

Plastering the Surface

The final work is the plastering of the whole of the surface with a 3 to 1 sand-cement plaster not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick (see Fig. 4). A steel float is used and a very wet mix of plaster. This is necessary owing to the coke-concrete blocks drawing the moisture out of the plaster; unless this is mixed very wet, it becomes exceedingly hard to work.

In the completed floor the holes in the blocks form sealed air cavities running the whole width of the floor from back to front. This is the secret of the warmth of these floors. The air in the cavities becomes warm through the pigs lying on the floor and retains its temperature for some hours, even though the floor is unoccupied while the pigs are running out, so that there is always a warm floor for the pigs to lie on.

Concrete floors in piggeries should be kept as dry as possible and should be hosed down only when absolutely necessary or in very hot weather. Floors that are always wet are liable to be slippery and cause pigs' hoofs to soften and crack or wear rapidly, thus rendering them more liable to infection of the foot by organisms which are normally present in the piggery, but which do not cause damage unless they gain access through broken skin.

New Meat Prices

THE opening schedule prices for lamb, mutton, and beef, announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Cullen, are as follows:—

Lambs (Woolly)

Prime Down Cross and Prime Canterbury: 20/36, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 37/42, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 43/50, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; 51/56, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Prime crossbred: 20/36, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 37/42, 11d.; 43/50, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; 51/56, 10d.

Seconds: 20/36, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 37/42, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 43/50, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Wethers—North Island

Prime: 48/U, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 49/64, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 65/90 as 64, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. = 38s. 8d.

Seconds: 64/U, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; 65/72 as 64, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. = 36s.

Wethers—South Island

Prime: 48/U, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 49/64, 7d.; 65/90 as 64, 7d. = 37s. 4d.

Seconds: 64/U, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 65/72 as 64, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. = 34s. 8d.

Ewes

64/U, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 65/90 as 64, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. = 27s. 4d.

Quarter Beef

Ox—G.A.Q.: 720/U, 57s. per 100lb.; 0/720, 54s. F.A.Q.: All weights, 49s.

Heifer—G.A.Q.: 720/U, 56s. per 100lb.; 0/720, 53s. F.A.Q.: All weights, 48s.

Cow—G.A.Q.: All weights, 47s. 6d. per 100lb.

Boner Beef

Ox, bull, cow, heifer, 34s. per 100lb.

The Minister has also announced the new schedule prices for porkers and baconers, which are as follows:—

| | North Island | South Island |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | d. | d. |
| Porkers | 10 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Baconers 121/175 | 10 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Baconers 176/185 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

An Unusually-heavy Bullock

AN outstandingly-heavy Aberdeen Angus bullock which achieved what is believed to be a record weight for the Manawatu was recently fattened by Mr. J. B. Mitchell, No. 1 Line, Kairanga. The liveweight at 9 years old was 2343lb. and the dressed weight 1779lb.

ABOUT 5 years ago Mr. Mitchell bought a line of Aberdeen Angus stores and among them recognised a bullock which had great fattening possibilities. He kept it until it was 9 years old and had grown into the biggest bullock seen in the district for many years. It was a perfect picture of what a fat bullock should be, and showed the predominant Aberdeen Angus body type; there was a dash of Shorthorn in its blood, which, according to expert opinion, shows up in the hindquarters.

The liveweight was 1031b. more than a ton and the carcass dressed out at 1779lb. When the carcass was trimmed of excess kidney fat, etc., and dressed for export the frozen weights were: Hinds 427lb. and 426lb. and fores 409lb. and 398lb., a total of 1660lb. export cut.

Perfectly Proportioned

The size of the carcass is difficult to gauge from the accompanying photograph, as the beast was perfectly proportioned. A normal dressed side of beef hung alongside Mr. Mitchell's heavy bullock would show that the latter was twice the usual size. Though some very heavy bullocks have been killed in the past, it is not possible to ascertain what are record weights because full information is not available. Some records of the breed, age, liveweight, and dressed weight may have been kept by owners of animals, and these would assist in determining the record weights of different breeds.

As far as is known at present the heaviest weights raised in the Aberdeen Angus, Shorthorn, and Friesian breeds in New Zealand are as follows:—

Aberdeen Angus: 9-year-old owned by Mr. J. B. Mitchell; killed at Long-



[Elmar Studios photo.
The bullock on the hooks. Mr. Mitchell is on the left.

burn in 1949; liveweight 2343lb., dressed weight 1779lb.

Shorthorn: 6-year-old owned by Mr. A. T. Smith; killed at Kaiti in 1942; liveweight 2492lb., dressed weight 1724lb.

Friesian: Owned by Mr. A. Keith; killed at the Christchurch abattoir in 1926; dressed weight 2394 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. This animal was the heaviest bullock of any breed known to be killed in New Zealand.

—W. D. ROSS, Veterinarian,
Department of Agriculture,
Palmerston North.



["N.Z. Farmer" photo.
Mr. Mitchell's bullock compared with a normal beast.