

• GUARD OUR FORESTS

IT TAKES TEN TREES TO MAKE A HOME

HIGH in the Otway Ranges a broad-shouldered axeman starts a tall mountain ash tree crashing to the ground.

He and his partner turn their axes toward another tall giant — a messmate this time. Before long, it too, is lying on the ground.

More trees come down until 10 are on their way to the mills, or waiting to be loaded.

The 10 trees are cut to 33ft. lengths, milled and seasoned, or kiln-dried to emerge as the walls, floors, doors, and ceiling structure of an average 10-square house in Melbourne's suburbs.

That's why Melbourne's home-builders and the Timber Merchants' Association, which supplies the bulk of their timber, have an important stake in the vast forests throughout Victoria.

For it takes 10 50-year-old trees to build a house.

a house.

Kill or burn a tree and you lose one-tenth of a house.

Lose a forest to fire and the raw material for thousands and thousands of homes, today, and for years in the future, is destroyed.

In the outer suburb of Greensborough today, new houses are springing up daily — some a little slower than others.

Mr. E. E. Hughes, director of the Briar Hill Timber and Trading Co. Pty. Ltd.,

of the Briar Hill Timber and Trading Co. Pty. Ltd., which supplies much of the timber for these houses, says that 75 per cent. of them are being built by the owners.

"And they are being built of timber because no other material is so flexible, or is so easily handled by the amateur.

"Few people would venture to build their own brick house, but they can build a timber house in their weekends and spare time.

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"Seventy-five per cent. of the houses out our way are owner-built and I believe that figure would vary little throughout Melbourne.

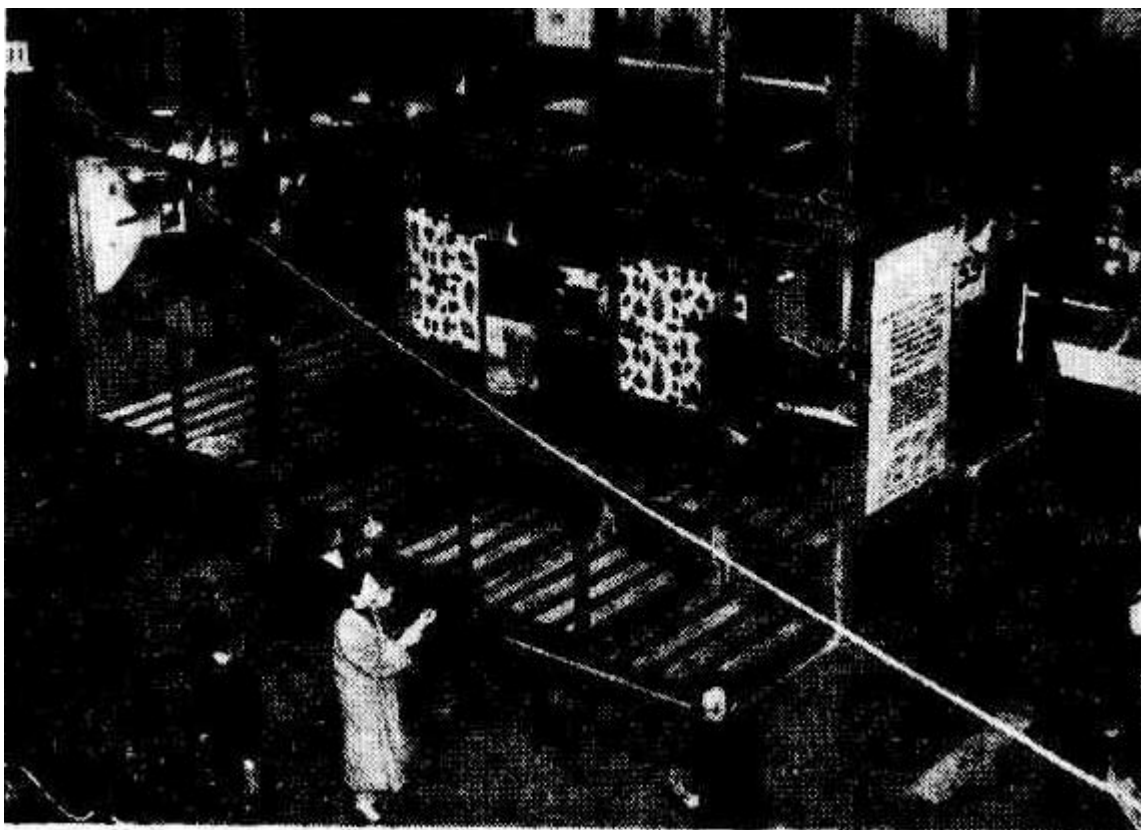
"Without the timber, our modern mills and drying kilns they wouldn't even be able to start building," Mr.



IT'S CALLED "sisolation," which is a short way of saying "Sisal Kraft Insulation." In this model (above) at the Exhibition, Mr. Ken Harrison is explaining to Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Humphrey Clayton its advantages. Sisolation, a new insulating material, reflects 95 per cent of the heat.

BELOW: One of the most fascinating exhibits is this building shown by the Timber Merchants' Association to demonstrate the types and uses of the many beautiful timbers at the home-builder's service.





Packaged house up in 10 hours

AT 8 a.m. on July 20 a team of carpenters began marking out a space on the floor of the Exhibition Buildings — 10 hours later they stood back and admired a two-bedroom house.

They were looking at the first packaged house ever exhibited in Australia.

Prefabricated in the factory, it will go out to new

home owners in packages ready for lightning erection.

Exactly a week after the first marks were made on the floor, the house was completely finished, furnished, and painted out in

completely finished, furnished, and painted out in modern colors.

Even the rubber floor and carpets were down.

The packaged house is the brainchild of 45-year-old Mr. Thomas McDonald, who has begun making it at his factory near Dandenong.

He said: "It is a tremendous money and time saver for the home builder.

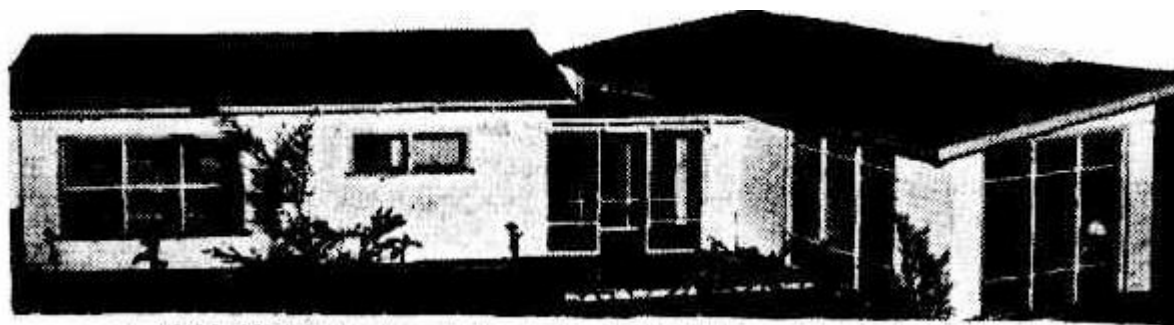
"About 16,000 homes are being built in Victoria by amateurs and about 4000 by regular master builders.

"The house in packaged form costs only £1,334 — not bad for a two-bedroom home of nine squares."

Mr. McDonald said that only four men had erected the home in the Exhibition Building in 10 hours. In 80 hours it was liveable except for the painting.

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He added: "This is on the same lines as the pre-cut furniture idea. Any handyman can put it together.



• **FULL-SIZED packaged house is at Exhibition. Here's Scale Model.**