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Headquarters Mechanical Development Committee

M. J. A. H. ...
M. M. C. ...
M. G. ...
M. J. B. ...

Report No. 35

The Tirfor Winch

Origin

In view of the many needs for light manually operated winches for various forestry operations the Tirfor winch was examined and one Model T.13 was obtained for test.

Description

The Tirfor winch is of French origin but is now being made in England under licence by Tirfor Ltd., 27, Broomgrove Road, Sheffield 10. The main attraction of this winch is the ease with which it can be handled (see photograph 1) and the speed with which it can be brought into action. Technical information is as follows:-

Capacity	30 cwt.
Weight of winch... ..	39 lbs.
" " cable... ..	27 lbs. (60 ft. on reel)
Rope speed... ..	11½ ft. per min.
Size	24" x 14" x 6"
Mechanical Advantage...	43 to 1
Price... ..	£39 - 10 - 0.

The principle on which the winch works is two sets of grips which take hold of the cable in turn, one set pulling it in until the other set of grips has taken hold.

The winch is operated with a telescopic hand lever which has two alternative positions, one for winching in and the other for paying out. Sixty feet of cable is supplied as standard but there is no limit to the length of cable that could be used. As no drum is provided the cable hauled in lies loose on the ground so the winch is suitable for short hauls only.

A general view of the winch in use can be seen at photograph 2.

Observations

1. The winch is very easy to use and can be brought into operation very quickly. The low overall weight is a great advantage as the winch can easily be carried by hand or in a car.
2. It is very useful for tensioning light ropeways, felling small trees, unditching vehicles and moving heavy weights.
3. The direct pull of 30 cwt. can be doubled by using a snatch block.

Conclusions

The Tirfor winch is a reliable and reasonably priced piece of equipment which has many uses in the forest.

R.G. Shaw.

Machinery Research Officer.
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• Showing the case with which the TIFOR winch can be carried.



2. Showing the TIFOR winch in use.