

of gravity. Water gets access to the interior of the bank by means of cracks which develop during periods of drought, and the only remedy which engineers have discovered is the provision of very complete drainage for the removal of the water.

The expedient of planting various shrubs and trees has been tried, and though it may have mitigated the trouble it has hitherto failed to remove it. The problem to be solved is briefly the establishment on such places of trees or shrubs of deep-rooting habit, so that the layers of the bank may be bound together, and, in addition, the clothing of the surface with a continuous mat of low vegetation to screen it from desiccation and thus prevent cracking. Considering the very large number of plants available, it would be strange if foresters or skilled gardeners should be unable to find a satisfactory solution. Whilst it is easy to suggest the names of likely plants for the purpose, we are reluctant to do so in the absence of systematic trials. The trees employed, in addition to being deep rooters, will have to be fairly permeable to light to ensure a proper development of the ground vegetation. It will also be an advantage that the latter, when it dies off in autumn, should not too readily catch fire. These are the principal elements of the problem awaiting solution.

**River Banks.**—Creeks and river channels traversing saltings are very prone to erode their banks, especially in reaches which allow some "fetch" to the wind, which often springs up when the tide flows. To protect banks from the resulting "slog", simple expedients, such as stakes and boarding, rough bundles of brushwood, or better, properly made fascines, are commonly employed. Where the degree of salinity reaches the half strength of sea water (1.5 per cent of salt) trees cannot be used, as no tree-like halophyte is available outside the tropics.

Whatever the future may have in store, at the present time none of the mangrove trees of tropical mud flats has been acclimatized to serve the purpose, nor has any attempt been made to breed a form tolerant of a cool climate.

A few experiments have been made with Willows (*Salix alba*) to accustom them to salt water. Willow cuttings were attached to corks floating in fresh water, and as roots developed