

# Conservation

A monthly bulletin published by the  
Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. III

MARCH, 1914

NO. 3

## How to Construct a Potato Planter

Description of Convenient, Home-made Instrument that Any Farmer may Make for Himself

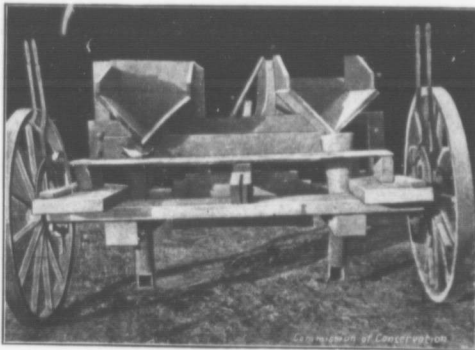
The accompanying illustration shows a simple home-made instrument that farmers, when planting potatoes, will find very convenient. The following description gives particulars, showing how the planter may be made and operated.

The main frame is 3 ft. 6 in., by 5 ft., and made of hardwood planks 2 in. thick by 10 in. wide, bolted together at the corners. The spouts are made of heavy gas pipe, 14 in. long and 3½ in. in diameter, tapered at the point like a cultivator tooth, so that they will not drag the sod or manure. The upper end of the tooth has a thread on it and is screwed into a piece of hardwood scantling 6 in. by 6 in. and 28 in. long, bolted firmly to the frame. The balance of the spout attached to the hopper is made of heavy zinc and is wider at the top for convenience in dropping in the potatoes. The spouts are placed 3 ft. apart and the wheels are centered 18 in. from them, so that the one wheel comes back into its own mark, thus making all the rows the same distance apart. Should it be desired to have the rows closer together, the machine can be made on the same principle to suit any distance.

The wheels are the kind used on the old fashioned walking cultivators, with levers for raising and lowering. The ratchets on the levers should be small and close together, so that they can be moved up or down any desired distance. Gang-plough wheels with ratchets on the sides may also be used by elevating the frame to suit.

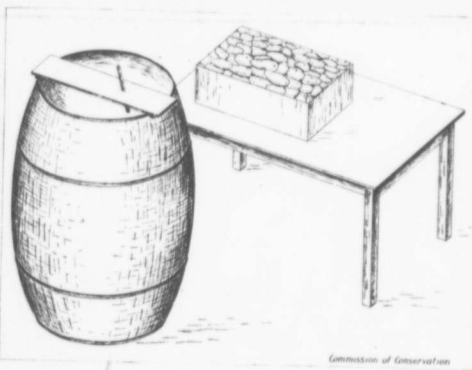
The wheels should be so placed that the machine will balance when two boys are sitting on the back. The boxes, holding one bushel of cut potatoes, are shaped like a mason's hod and held firmly in place in front of the top end of the spouts. The distance apart for dropping the cut potatoes is regulated by blocks, bolted on the spokes, which come in contact with a piece of light steel spring, which makes a noise so that the boys know when to drop

(Continued on page 11)



(Cut No. 36)

Convenient, Simple Potato Planter



(Cut No. 37)

A Handy Potato Cutter

## Try This Handy Potato Cutter

Time and Labour may be Saved  
and Work will be Better  
Done.

Twice the amount can be cut in a given time and the sets will be more evenly divided, if the easily made potato-cutter depicted in the drawing shown herewith, is used instead of the old method of cutting with the knife held in the hand.

All that is required is to fasten a one-inch board, six inches wide, planed on the upper side, to the top of a barrel or box, holding it on tightly by two deep cleats. A long, sharp, thin table-knife is fixed through the board in a slanting position, as shown in the illustration.

To cut, take the potato in both hands and push it lengthwise over the knife, dropping the sets into the barrel or box. Should the sets be too large, the juice of the potato will cause the two parts to stick together and they can then be cut either lengthwise or crosswise as desired.—J. F.

## TROPHY FOR FIRST AID WORK IN MINES

In order to encourage first aid work in mines, Hon. Louis Coderre Minister of Mines, recently donated to the St. John Ambulance Association a silver trophy for annual competition among all mine workers in Canada.

The importance of having all mine employees trained in first aid is obvious. When an accident happens in ordinary industrial occupations, only a short time elapses before the assistance of an ambulance or surgeon can be obtained, but as mining is carried on at great depths and distances underground, the time taken to obtain proper medical assistance varies from one-half hour to three or four hours.

Trophies in first aid work, for general competition and for competition among railwaymen and among cadets, have already been donated by Hon. Wallace Nesbitt, but the need of a special trophy for miners has been keenly felt. There is no department of industrial life where the art of rendering first aid is more necessary or where there is more enthusiasm shown by the average employee.—W. J. D.

## TO NEWSPAPERMEN

To further public interest in conservation subjects, the Commission will lend to Canadian journals the cuts used in this bulletin. Cuts may be obtained in either fine or coarse screen, and stereotype mats will be furnished to those who have the mechanical equipment necessary for their use.

As there are only a limited number of these cuts, delays are sometimes unavoidable, but orders will always be filled as soon as possible after receipt of application. It is requested that cuts be made use of at the earliest possible date, and returned (O. H. M. S.) promptly, together with a copy of the publication in which the illustration appears.

When ordering, please fill out and forward us this coupon:

Number of cut.....  
Kind of cut (fine or coarse screen or stereotype mat).....  
Name.....  
Address.....