

Farm surveys of land use and incidence of erosion were carried out on thirty-four properties covering 40,000 acres. With the occupiers' co-operation a large number of fenced plots have been established to ascertain the benefit of surface sowing grasses and clovers. Negotiations are in progress to lease a property in the Hakataramea Valley to be run as a demonstration soil conservation farm.

Depots for fire-fighting equipment were established at Kurow, Omarama, Lake Pukaki, and Lake Tekapo.

The Committee organized parties to fight two tussock fires. On application to the Committee, permits to burn off are issued in special cases during a short period in September only.

STAFF

Lack of staff in the past has been responsible for retarding progress particularly in soil conservation activities, and to overcome this difficulty it has been necessary to arrange special training courses. Two courses of ten months duration have been arranged with the Canterbury Agricultural College, to whom the Council is greatly indebted. Fourteen junior soil conservators have completed their initial training, and are now in the field under supervision of the senior staff.

The Council wishes to record its appreciation of the services rendered by its engineering, soil conservation, and secretarial staff, all of whom have done splendid work under very difficult conditions.

APPRECIATION

The Council again wishes to express its appreciation of assistance and information received from its Advisory Committees, Departments of State, Catchment Boards, local authorities, and overseas agencies in the United Kingdom, Australia, India, Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America.

Signed on behalf of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council:

W. L. NEWNHAM, M.I.C.E., Chairman.

TABLE I

Item.	Voted, 1949-50.	Expenditure, 1949-50.	Miscellaneous Receipts.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flood and erosion control works	408,500	368,360 8 7	14,686 14 10
Hydrologic data: Installation of recording apparatus, collection and publishing ..	20,000	13,153 13 10	18 15 6
Hydraulic model laboratory (on account) ..	5,000
Initial expenses of Catchment Boards and loans to local authorities	75,000	111,296 9 7	37,339 0 11
Investigations and surveys	13,500	31,675 6 11	82 1 0
Junior soil conservators: Training	2,500	2,363 0 0	190 1 5
Publicity and educational work	10,000	6,219 7 5	801 4 3
Research and experimental work	35,000	34,816 15 1	10,751 7 8
Soil conservation districts, including investiga- tions and initial expenses arising out of constitution	1,750	848 17 1
Soil conservation reserves: Acquisition and fencing	5,000	1,472 16 4
Soil conservation works	45,000	30,736 11 2	1,535 9 8
Travelling-expenses and fees of Council ..	2,500	1,249 4 11	1 5 6
Contribution from Consolidated Fund	5,000 0 0
	623,750	602,192 10 11	70,406 0 9

Amount appropriated for year ended 31st March, 1950, £580, 000.