A new type of skidder, built locally by a logger, has been observed in Iowa. It consists of an arch mounted on a caterpillar tractor (D-4), and is used for skidding medium to large-sized hardwood logs. A double drum winch is attached to the rear power takeoff. The arch is mounted on the shaft of the large drum, and guyed with steel cable to the front of the tractor. At the top of the tubular steel frame, bottom and side guide rollers are mounted so that the logs can be pulled or skidded at an angle without excessive wear on the cable (fig. 1). The small drum with a light cable is used for bunching logs, while the large drum and cable are used for skidding (fig. 2). In bunching and skidding, the pull is from an elevated position raising the front end of the logs and increasing the capacity of the tractor. Very heavy loads tend to lighten the weight on the front of the tractor, but this does not interfere with skidding. The logger who built this unit has given it considerable use, and is well pleased with its performance. Although embodying several ingenious features, it is assumed they are not patented or patentable. However, a prospective builder may need to investigate this point. No such attachments are known to be commercially available. The low construction cost and type of materials required to assemble the unit are suggested in figures 1 and 3.

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Figure 1.—Rear view showing fair lead head (one roller missing)

Figure 2.—Skidding a load of hard-wood logs

Figure 3.—Side view showing construction details