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CAKED SUPERPHOSPHATE

Old Chaffcutter Used for Reconditioning

Farmers who have experienced difficulties in handling superphosphate which has caked hard during storage may be interested in this method of reconditioning employed by Mr. J. Trott, of Corrigin, and described hereunder.

He writes:—"Last year we had 90 bags of super left over which had set very hard so we started to recondition it by putting it through a grain grister.

"This made a good job of the super but was far too slow in operation so we experimented with another idea. We dismantled an old chaffcutter (it would not damage a good one, incidentally) leaving only the feeding rollers and hay chute.

"The feeding rollers were taken out and reversed and a pulley was fitted on the upper roller shaft. A hopper of sheet iron was placed over the mouth.

"The cutter was then tipped so that it had two legs on the ground and rested on the portion where the driving pulley is normally fitted. The weight lever was given a little pressure by a weight hanging on a wire.

"A sheet of iron was tacked over the frame portion to support a bag hung under the face-plate by two wire hooks.

"We used a tractor for power but a 2 h.p. engine would probably handle the job effectively. The rollers eat into large lumps of super at a fair pace and although the reconditioned product was not as finely-separated as the grister sample it gave no trouble in drilling.

"With the super broken into lumps about four inches in diameter, the crushing rate is as fast as one man can shovel the lumps into the hopper."

The picture on the left shows the chaffcutter in position with the hopper feeding the superphosphate into the rollers. In the centre the design of the hopper may be seen. At right, is shown a sheet of flat galvanised iron tacked over the frame, with a bag hanging from wire hooks below the face-plate.