SELF-LOADER FOR LONG LOGS

Self loading of long logs is receiving considerable attention because of the increase in tree-length logging of small timber. Although the self-loading principle has been successfully applied to short logs and is in quite general use, few operations have tried it on long logs. A truck-tractor and semitrailer unit used in Maine, however, is well equipped for the purpose.

The loading mechanism is built on the truck-tractor just behind the cab. Thus it is independent of the trailer, and without the trailer attached the unit also serves as a loader for other vehicles.

A vertical mast is erected behind the cab, and guyed over the cab to the front of the truck frame and to each side (fig. 1). Below the top of the mast a swivel bracket is attached to support the lower end of the boom. Its upper end is secured by a cable or chain from the tip of the boom to the top of the mast.

Lifting and loading power is supplied by the truck motor through a power takeoff to a winch mounted near the base of the mast. Cable, from the winch passes over pulleys at each end of the boom terminating in a hook. In loading, tongs are used to pick up logs near their midpoint. Once in the air the loading boom is swung by gravity or by hand to position the log on the load.

After the load is assembled a binder is placed around it just under the end of the boom. The binder is hooked to the loading cable, which is then drawn tight and the winch brake set. This holds the boom in place during transit (fig. 2).

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Figure 1.--Details of mast guys and boom on self-loading truck-tractor.

Figure 2.--Assembled load with boom fastened in position for hauling.