

out of the temporary storage to the dumping table or stripping chain. The number of unloaders employed by the nine wash-houses studied in detail varied from 1 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  (Table 29). The hours of labor required to move 10,000 stalks into and out of temporary storage varied from 0.8 to 2.8 hours. The firm using the most labor required  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more labor than the firm using the least labor.

TABLE 29.—NUMBER OF UNLOADERS AND HOURS OF LABOR REQUIRED TO HANDLE 10,000 STALKS OF CELERY, NINE FLORIDA FIRMS, 1944 SEASON.

Area	Firm	Number of Unloaders	Hours of Labor to Move 10,000 Stalks of Celery Into and Out of Temporary Storage
Sanford.....	C	2	1.2
	F	3	0.8
	D	2	1.0
Sarasota.....	P	2	2.3
	N	2	1.6
	O	1	1.3
Belle Glade.....	I	$3\frac{1}{2}$ *	2.8
	M	$1\frac{1}{2}$ *	2.3
	J	$1\frac{1}{6}$ *	2.3

\* In each of these firms, the same men, doing the unloading, also reloaded the empty field crates on the trucks. By timing them while they worked, it was possible to allocate the time devoted to each operation, and the equivalent number of workers was calculated.

The volume of business had a pronounced effect on the rate of accomplishment of the unloaders. The unloading for three houses which were operating three or four chains averaged 1.1 hours per 10,000 stalks. In six houses operating from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to two chains, the average unloading time was 2.0 hours per 10,000 stalks. Unloaders employed by small firms are idle a higher proportion of time than are the unloaders employed by large firms. Some small firms use more unloaders than can be kept fully occupied. This is done so that the trucks can be unloaded rapidly, thus reducing the number of trucks required to do the hauling. Two of the smaller firms were able to reduce the time required by combining the job of reloading empty field crates with the unloading job. In spite of this practice, both of these firms still had an excessive amount of unloading labor.

One way small firms could overcome this difficulty would involve the use of detachable trailers in place of trucks. The loaded trailers could be hauled to the house and left in place at the unloading platform. The celery would then be left in temporary storage on the trailer, being moved directly from the