

tinued as long as the growth of the vines permits. If tubers lie close to the surface of the ground, ridge slightly about the bases of the plants in laying by the crop, in order to prevent sun-burning of the potatoes.



Elevator type of potato digger. The gasoline engine mounted on the digger takes the place of extra horses.

*Harvesting.* If the price of early potatoes is high, dig the first-crop potatoes as soon as they have reached marketable size. Otherwise leave them until mature to secure the greater yield. Dig the potatoes by hand with a potato hook or a potato fork or plow out the rows. Iron rods substituted for the mould board give a better implement for this work than the regular turning plow. For large areas an elevator digger is used but often this bruises the tender skin of the immature potatoes. This elevates the soil and tubers from the row, shakes the potatoes free from the soil and deposits them on top of the ground in the rear of the machine. The best types of mechanical diggers require four horses to pull them but some growers mount a small gasoline engine on the digger and then two horses draw the implement. One man can dig and pick up one-eighth to one-half of an acre