Bundling pulpwood and small logs makes it possible to assemble uniform loads for mechanical handling equipment. Thus it is possible to obtain handling equipment designed for the job and to operate it near maximum efficiency. Chain rather than cable is preferred in the Lake States, and so chain bundling has developed in that area.

The essential features of chain bundling equipment are a light weight, flexible, strong chain, and a chain-gripping assembly that holds bundles tight and at the same time is easy to loosen or release. A chain meeting the requirements is available. It is made of 9/32-inch special alloy that is heat treated to result in strength equal to the 3/4-inch conventional chain. The weight of this chain is only about one-third that of conventional 3/8-inch logging chain.

A chain-gripping assembly designed for bundling sugar cane has proved to be very satisfactory for 8-foot pulpwood. This assembly is actually a modified choker slide with a quick release hook. A spring-loaded pawl allows the chains to slide through the device as it is pulled tight around a bundle, but prevents the chain from slipping back (fig. 1). In ground skidding, bundles of 3/4 to 1 cord in size are skidded easily without losing sticks.

After skidding, loading on railroad cars, or delivery to the mill yard, the chains are easily removed. An eccentrically pivoted hook is locked firmly in place by a spring-loaded trigger until such time as it is desired to release the bundle. At this time, the trigger is displaced by a sharp blow to allow the hook to pivot and release the chain from around the bundle (fig. 2).

Both skidding and loading tests of this device proved it to be superior in most respects to the conventional bunching chain. Copies of the detailed report of these tests may be obtained from the contributor.

Information furnished by
Leland W. Hooker
Forest Products Research Division
Michigan College of Mining and Technology
Houghton, Mich.

October 1952

(Report) No. D1637-49

† Maintained at Madison, Wisconsin in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin
Figure 1. -- Bundling-chain assembly in tightening position.

Figure 2. -- Bundling-chain assembly showing hook released.