

held firm while the topping is done. Insofar as is known, only one organization has reported using it on a trial basis.

Packing by most organizations is done with the back of the box facing the roots of the stripped celery, so that each stalk must be turned over as it is placed in the field box. This is done to get a good tight pack as well as to place the ribs so that they are as nearly straight as possible for top cutting. This practice of tight packing is also a carry-over from the days when celery was packed in the shipping crate in the field.¹⁰



Fig. 19.—Top for Field Box.

This flexible strap fits under the ledges of the field box and keeps the celery from becoming crossed in the process of loading.

The most efficient and easiest way to pack is to turn the field crate so that the open side faces the same direction as the tops of celery lying on the ground. In this way, celery may be pulled into the box without lifting the stalks very high or turning them over (Fig 20). This also makes it easier to use both hands to do the packing. The packers in organization N were doing

¹⁰ In any operation of this type, it is common to find obsolete methods in use. In some parts of New York the $\frac{2}{3}$ -crate was long used for field packed celery which was sent directly to storage or market. Today, a large part of New York celery is washed and packed in washhouses, but the $\frac{2}{3}$ -crate is still commonly used in the field as a field box. In order to fill the crate, certain sized stalks must be selected and placed one at a time in the crate, only to be unpacked, washed and resized several hours later in the washhouse.