



STEEL MEETS STEEL OVER NETCHES RIVER

TRAFFIC will be moving over the Netches River bridge in southeastern Texas before the end of March. Above, the connecting steel is seen being hoisted into place 230 ft. above

the river surface from barges below.

The structure involves many interesting departures, including design of the towers to meet the high wind pressure expected in that locality, and

unusual construction methods used in the flat swampy area crossed by the approach structures. The \$2,750,000 structure, financed by PWA, the state and the county, was begun in 1936.

Little TVA Outlawed In Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Development Authority was held unconstitutional by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on Jan. 11. The Authority was a private non-profit organization empowered to purchase and operate public utility plants. It had received a grant of \$130,000 from the state.

The court held that formation of the authority illegally delegated legislative powers to a private organization.

Voters Approve Lease Of Austin Dam

Austin Dam on the Colorado River of Texas will be leased by the city of Austin to the Colorado River Authority. Voters, at a special election on Jan. 4, approved a lease providing that the authority rehabilitate the dam at an estimated cost of \$1,800,000 and operate it for a period of 30 years. The authority will furnish the city \$20,000 of free power per year as rental, and at the end of the rental period the city may repurchase the dam at the cost of reconstruction less depreciation.

The original dam on the site failed in 1900 due to faulty foundation con-

ditions. These defects were remedied when the dam was reconstructed in 1911, and it stood until the flood of June, 1935, when a part of the superstructure was washed away. Fears that the foundation might now be unsuitable have been set at rest by borings made by the authority, which indicate that the foundation is safe.

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Pennsylvania Railroad Opens Electrified Line

The Pennsylvania Railroad completed the passenger line phase of its electrification program Jan. 15 when it started electrified passenger train service between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, several months ahead of schedule. Through trains are now running electric and local trains will be under electric power by the end of January.

The program of electrifying the seaboard passenger lines began early in 1929. It embraces all traffic between the New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington districts and from Philadelphia to the Harrisburg area.

Electrification of the freight lines is not completed as yet, but Pennsylvania expects to complete this by early Spring.

Bids Opened in February On Possum Kingdom

Bids for Possum Kingdom Dam, first and largest of thirteen structures in the \$30,000,000 project of the Brazos River Conservation and Reclamation District, will be opened Feb. 24. A WPA allotment of \$4,500,000 (*ENR* Dec. 16, 1937, p. 964), recently cleared the way for the start of work and marked the end of a long controversy between the district and the War Department over the cost of the dam. The dam is to be built by the district with its own engineering forces; it has been designed by the Ambursen Engineering Corp. of New York.

The 150-ft. structure will impound 750,000 acre-ft. of water. The present plans do not call for hydroelectric power development, but it is expected that this will be included at a later time.

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County Engineer's Salary

A decision by the Kansas Supreme Court that the state legislature may legally change the salary of a county engineer during his term of office was incorrectly stated in our issue of Dec. 16, 1937, to have been handed down by the Kentucky Supreme Court. The case did not involve Kentucky.