

unloader moves the field crates to the chain until the stalks have been stripped and placed on the chain. For the "dumping method" those operations consist of: (1) dumping the celery and placing the empty crates on a conveyor, (2) feeding the celery from the table to the chain, and (3) picking up and stripping selected stalks and replacing them on the chain. In the "stripping method" to reach the same end product, the operations are: (1) chain tenders carry field boxes to the stripping stands and pick up the empty crates, (2) strippers pick up, strip and place each stalk on the chain, and (3) root trimmers select stalks from chain, trim roots and replace stalks. None of the houses using the "dumping method" employed root trimmers in the washhouse. The time required to do each operation by the two methods is shown in Table 30.

On an average, those firms using the stripping method required about 5.2 hours less field labor per 10,000 stalks, but used 12.9 hours more labor in the washhouse. The use of less field labor was due in large part to more effective methods in the field and did not consist of savings at the expense of added washhouse labor. In other words, the difference of 12.9 hours per 10,000 stalks describes more closely the difference between the two methods than does the total field and washhouse difference of 7.7 hours per 10,000 stalks. Based on 12.9 hours, the difference amounts to 54 man-hours per acre¹³ and, calculated at 50 cents an hour for labor, the difference amounts to 3.9 cents per packed crate. The dumping method apparently saves a large quantity of labor.

There is some question about the quality of work done between the two methods. Two of the firms using the stripping method changed to the dumping method between 1944 and 1945. The quality factor was not studied until after this change had taken place, so that the same firms cannot be used in making the quality comparisons.

Quality factors were studied in 15 firms, of which 12 used the dumping method and only three used the stripping method. The three using the stripping method were small firms and, because of close supervision, might have had some advantage in quality control. For purposes of comparing the two washhouse methods, the quality factors have been divided into three groups.

¹³ For comparisons among the nine firms, the weighted average celery yield per acre was 688 packed crates, or 41,634 packed stalks.