thus keeping the unloading platform clear of congestion. This usually is not an important problem in small plants.

Under either system of empty field box disposal provision should be made for storing broken field boxes. This is a small detail, overlooked by many firms, and broken boxes are consequently a constant source of congestion either in the washhouse or on the platforms.

WASHERS

After the celery has been stripped and placed on the stripping chain it passes under the washing unit. Types of washing units are not well standardized. All the units are about the same size, but the water pressure of the spray nozzles varies considerably. Some units spray only from the top, while others spray from the top and also flood water over the celery by means of revolving water wheels, built into the sides of the washer. The latter type of unit does the better job of washing.

Celery grown on muckland is more difficult to wash than that produced on sand, because particles of muck adhere between the ribs. Although the celery appears clean when it emerges from the washer, muck particles float out of the celery and give the stalks a dirty appearance when the crates of celery pass through the precooler. Improved washing units are needed particularly in the muckland areas.

The efficiency of various types of washing units was not compared in this study.

SIZING AND PACKING

After the celery emerges from the washer it is ready for sizing and packing. Most washhouses have from nine to 12 packing tables on each side of each chain. A sizer and packer work as a team at each table, the sizer working next to the chain. The table nearest the washer is used for the largest size celery and the smallest size celery (usually size XX) is packed on the last table along the chain.

The job of the sizer is to select a particular size of celery from the chain and to place those stalks on the packing table. Using the stalks selected by the sizer, the packer fills the packing crates following a standard packing pattern which has been adopted for the various sizes.

Of the nine firms studied in detail, seven used the system described above. The labor required per 10,000 stalks ranged from 21 to 26 hours for the seven firms (Table 32). Firm M, which spent 17 hours of sorting and packing labor per 10,000