An inexpensive crane loader powered by tractor, jeep, or truck has been developed that largely overcomes the objection that crane-type loaders are too expensive for small timber operators and woodlot owners. In addition to loading logs, this crane can be used to skid logs, dump grain wagons, load farm machinery, and do many other operations on farms.

The capacity of the crane is equal to the weight of the unit to which it is attached, up to a maximum of 6,000 pounds. This lifting capacity is made possible by the manner in which guy chains are connected, as shown in figure 1.

The power to lift loads is derived from the tractor or truck motor through a power takeoff spline coupled to a winch built into the frame of the crane. A friction clutch in the winch makes it possible to control the speed at which the load is lowered. Swivel wheels that can be locked in place provide maneuverability as well as stability. The crane shown in figure 1 has been repeatedly moved from place to place at speeds up to 50 miles per hour.

The crane is designed to be hauled as an attachment similar to other agricultural implements, such as grain harvesters. It can be attached to the hauling machine in a few minutes. No alterations to the power unit are necessary that would hinder its use for other purposes.

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Figure 1.--Inexpensive crane attachment for prime movers. Method of attaching guy chains provides maximum lifting capacity.