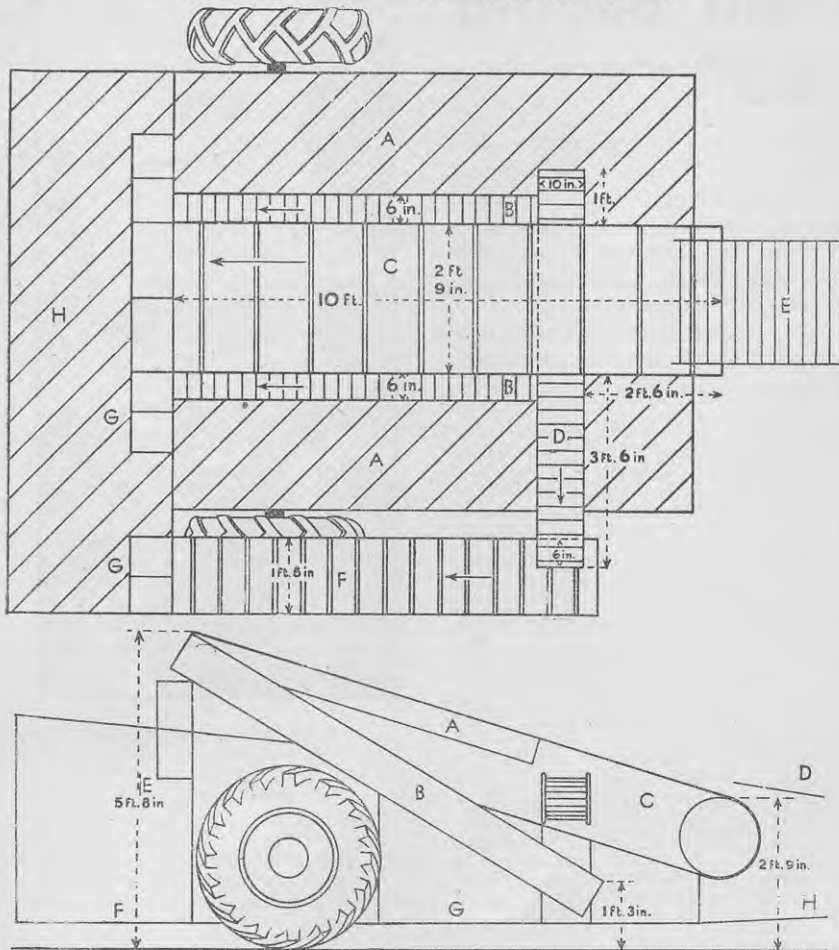


## HOME-MADE POTATO BAGGER



Above—Construction details of home-made potato bagger. A—Platforms. B—Seed-potato elevators. C—Main elevator. D—Table-potato conveyor. E—Digger apron. F—Table-potato elevator. G—Bag holes. H—Bagging platform. In the diagram the bagger is shown with pneumatic-tyred wheels, though the machine described has iron wheels. Pneumatic tyres are an advantage, particularly on soft ground. Below—Side view of bagger. A—Seed-potato elevator. B—Table-potato elevator. C—Main elevator. D—Digger apron. E—Bag holes. F—Bagging platform. G—Platform. H—Draw-bar.

grade, 2-4oz., and 4-6oz. The last size is picked out only if there is a demand for large-size seed; otherwise tubers within this range are taken off as table potatoes.

The digger is driven from the power take-off of the tractor, but the drive for the bagger is taken off one of its own wheels so that the whole outfit is under the control of the tractor driver.

### Materials Used

The chassis of the bagger is made from an old truck and all the framework of steel sheets that were formerly parts of old petrol pumps. The elevators, other than the canvas one, are made from chains fitted at intervals with wooden cross-pieces, which carry the potatoes to their respective sacks.

### Few Hold-ups

As there is a minimum of working parts, there are few hold-ups caused by breakages, which would be serious,

as 8 men would be idle until repairs could be effected.

Though a large number of men is required to operate the bagger, it is not difficult to get the assistance of neighbouring farmers, who, though they may not be prepared for the onerous job of picking up potatoes off the ground, are willing to work on the bagger and by thus co-operating get their own potatoes dug.

In England various digging and bagging combinations are being tried, with varying degrees of success. They aim at cutting to a minimum the manpower required for harvesting and even have devices such as automatic stone removers; but they do not separate the potatoes into seed and table grades and that work must be done later. A machine similar to that built by Mr. Oakley, which will dig about 30 tons a day, could be built by other growers who have sufficient mechanical knowledge and who do not wish to rely on potato pickers.

## SHOW DATES

THE following are dates and venues of A. and P. shows for January and part of February.

- January 2—Nuhaka A. and P. at Nuhaka.
- \*January 13 and 14—Wairoa County A. and P. at Wairoa.
- January 14—Waikouaiti A. and P. at Waikouaiti.
- \*January 21—Tauranga A. and P. at Tauranga.
- January 21—Marton District A. and P. at Marton.
- January 21—Central Hawkes Bay A. and P. at Waipukurau.
- January 27 and 28—Horowhenua A. and P. at Levin.
- January 27 and 28—Tamarunui and District A. and P. at Tamarunui.
- January 28—Waiiau A. and P. at Tuatapere.
- January 28—Helensville A. and P. at Helensville.
- \*January 31 and February 1—Feilding I. A. and P. at Feilding.
- February 4—Golden Bay A. and P. at Takaka.
- February 4—Palmerston and Waihemo A. and P. at Palmerston.
- February 4—Rodney Agricultural Society at Warkworth.
- \*February 4—Woodville A. and P. at Woodville.
- February 4—Clevedon A. and P. at Clevedon.
- \*February 7 and 8—Dannevirke District A. and P. at Dannevirke.
- February 10 and 11—Rangitikei A. and P. at Taihape.
- February 10 and 11—Taranaki A. and P. at New Plymouth.
- February 11—Murchison A. and P. at Murchison.
- February 11—Waitemata A. and P. at Waiwera.
- February 11—Hukerenui A. and P. at Hukerenui.
- February 11—Kaitikati A. and P. at Kaitikati.
- \*February 11—Pahiatua A. and P. at Pahiatua.
- February 11—North Kaipara Agricultural Association at Paparoa.
- February 15 and 16—Ohura A. P. H. and I. at Nihoniho.
- February 16—Christchurch Stud Ram Fair at Christchurch.
- February 16 and 17—Christchurch Flock Ram Fair at Christchurch.
- February 17 and 18—Franklin A. and P. at Pukekohe.
- February 17 and 18—Masterton A. and P. at Masterton.
- February 18—Northern Wairoa A. and P. at Mititai.
- February 18—Te Puke A. and P. at Te Puke.
- February 22—Te Awamutu A. and P. at Te Awamutu.
- February 22—Opotiki A. and P. at Opotiki.
- February 25—Putaruru A. and P. at Putaruru.

\* The Department of Agriculture exhibit will be staged at this show.