

for the safety of the equipment. However, the remaining lifts were made without mishap and the span was quickly secured. The first train crossed the bridge at the end of 1917.

Mention of some of the world's giant bridges inevitably calls for comparisons with bridges of lesser stature but of equal importance and interest. London's famous Tower Bridge, with its lifting bascules, is a case in point. Having much in common with the mediaeval drawbridge, it is a steel bridge throughout, its stone veneer being merely to afford some architectural harmony with the Tower of London. The two imposing towers were built first, following which the cantilever spans that carry the footway at the top were begun and then the delicately-balanced bascules, each weighing 1200 tons, were installed. Power for the lifting of the leaves is hydraulically applied, water under a pressure of 800 pounds to the square

inch being stored in a tower on the south side of the bridge, but relatively little power is needed as a counter weight of 350 tons of lead and iron operates at the shoreward end of each of the smoothly-pivoted bascules.

No serious delay is occasioned road traffic when a ship is allowed to pass through the Tower Bridge, for the raising and lowering of the bascules takes less than five minutes—which is another reason why pedestrians seldom climb the four hundred steps to use the upper footways when the lower bridge is raised. Last year the Tower Bridge completed half-a-century of faultless operation, during which the bascules must have been opened and shut at least 150,000 times, and experts claim that there is still no urgent sign of anything beginning to wear. There are surely few bridges which can lay claim to such a record of service and continuous efficiency.

Husbands for Sale

It is well known that in some countries wives are bought and sold for hard cash, but in a few places the opposite is the case and it is the girls who have to buy themselves husbands.

In parts of Southern India, where the women far outnumber the men, it costs a girl (or rather her father) between 500 and 1000 rupees to buy a bridegroom of good family, while sometimes as much as 10,000 rupees is paid. Nowadays the Indian girls prefer men who have had a western education. A Bachelor of Arts of an English University is worth about 1000 rupees and if he has a Doctor's degree he is worth double this amount.

Yet it is not only in the East that husbands are bought and sold. A case came to light in New York once when an Irishman offered himself for sale as a mate for a minimum price of L300. He had done this, he said, because his former wife was homesick and it was the only way he could think of raising the money for her passage back to

Ireland. There was also the Manchester man who, instead of selling himself, leased himself to a second wife. Evidently he thought it safer than selling himself outright. A lawyer drew up the lease in correct legal language and charged him 35/—for it, but as the first wife was still alive there was a disagreeable sequel in the Police Court for both the husband and the lawyer.

A Polish boxer chose an original way of putting himself up for sale. He organised a raffle and offered himself as the prize. Tickets were 7/6 and he guaranteed to marry the winner — provided she was over thirty and not a blonde!

Marriage was also a lottery in every sense of the word for a young American, though his scheme was a much more ambitious one. He offered 600 tickets for sale at 50 dollars each to all girls and widows under 32. Moreover, the lucky lady would not only win a husband but a share in the 30,000 dollars he hoped to raise by the sale of the tickets.