

held the brush and earth, afterwards conveyed in, from being swept down by the current so soon as it was deposited.

At first it was considered practicable to commence this sheet piling at one side, and continue along, finishing at the other, but it was found that the banks were of such a treacherous nature, that the increased current due to the narrowing of the channel would scour away the banks more quickly than the sheet piles could be driven, and thus destroy the location of the box. It was then decided to commence at both ends, make them thoroughly secure, and work toward the center. This was done, the sheet piling from each side being closely followed by labourers dumping earth to form an embankment on the upper side of the crib, keeping plenty of brush on the outside, to prevent the earth being scoured away by the current. After having proceeded thus toward the center, and when the current became too strong due to the narrow opening to hold the earth from being washed away, the gap in the sheet piling was closed, and the backing deposited as soon as possible. But the material in the bottom of the slough was of such a treacherous nature, that no sooner had the water on the upper side begun to rise on the piling than it broke through underneath, the water following the piles down, where it encountered a coarse red sand, which was soon scoured out, and in a very short time an open channel was made underneath the piling.

Sacks were immediately obtained and filled with earth (about 1,200 of them), and these dumped into the channel or hole with loose hay and earth, finally held the current until a large earth embankment was built across. No more trouble was afterwards encountered, although it was subjected at one time to a pressure due to a 27 foot head. The lower dam was built in much the same way, but with less difficulty, there being only a 4 feet tide to contend against.

The specifications required all ooze, logs, sticks or perishable matter to be removed from the bottom of the slough, between the two dams, to a maximum depth of 6 feet below the bottom of the box, in order to secure a proper foundation on which to lay the brush and clay. Should the material below that be soft and mushy, then wild hay was to be tramped in below that again, until a firm bed was obtained. But it was to be left to the judgment of the engineer as to how deep up to the six feet the excavation was to be made.

After having pumped out the location—a centrifugal pump with a 4 inch discharge having been used with a maximum lift of about 15 feet—the bottom of the slough was carefully examined and the material tested. The first 2 feet or thereabouts consisted of ooze, slime, brush, logs, stumps and every imaginable kind of worthless matter. Beneath this for from 4 to 6 feet was a bed of silt, of a bluish color, containing minute particles of mica, and very gritty to the touch, but the particles of sand being fine. This when left in its natural bed, and not disturbed, is impervious to water, but once it is moved and displaced, and exposed to the action of water under pressure, it becomes a veritable quick-sand. Beneath this was a bed of fairly coarse red sand.

After having made this examination, the cause of the former boxes having been scoured out was apparent to the writer. They had been constructed in the form of coffer-dams built by driving rows of sheet piles braced to ordinary piles, and filling the intervening space with earth or clay. These piles had penetrated this bluish silt, and were driven into the red sand. When the water acquired the necessary head on the outside, after the closing of the gates, it followed down the piles through the silt, into the sand and up again on the other side. The intervening earth was soon washed out, and with it the bottom of the piles, until a channel was formed underneath, and very little time elapsed before the whole structure was scoured out.

After having been enlightened as to the nature of the bottom, it was decided to lay the foundation upon this bed of bluish silt, without disturbing it more than necessary. This was done after all the decayed material—logs, ooze, etc.—had been removed from the bottom,