

first placing one stalk in the crate. For the balance of the layer, the stalks were placed two at a time. In this manner the stalks, if anywhere near the correct size, fill the layer when the last two are placed, making it impossible to place two more stalks in the same layer without a great deal of difficulty. Similarly, it is immediately apparent if two stalks are left out of a layer. This system is obviously not as reliable for judging the number of stalks in a layer of very small sizes of celery, such as 10-dozen sizes. The 8-dozen size is packed 12 stalks to the layer so that if two stalks were left out, the layer would be only five-sixths full.

The smaller sizes of celery were less accurately packed than the larger sizes (Table 34). Comparatively few crates of sizes $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ dozen were examined. These sizes were not examined for all firms because they were either not being packed or were not common enough to occur in the sample. Of the 106 crates of size 3-dozen examined, about 78 percent were packed correctly. Of 111 crates of size 6 dozen, almost 69 percent, and of 46 crates of size 10 dozen, about 37 percent were packed correctly. Of sizes 8 and 10 dozen, 10.5 and 13 percent, respectively, of the crates contained the correct number of stalks, but the stalks were miscounted in the layers. Approximately one-third of the crates of size 10 dozen contained fewer stalks than represented by the size, and over two-thirds of these were short by more than six stalks.

Because of the relationship of the size of celery and the accuracy of packing, it is important, in making comparison between firms, to consider the relative number of crates of the various sizes examined for particular firms. In selecting the crates to be examined no effort was made to select a given proportion of the various sizes. Except for a few crates of the larger sizes, however, the relative number of crates of the various sizes examined for each firm were fairly comparable.¹⁶

The accuracy of the numerical count in the pack, within a reasonable tolerance, probably is not so important a price-determining factor as is the quality of pack. But quality, unlike accuracy, is difficult to measure objectively. Furthermore, many factors other than packing technique determine the quality and appearance of a package.

Some indication of quality was obtained by judging the excellence of job done in "facing" the package, in sizing the celery

¹⁶ See Table 2 of Appendix C.