, plain and beveled, making silvered mirrors, or making them leaded in many colors, and shaped by bends, has each been a most important attendant industry. Foreign and domestic competition, high tariff and low tariff, has each been experimented in continuously. Combinations and trusts have gained control, while independent factories, with natural gas, have evolved special machinery and devices which have played most important parts in this craft. The use of shellac, the gums for making varnish, the glue used, and the hardware, both special and ordinary, foreign and domestic, has kept pace with the new machines. The making of casters created an industry