

Methods of Control

A few typical examples of methods of erosion control already adopted in Victoria are shown hereunder and in the following pages.

As a rule, the tendency is more and more to use agricultural methods of control rather than engineering ones. However, to meet special or urgent cases engineering structures may be necessary and economically justified. As long as the basic principles of design are right, very simple structures of cheap materials are as effective as more elaborate ones.

In the last analysis, a strong growth of vegetation is the best protection against erosion, whether by wind or water. The purpose of groynes, checkdams and other engineering structures to check water erosion is to reduce the speed of the water flowing past the eroding section to a non-scouring velocity, until such time as a strong vegetative cover can be grown to take over the job of protection. Brush fences, &c., serve a similar purpose for wind erosion.



61. North of Hopetoun. Brush fence to check sand drift which was blocking channel.



62. Brush wind check at side of channel. Block 28, Mittyack



63. Mallee Research Station, Walpeup. Part of drift control equipments - on left - oats acting as cover crop - to be grazed. On right - furrowed fallow.



64. Log dam across scour near Bindi Station. This is now filled to the top



65. Check dam to stop scour alongside Gisborne road, Bacchus Marsh Shire



66. Small log dam constructed by Omeo Shire to protect road bridge over scouring gully.



67. Concrete drop on the Sheep Pen Creek, at Caniambo. This is to check the extension of a branching scour, by concentrating all flow at a protected drop.



68. Brush dam to catch silt derived from eroding banks, Skull Creek, near Bairnsdale.



69. Small check dams of grass and manure constructed by land holder to check scour alongside road formation.



70. Near Benalla. Brick and concrete drop constructed by land holder in scouring gully. This has been effective in preventing extension of scour.



71. Showing how even ordinary wire netting will catch silt. Note how leaves, &c., have lodges against the netting, forming a silt trap.



72. Up stream view of groyne installed by land holders on the Upper Tambo River.



73. Small stone-wire mesh groynes in Yackandandah Creek to protect eroding bank. Note sand already deposited in twelve months.



74. Lerderberg River, Bacchus Marsh. Protection of eroding bank. Shingle and wire type groyne, showing siltation to original end of groyne in two years, and recent extension. Note willow stakes in silt bench.



75. Willows about eight years old growing thickly on cribwork and sloped banks, Avon River, Boisdale. Shingle banks in river bed at back.