To handle the crop of 1913, 8,036 persons were employed in the seventy-five plants. Of these, 5,010 were men, 2,688 women and 438 children between 14 and 16 years of age.

Study made by the United States Bureau of Labor.

During the summer of 1912 investigators of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics made an extensive statistical study of the hours of labor of women employes in the Wisconsin Pea Canneries, based on data covering operations during the years 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911, in about half of the canning factories in the state.* This study was made for "the purpose of discovering the relation between the problem of pea-cannery administration as presented in Wisconsin and the working hours of women employed in the pea-canneries in the state." An effort was made to show the relation between the acreage planted and the equipment, number of workers, and daily duration of work; also the possibility of harvest control by proper soil selection, distribution of planting, and study of weather conditions. This bulletin also contains data in regard to the length of working days, labor supply, possible causes of shortage of labor, the abuses that have resulted from lack of restriction of hours, and the cost of female labor.

Although the data obtained by the investigators of the U. S. Bureau of Labor are in many respects incomplete, the report shows the conditions that existed in pea canneries before the present regulation of hours became effective. A comparison of the hours and conditions of labor of female employes in Wisconsin canneries, as shown in the Bureau of Labor report (pages 22, 26–27), for the years 1908–1911, inclusive, with the conditions prevailing in 1913 (tables II and III following) shows what has been and what can be done in the solution of this problem. Some of the conclusions of the federal report have not been borne out in the present investigation, yet in studying the results of the present regulations, the information given in that report is of much value.

Purpose of this investigation.

It is not the intention of the present study to go into the questions of acreage, harvest control, soil selection, planting,

* "Working Hours of Women in the Pea Canneries of Wisconsin". U. S. Dept. of Labor—Bulletin number 119.