



Fig. 21.—Topping with Hand Saw.

The hand saw makes a neat cut, can be used with or without the form top and saves damaging boxes.



Fig. 22.—Two Persons Working One-handed.

One person using both hands could do this job a little faster than two persons working with one hand.

variation in this time is due more to the size of the crew than to the methods used, and is not important except in very small crews. Working at a constant rate, 10,000 stalks can be topped in 39 minutes with a machete, or 52 minutes with a hand saw. Unless the crew is extremely well balanced, it is best to use the saw.

Most top cutters use a form top to hold the celery in the box as it is being topped, although in the past few years some have stopped using the form altogether. Three different workers using a saw and form top for top cutting were timed. The same operators were then asked to cut the tops without the form top. After they had cut tops this way for a while, they were again timed. Little difference in time required could be detected. Using the form top, 0.21 minutes per crate were required. Without the form top, 0.23 minutes per crate were required (Table 21). When the topper works without the form, he uses his hand as a substitute. The form serves as a guide for the saw and holds the celery in place better than does the worker's hand, so that the quality of work done with the form top at no added labor expense makes its use desirable. The organization which required the longest time for topping had one person carry and place the form while another did the cutting (Fig. 22). In this way, two persons were hired, each to use but one hand, instead of one person being hired to use two hands. Furthermore, the method was somewhat awkward so that two could not work quite so fast as one person.