



Ticklish By-Pass Bridge Task

Easing 75-ton Beam Into Place

ENGINEERS engaged on the construction of the viaduct which will carry the new Cowbridge by-pass road started on one of the final stages in its construction on Saturday, when they supervised the lowering of the first section of the bridge which will cross the Aberthin Road.

The task of moving the 106-foot long concrete beam into position started early on Saturday morning, and it was hoped that the massive 75-ton span would be in position by early afternoon.

It was brought by rail up to the spot from the yard where it was constructed half-a-mile away.

JAMMED TWICE!

Two massive winches, perched on top of the lattice framework of the crane, hoisted it up until it could be secured tightly to the bogies on which it would be transferred into position.

Inch by inch the beam was moved across the runway on the bailey bridge spanning the road, but then the project ran

into trouble, as the forward bogie fouled the side of the bridge.

Throughout the afternoon the workmen sweated in the brilliant sunshine, using oxy-acetylene cutters to shave off the parts of the bogey which had jammed into the lattice-work structure of the bailey bridge.

As it cleared the first section, the bogie moved forward, but soon had jammed again on the next upright.

LITTLE CLEARANCE

The trouble was that there was an inch-and-a-half sideways movement on the bogie

and only three-quarters of an inch clearance.

Eventually, however, at about 6.30 p.m., the beam was in position over the uprights, and was gradually lowered into position.

Dropping the beam was a ticklish job, for although it weighs 75 tons and is over 100 feet long, it had to be lowered into position with only one-twentieth of an inch latitude allowed.

Before the moving of the remainder of the beams, the engineers cured the bogie trouble, and there has been no hold-up in the work of bringing the remainder of the beams into position.

Our photo was taken in the early stages of moving the beam into position.