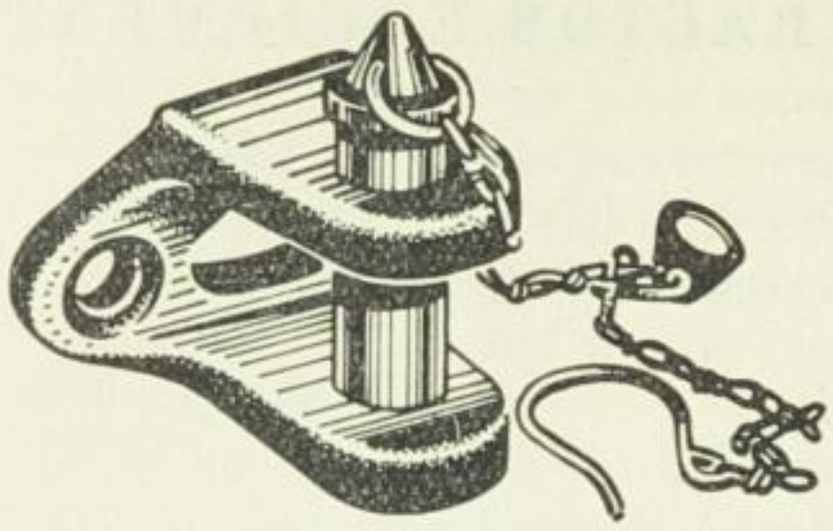

Fig. 299. Simple trailer coupling

trailer; therefore it is recommendable to provide a flexible coupling. Rubber cushions of sufficient thickness or compression springs normally take up the impacts. This simple coupling enables the pole to swing through almost 90° towards the side and through about 20° upwards and downwards. This is of particular importance for transports of agricultural produce directly from the fields.

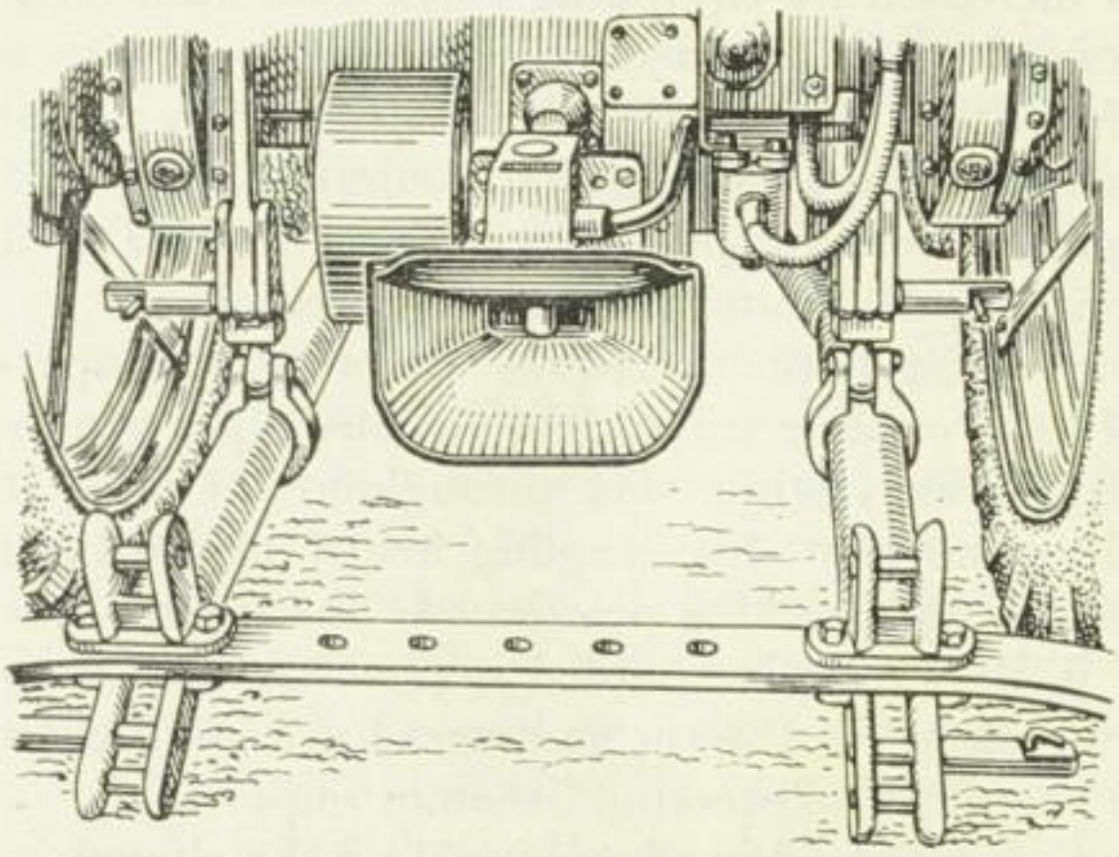

Fig. 300. Automatic trailer coupling

(b) Automatic Trailer Coupling

The automatic trailer coupling is fitted to tractors which are primarily used in road haulage. These couplings are provided with shock-proof springs and ensure optimum safety when engaging and disengaging the coupling (Fig. 300).

The wide catching jaws of the coupling ensure a safe engagement with the pole eye. Further, the jaws enable the pole to move laterally through about 70°.

(c) Attachment Rails

Attachment rails are primarily used in agriculture and forestry for connecting trailed implements with the tractor. They have several disadvantages which render their use unadvisable, especially in case of intense draw-hook pulls.

Above all, the load on the front wheel is reduced; this exerts an unfavourable influence on the manoeuvrability and driving properties. Further, turning round or travelling along a curved path is unfavourably influenced because the attachment-rail pull counteracts the steering effort.