

# Coke-breeze Sleeping Floors for Pig Houses

## Promise of Better Warmth Retention

By A. LONGWILL, Assistant Superintendent of the Pig Industry, and I. H. OWTRAM, Supervisor, Taranaki District Pig Council.

**A**N important and ever-present problem in the housing of domestic livestock is the provision of a floor which is impervious to moisture, and therefore easily cleaned, and yet does not strike cold on the animals. In no branch of farming is this problem more acute than in pig raising. This article describes a promising New Zealand development—the construction of floors with concrete made with coke-breeze, a gasworks by-product.

**I**N countries where baconers are produced extensively it is usual to house the fattening pigs for a considerable period of their lives, and the provision of a suitable type of floor has been very carefully considered. Wooden floors have been found unsatisfactory because of lack of durability and difficulty of cleaning and disinfecting. Other materials, such as asphalt, cork brick, and rubber composition, have been tried with indifferent success, because of either high cost or lack of durability.

The type of floor which has finally been evolved overseas for this purpose is of ordinary concrete laid on an insulating layer composed of hollow concrete or terra-cotta blocks or of drain tiles laid close together. Sometimes the insulating layer used is merely well-packed brick rubble but that is not always satisfactory and it is now generally regarded as the base on which the insulating layer is put down.



Mandrels laid in position for the first section of the floor. The bedding layer of breeze concrete has been brought clear of the fronts of the mandrels.



Left—Covering the mandrels with the mix. Right—Working the mix in between the mandrels. The space between the ends of the mandrels and the back wall is filled with concrete to block the ends of the cavities.