

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

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CABLE REEL SLINGS

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section replaces Section J6.510 and its addendum.

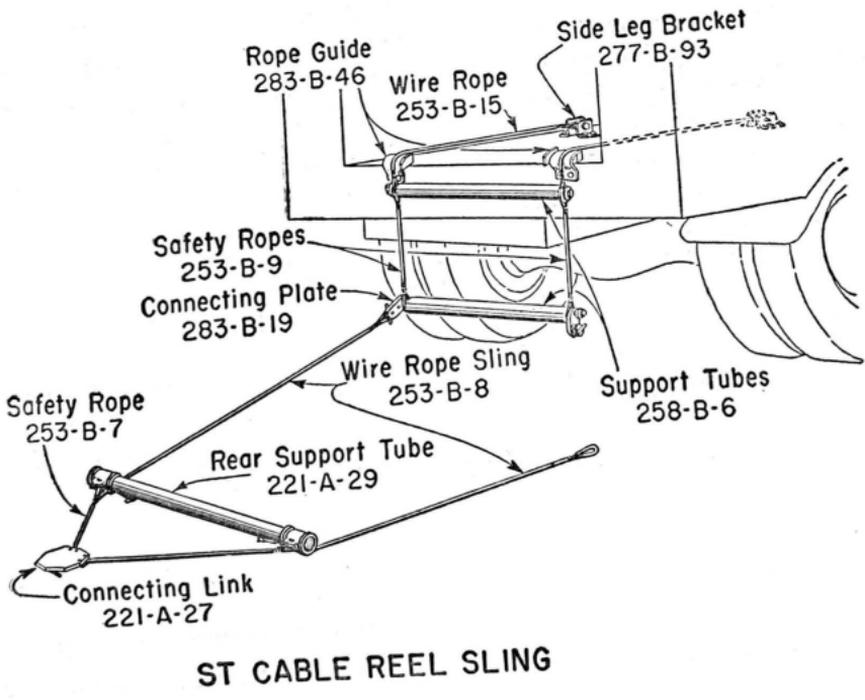
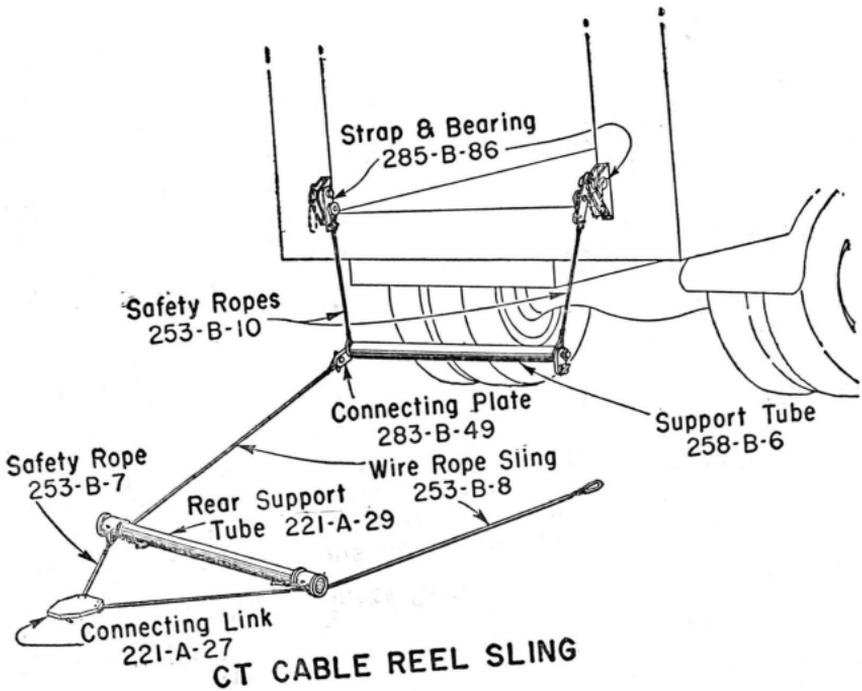
1.02 These instructions cover the assembling of the cable reel slings, the operating procedures when using the slings for loading and unloading reels from trucks, and the disassembling and transporting of the slings.

1.03 Since cable reel slings are used with winches and are made of wire rope, the practices on winches and wire rope shall be considered to be supplementary instructions.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.01 Cable reel slings are made of steel wire rope with steel tubing supports.

2.02 There are two types of slings, which are similar in appearance and construction. The primary difference is the method of attaching them to the truck bodies. The CT sling is designed to attach to the lower spindle bar brackets of construction trucks. The ST sling is designed to attach to the side leg brackets on the platform of supply delivery trucks.



3. PRECAUTIONS

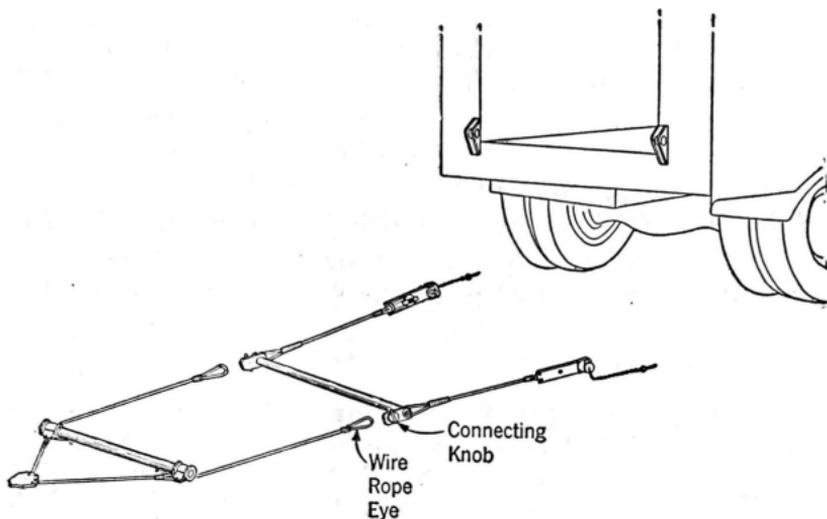
- 3.01 One man shall be assigned to check the proper assembly, disassembly and inspection of the cable reel sling.
- 3.02 Only the employees required for the safe and proper conduct of the work shall be permitted near the operation. It is extremely important that all persons, including the men doing the work, stay clear of the heavy cable reels while they are being loaded or unloaded.
- 3.03 All signals that may be used shall be understood by all persons who may have occasion to use them. These signals should be reviewed periodically by all personnel to insure a complete understanding of them.
- 3.04 At the beginning of each day's operation with a sling, give it a careful visual inspection to determine that it is in good working condition.
- 3.05 Before raising or lowering a load, check all attachments to be sure they are securely made.
- 3.06 Whenever practicable, position the truck to eliminate manual handling of the reels. Special precautions should be taken when reels must be moved or handled prior to loading or after unloading. Slopes, depressions, soft ground due to rain or a combination of freezing and thawing, sticks, stones and other miscellaneous items are all potential sources of difficulty. The size, shape and weight of a reel make it difficult to control and it may tip or may roll free if not handled properly.

4. INSPECTION

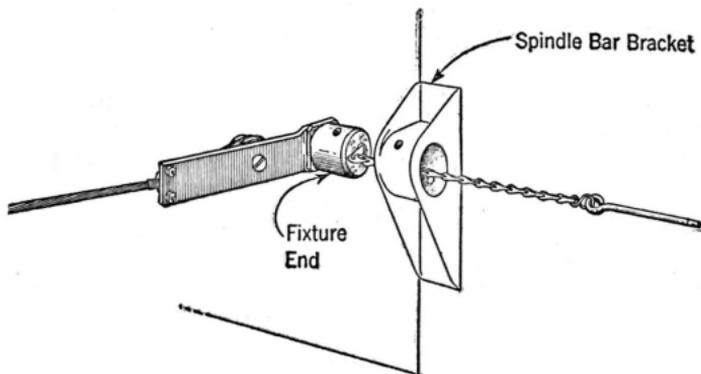
- 4.01 Each day before a sling is used lay it out on the ground and give the parts a visual inspection.
- 4.02 Check the tubing members for bends and dents which may be severe enough to weaken them.
- 4.03 Inspect the rope knobs and other members for twists, bends, cracks, or broken welds.
- 4.04 Inspect the wire rope for broken strands. This inspection should be particularly critical where the rope bends around the casting and at the wire rope eyes.
- 4.05 Inspect the attachment to the truck for defects which may have developed and check the locking device for proper operation.

5. ASSEMBLING CT SLING

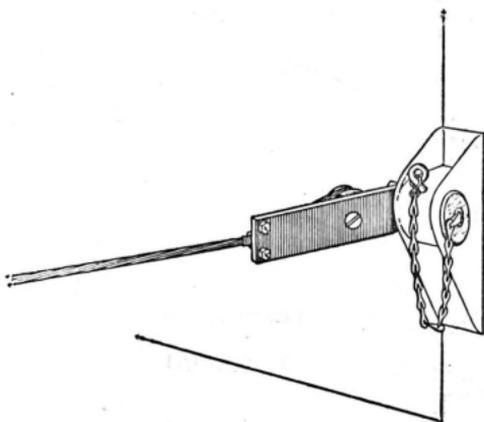
5.01 Take the sling from its storage location and spread it out on the ground behind the truck and inspect it. See Part 4.



5.02 Straighten the wire ropes and make the attachment to the spindle bar brackets. Pass the locking pin and chain through the spindle bar brackets first toward the outside of the truck and then insert the fixture end of the sling into the bracket.



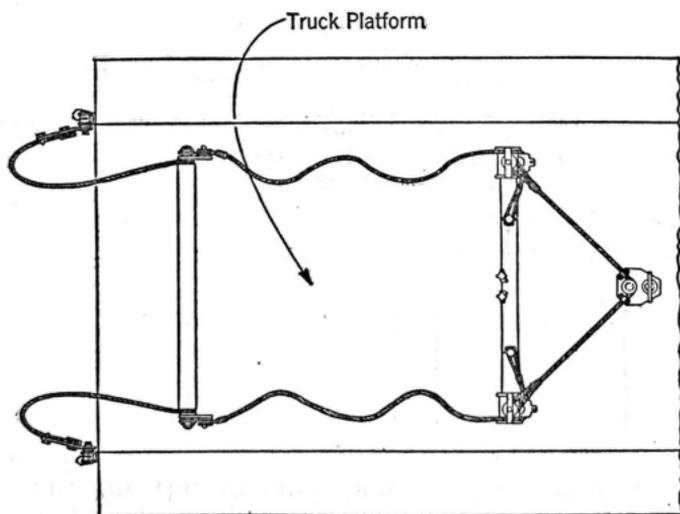
5.03 Insert the locking pin in the hole in the spindle bar bracket and the fixture end of the sling, locking the assembly in place.



5.04 Attach the other side of the sling to the other spindle bar bracket in a similar manner.

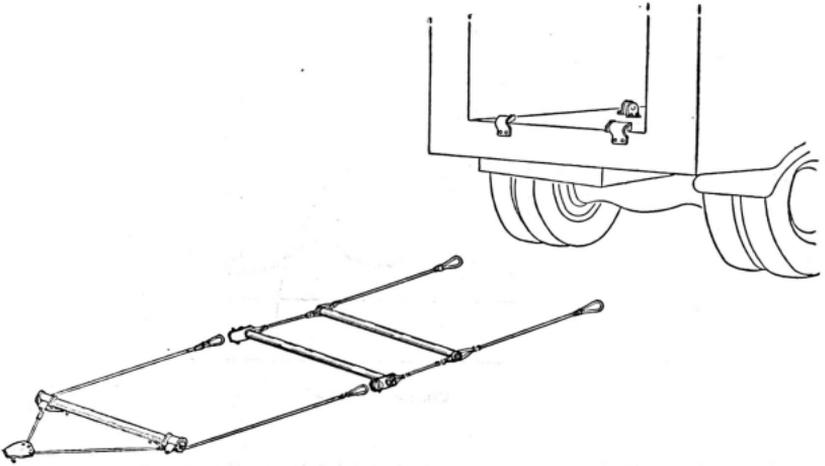
5.05 Engage the wire rope eyes with the connecting knobs.

5.06 Place the sling on the platform of the truck while the truck is being moved into position to load a reel.

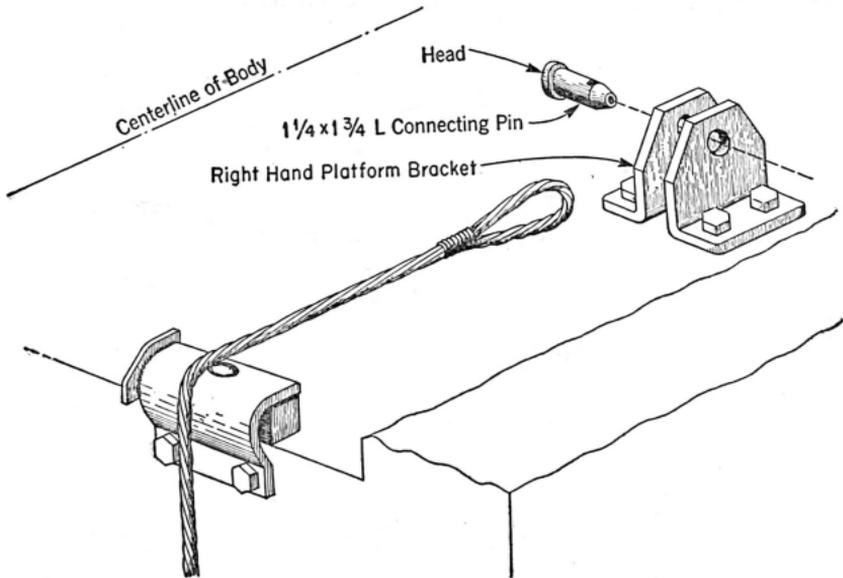


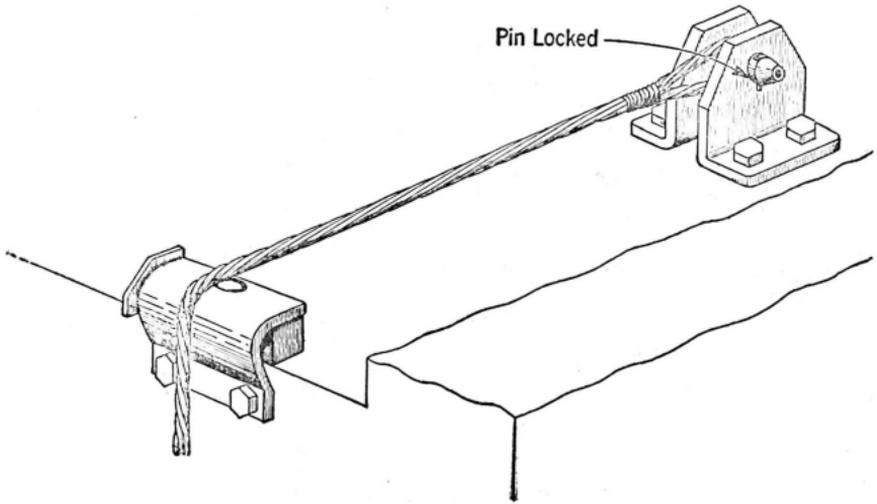
6. ASSEMBLING ST SLING

6.01 Take the sling from its storage location and spread it out on the ground behind the truck and inspect it. See Part 4.

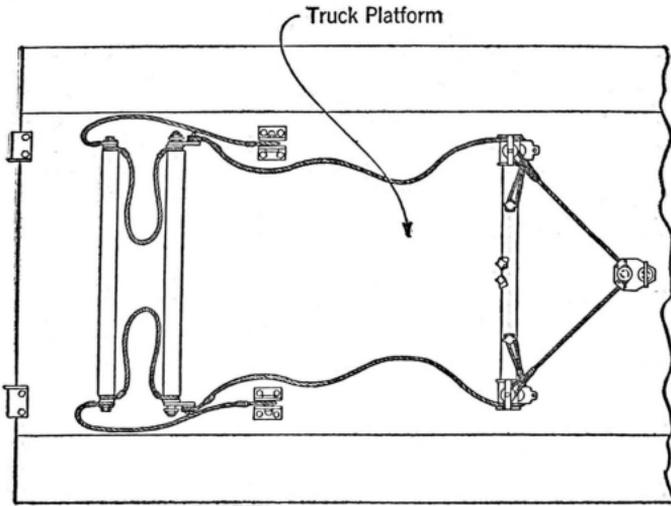


6.02 Straighten the wire ropes and attach the sling to the platform brackets with the head of connecting pin toward the center of the body.



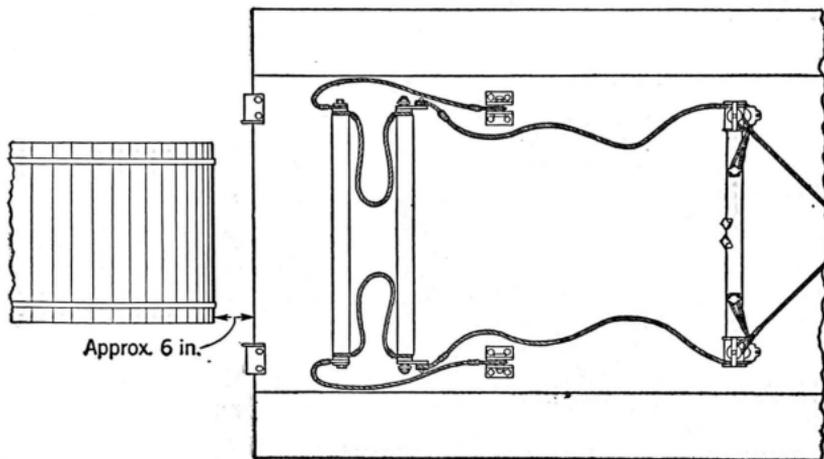


- 6.03 Attach the other side of the sling to the other platform bracket in a similar manner.
- 6.04 Engage the wire rope eyes with the connecting knobs.
- 6.05 Place the sling on the platform of the truck while the truck is being moved into position to load a reel.

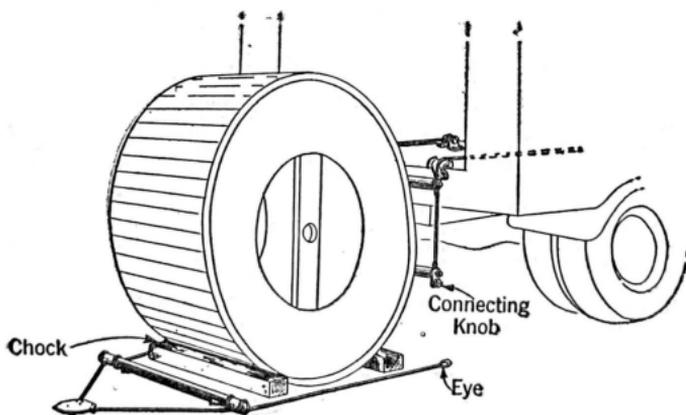


7. LOADING A REEL

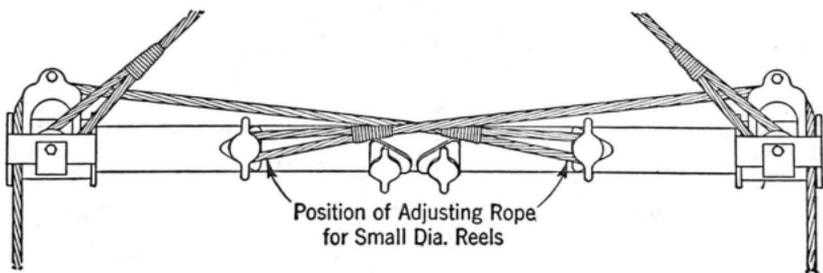
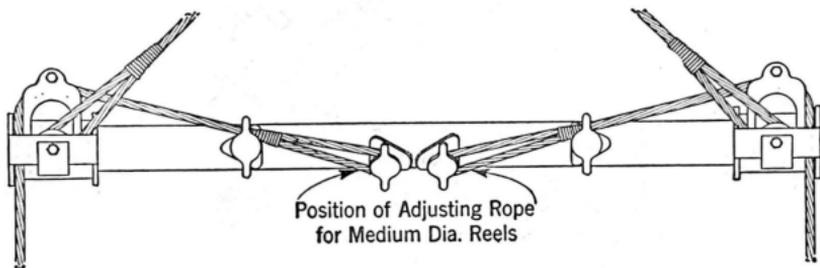
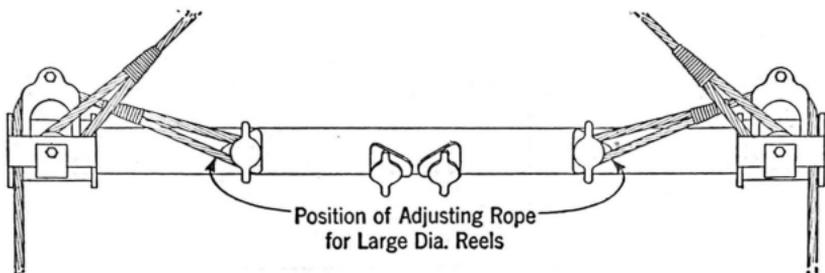
7.01 Prior to loading a reel of cable, position the truck as nearly in a direct line with the reel as practicable and with the rear of the truck about six inches from the reel. Chock the reel securely so that it can not roll in either direction. Both truck and reel should have a minimum of side tilt.



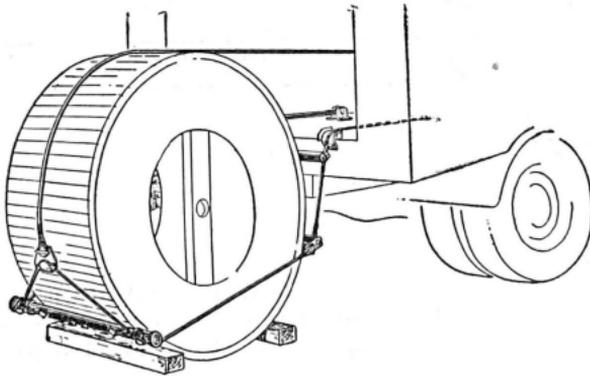
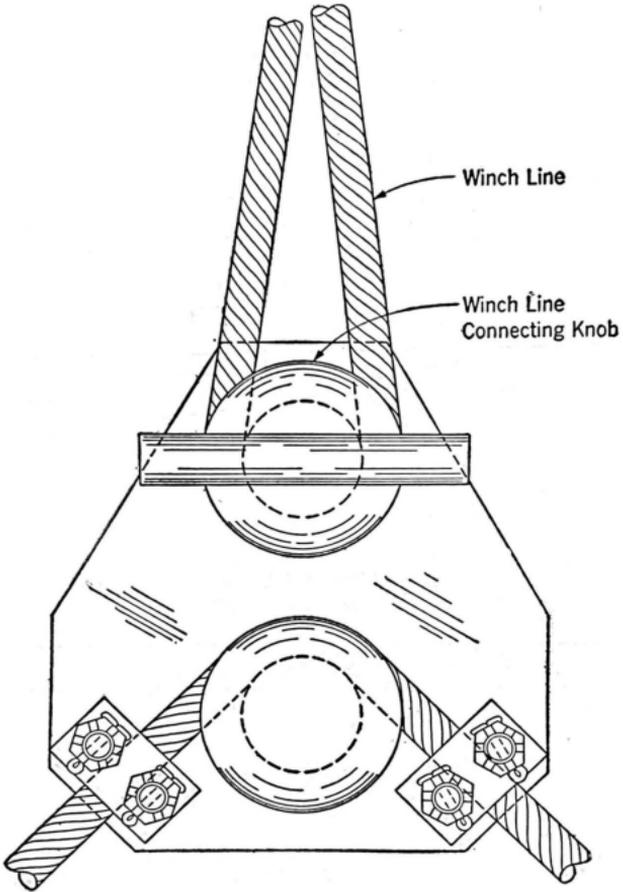
7.02 Disengage the rope eye from the connecting knob on one or both sides of the sling and place the sling around the reel. Do not move the reel during this operation. Reengage the rope eye with the connecting knob.



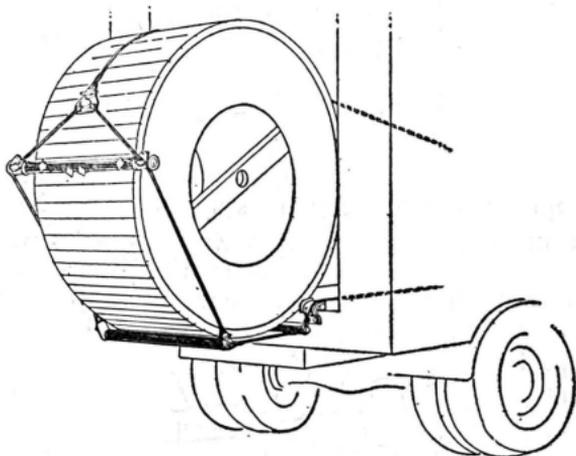
7.03 To adjust the sling for a large, medium or small reel, attach the wire rope to the proper adjusting knob as shown in the following figure.



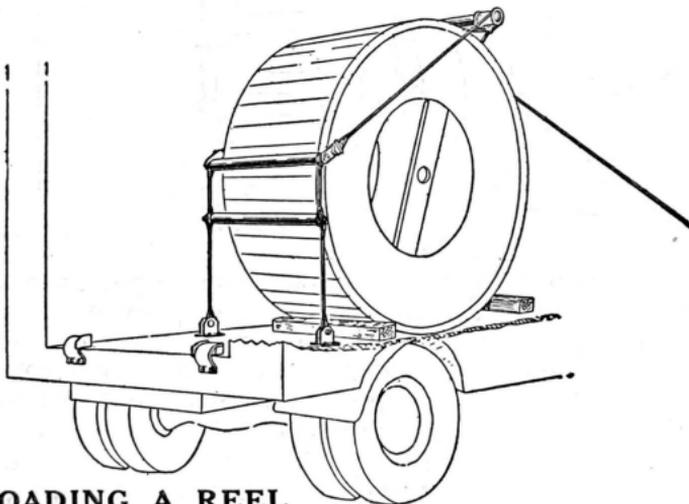
7.04 Pull enough winch line from the winch so that it can be laid over the top of the reel and then connect the eye in the winch line to the connecting knob on the cable reel sling.



7.05 Check the connections, then remove the front chock and place it on the truck platform in position to stop the reel at the desired location. Lift the reel into the truck by winding up slowly on the winch line. During this operation no personnel should be near the reel, particularly to the rear of the reel being lifted and in the path it might take should it break free and roll.



7.06 After the reel has been raised onto the platform, snub it down by placing tension on the winch line. The reel should also be chocked as shown in the following figure.



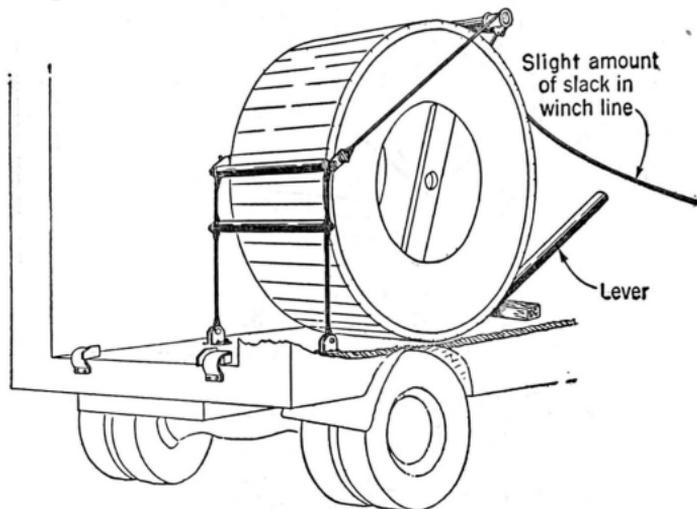
8. UNLOADING A REEL

8.01 Where conditions permit, it will be found more convenient to unload a reel if the truck is on a slight upgrade with a minimum of side tilt.

8.02 Select a location for unloading the reels so that the reel will be placed on reasonably level ground and will not tip over.

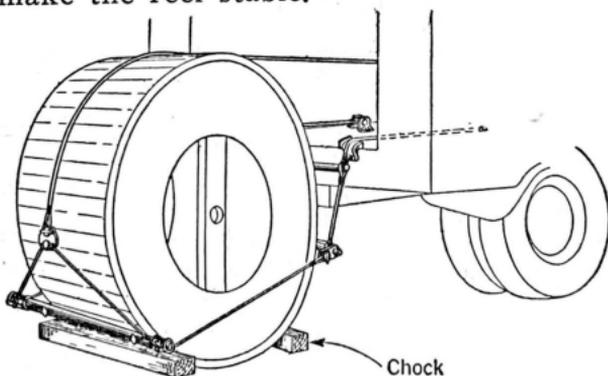
8.03 When the truck has been moved to the unloading position, remove the rear chock and slack off a slight amount on the winch line by driving the winch in reverse. For this operation the winch should never be used with a free drum.

8.04 As the reel rolls or is rolled to the rear end of the truck platform continue to slack off on the winch line but do not allow the line to become excessively slack. Roll the reel back toward the end of the platform by means of short bars operated as levers at the front of the reel.

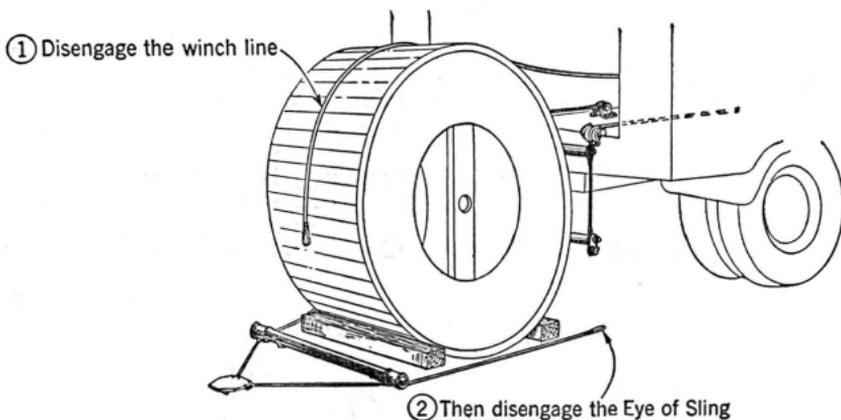


8.05 As soon as the reel rolls past its balance point over the rear end of the truck platform, it will pull toward the ground. Lower slowly by driving the winch in reverse.

8.06 After the reel rests on the ground, chock it as required to make the reel stable.



- 8.07 Provide additional slack in the winch line so it can be disconnected from the sling.
- 8.08 Disengage one or both sides of the sling from the connecting knobs and remove the sling from around the reel.



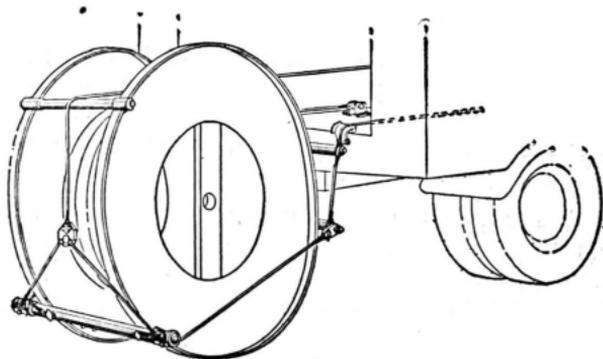
- 8.09 Load the sling back onto the truck platform or disassemble it and store it for transportation.

9. HANDLING UNLAGGED REELS

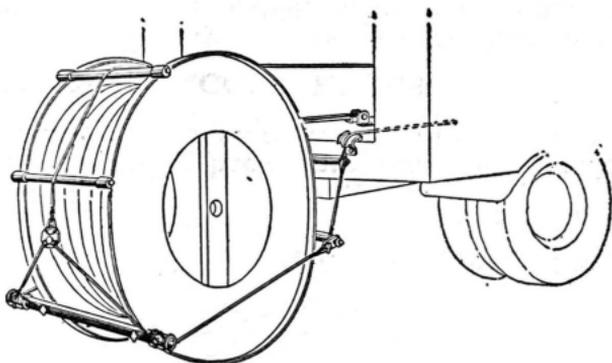
9.01 At times it may be desirable to handle an unlagged reel containing cable, with the sling. To prevent damage to the cable on the reel, a winch line support tube must be used.

9.02 The winch line support tube is a seamless steel tube with an adjustable clamp at each end which permits the support tube to be fastened securely to the rim of a steel reel. When used with wooden reels the support tube is clamped directly to the edge of the reel. A small drilled lip is provided on each clamp so that the support tube may be nailed securely to the reel. The support tube is long enough to be used with all reels smaller than the No. 420 cable reel. If a No. 420 reel is to be loaded, a 4 by 4 oak beam or similar support should be used.

9.03 For unlagged reels less than half full of cable, a single support tube, positioned on the reel as shown in the following diagram, should be sufficient to keep the winch line from contacting and damaging the cable while handling the reel.



9.04 For unlagged reels more than half full two support tubes will probably be required to keep the winch line off the cable. When two support tubes are required they should be positioned as shown in the following figure.



10. DISASSEMBLING AND TRANSPORTING

10.01 When work with the sling is completed, the sling should be detached from the truck.

10.02 The sling may be stored as a unit or in two parts. If it is to be stored in two parts, the sling is disassembled by disengaging the rope eyes from the connecting knobs on both sides of the sling.

10.03 Store the sling in a location where heavy objects will not be dropped on the tubes or the wire ropes or where the ropes will not be kinked or damaged.

10.04 If space is available, a very satisfactory location for storing the sling is to hang it in two parts on the material rail of the truck body.