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discussion as possible at earliest date.

## The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

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### BRIDGE LAUNCHING.

By B. J. Forrest, Mem. Can. Soc. C. E.

Read before the General Section, 22nd December, 1904.

The writer's object in presenting this short paper to the notice of the Society, is to call attention to a method of erection of steel bridges, which, though it has been for many years in vogue in England and the Continent generally, has not hitherto been much adopted in Canada.

The construction of a bridge may be simple, but the erection of the same is governed entirely by local circumstances, and in countries where lumber for falsework is scarce, and the cost of skilled labour is high, it is necessary to seek such means of handling the work in the field as will entail as small an outlay as possible for these items.

The particular work to which attention is called, is the erection of several steel bridges for the Central Bahia Railway, South America. The design for these bridges was prepared by the writer, who also had personal charge of the erection, and the bridge selected for description is one of 203 feet length spanning a deep gorge, the base of rail being about 180 feet above water level, and the sides of the gorge being very precipitous.

The difficulty of successfully designing the bridge was enhanced by the fact that this portion of the country is liable to severe shocks of earthquake, and suitable provision was made for the supports of the trusses, as will be described later.