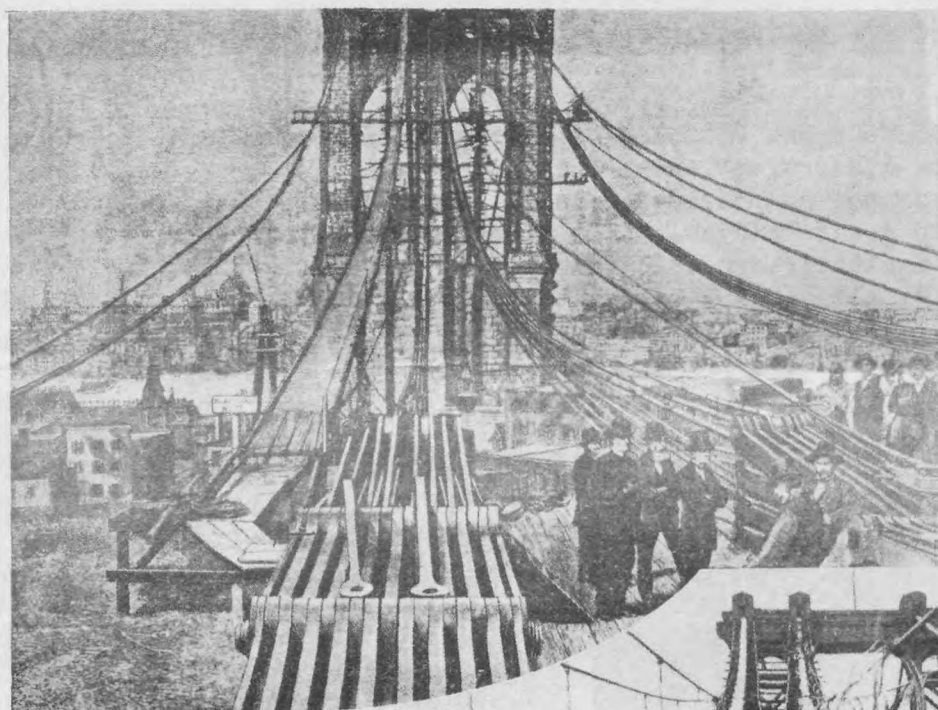


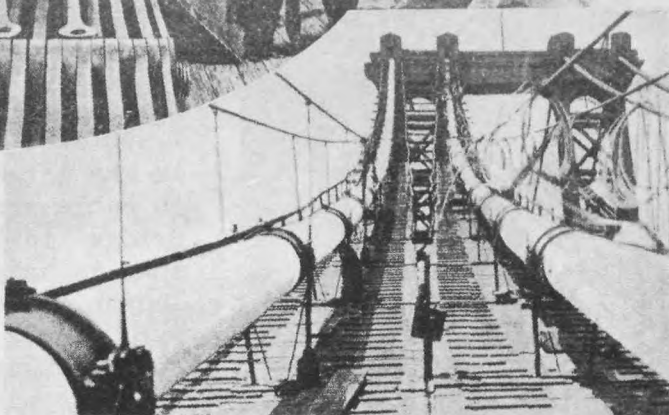
STORIES of New Jersey

While the men working in the caisson dug out the earth underneath, others in the open air on top of the caisson laid the masonry of the towers. On the Brooklyn side the caisson was sunk about 50 feet. On the New York side it was necessary to go down about 90 feet to bed rock. More than a hundred men were crippled, many fatally, by the dreaded "caisson disease," or "bends," during construction.

Washington Roebling spent much of his time in the caisson chambers. One day he was carried out unconscious from the effects of the "bends." His speech was gone. After that he had to write his instructions to his assistants. By the end of 1872 he was an invalid and unable to visit the bridge. From that time until it was finished, except for six months abroad in an effort to regain his health, he directed the work from his home in Brooklyn.



The development of the foot or work-bridges, from the Brooklyn Bridge to the George Washington Bridge.



With the aid of a telescope he could see the men at work and the dream taking shape--a symphony in steel, stone and concrete--the longest suspension bridge in the world. And then one day in 1883, with the sun shining, the waters of the river churned up by craft of all kinds, a group of dignitaries gathered in the middle of the bridge and the President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, made the dedication address.

Washington Roebling sat in his window, the telescope held close to his eyes, watching the ceremonies. When the breeze shifted he could hear the excited tooting of the river craft and the blaring of the bands. At last!