

We say a 'commercial' possibility in order that we may not be thought to be belittling the worthy efforts of those industrial pioneers who are, and have been for some time past, endeavouring to produce the three items specified at a price that can compare favourably with the imported equivalent. We know that in the Dominion roofing tiles are made, that glass has been produced, and that certain types of door and sash fasteners are turned out for special requirements, but the fact that these essentials to building are not carried in stock by dealers, and that the average builder does not know that such goods are or ever have been made in the Dominion,

architectural and building, is a solution of at least some of the difficulties that are holding back big building schemes that cannot be much longer delayed.

The situation is one that needs tackling at once, not by the isolated individual here and there who might succeed in supplying his local demand for some one building essential, but by a combination of those bigger men who are suffering from their inability to carry out such work that is offering, owing to the closing of the markets from which they have hitherto drawn their supplies.

It seems to us that a great deal lies in the power



Another New Zealand Industry—Timber lying in Booms ready for Milling

is sufficient indication of the extent to which their manufacture has been carried.

Wherein lies the reason of the want of development that some of our building lines have suffered from? Is it that oversea costs were low, freights cheap, and designs superior? Is it that a higher protective tariff has been wanted to encourage local manufacture? Or is it that the cost of labour and raw material have been prohibitive? We do not attempt to solve a problem that has engaged the best thought of some of our leading manufacturers, but we venture to suggest that the reason will be found in a combination of some of the above suggestions.

What does concern us deeply as a newspaper whose interests are more or less devoted to matters

of the Master Builders. They are at the moment the greatest sufferers, for they are unable to get their usual supplies, and without these supplies at a reasonable price they are unable to tender for any work offering at a price that would make a tender possible of acceptance.

Supposing, as at the moment of writing seems probable, that the present war conditions, with the corresponding cessation of supplies, exists for another year, and that trade conditions take still a further period of eighteen months or two years to regain their pre-war status, is it to be imagined for a moment that in a progressive and prosperous country such as New Zealand, a country into which, owing to our natural resources, money is at present