

are not to be unloaded immediately they should be parked in shade, or covered.

SAFETY

Many of the commercial harvesters have been built without adequate protection for workers on the machines. Important safety precautions are as follows: (1) All rotating shafts, gears, chains and sprockets should be kept shielded; (2) rollers for removing trash should be shielded so that laborers cannot get their hands, feet or clothing caught; (3) workers should not wear loose or flapping clothing which might get caught in moving parts of the equipment; (4) safety features for controlling the operation of moving parts on the machines should be kept in good working order at all times; (5) guard rails should be constructed where needed to give support for workers and to prevent them from being thrown off of the equipment when it is started or stopped suddenly; and (6) when the equipment becomes jammed with vines or trash, moving parts should be stopped before clearing is attempted.

IMPROVING FACILITIES AT PACKINGHOUSES FOR RECEIVING POTATOES HAULED IN BULK

At present one of the biggest problems in the successful, efficient operation of mechanical equipment in the Southeast is the lack of proper facilities to receive potatoes hauled in bulk. Improvement is needed so that less physical damage is done and time is not lost in changing from one bulk truck to another (Fig. 11). Equipment should be designed so that dirt, vines, weeds and grass can be more easily eliminated. In houses using bins, better methods for filling are needed. **Improving and obtaining proper facilities at the packinghouse will do much to increase the efficiency of the operation of mechanical equipment.** The factors that should be given primary consideration in setting up packinghouses for receiving potatoes hauled in bulk are:

1. **Potatoes should be delivered from the bulk bodies on rubber belts, rubber-covered rod conveyors, or in a flume. They should not be unloaded directly on an uncovered rod conveyor.** When potatoes are unloaded directly on an uncovered draper chain (rod) conveyor, mechanical damage is usually high unless measures are taken to reduce the impact of the falling potatoes (Fig. 13). **Using a rubber-covered rod conveyor and keeping the height of drop to a minimum are the surest ways of keeping injuries low.** The link ends of the conveyor can also be turned down to protect