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BULK-HANDLING OF GRAIN ON THE FARM

WESTERN Australia’s bulk-handling system for wheat made its debut in the 1931-32 season when five sidings were experimentally equipped and handled less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the State’s marketable harvest. Nine years later 232 sidings were fitted with bulk-handling equipment, receiving nearly 98 per cent. of the State’s wheat, and since then, the whole of the marketable harvest has been handled on a bulk basis at sidings, save for a few parcels of special milling wheat on which a premium was paid.

Even today, many farmers still use bags when taking wheat from the harvester box, and for carting it into the bulk bins at the siding. On an ever-increasing number of farms however, the jute sack is becoming as obsolete as the horse-works.

The photographs accompanying these notes were taken on the property of Miss M. York, of Wongans Hills where, from harvester to siding, the grain is handled entirely without the use of bags.

A trailer-mounted bin (not shown in the photographs) is attached to the harvester and holds about 70 bushels of grain when filled.

An elevator (Fig. 1) which is operated by the power take-off of either the truck or the tractor, is used for transferring wheat from the trailer bin. It can handle...
up to a ton of wheat a minute and is easily transportable. With the elevator, grain may be transferred from the harvester trailer bin to the truck-mounted bin for transportation to the siding—or alternatively into the large field storage bin.

The field storage bin is made of timber, lined with flat galvanised iron and has a capacity of approximately 1,000 bushels. It is fitted with detachable wheels for transportation to selected sites when empty, and has a tarpaulin cover. When in position, the transport wheels are removed and the bin rests firmly on the under-frame.

Its sloping floor permits most of the wheat to run by gravitation through a side door into the elevator hopper. The last 100 bushels are driven out by an inbuilt auger shown beneath the bin in Fig. 3.