time for commencing to pick, to enable them to complete the work within three weeks, for the hops are usually not ripe in this latitude before the first of September, and when once ripe they rapidly deteriorate. Experienced pickers average, one with another, about two and one-half boxes each per day; some few picking four to five boxes, while many more do not exceed two boxes. Therefore, if the grower designs to dry but one kiln of forty-five boxes per day, he should engage about sixteen pickers; while if he is to dry two kilns per day, he will need double that number. It will, of course, also be necessary to make due preparation to board and lodge the help thus engaged, which is no small item in the expense of hop-farming. These and many other things will, however, naturally occur to the new beginners.

**BOXES.**

The number of hop boxes which should be provided depends upon the number of pickers to be employed, for there must be one to each picker. The hop box is generally estimated to contain seven bushels, but the one legalized by statute in this State is three feet long, two feet high, and eighteen inches wide, which will hold a trifle over seven bushels. These boxes are not made singly, however, but a box is made sufficiently large to divide into four compartments of this size. These four boxes, in one, are called "gangs." The "gang" should be made of some light, half-inch lumber, in order that it may be moved from place to place without too much trouble. The top board on each side should be six inches wide; the next one, the same width, should project about eighteen inches at each end, and should be of inch lumber. These projections may be shaved to one's liking, and serve as handles to move it by. At each end a board projects some two feet above the box, with holes through which a pole can be placed when in use to support the hop-poles while the pickers are at work. In constructing the "gang," light corner posts should be used, which should project six or eight inches to serve as legs. They are not shown in the following cut, which, in other respects, is correct.

![Diagram of hop boxes](image)

**SETTING BOXES.**

A day or two before commencing to pick it will be well to set the boxes in their proper position in the yard. For the purpose of illus-