

THE ERIE'S NEW BRIDGE.

THE DRAW AT THE HACKENSACK RIVER SAFELY IN POSITION.

The new iron drawbridge over the Hackensack River, which has been in progress of erection for some time by the New-York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company, was swung into position yesterday afternoon. The bridge, which was described in THE TIMES a few days ago, is to replace an old wooden "jack-knife" draw. Saturday afternoon orders were issued by the railroad authorities closing the road until Sunday afternoon at 6 o'clock, when, it was announced, the new structure would be ready for use and travel would be resumed.

How nicely the calculation was made can be seen by the fact that at 5:15 o'clock a TIMES reporter, standing on the new draw, watched it swing into position, fitting to a fraction in all its bearings. One hundred brawny workmen quickly laid the rails, over which the Orange local train passed at precisely 7 o'clock.

Work on the new structure has been going on for some weeks, and the closing scene was begun yesterday morning at 1 o'clock, when Assistant Engineer J. W. Ferguson, Inspector Joseph Samworth, who has had immediate supervision of the work; A. J. Bemmer, superintendent of the pile work, and Superintendent Andrew Deyo of the Riverside Bridge and Iron Works of Paterson appeared upon the scene, accompanied by 100 bridge builders. The large force worked by the light of flambeaus and lanterns, riveting the immense iron girders, weighing eighteen tons each, in position. The girders, eight in number, were swung into position from the cars by means of two powerful pile drivers. Cables in the hands of sturdy men slowly swung the structure into position.

The new draw has two fifty-two-foot openings for the passage of vessels. It is what is known as a plate-girder draw with solid web, and will be operated by steam. The old bridge was erected about twenty years ago by the Morris and Essex Railroad Company at the time that that company used the Erie tunnel. The old draw will be used until the new structure is perfectly complete. For the present a single track over the bridge will be used.

The new bridge is a model of strength, and is greatly appreciated by the patrons of the road.

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