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Bridge Over the Mississippi River, St. Louis, Missouri

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Bridge Over the Mississippi River, St. Louis, Missouri, Lucius Marion Lampton, MD Historical Images Collection, Archives and Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University

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(29)-5814-\$10,000,000 bridge (west) over the Mississippi at St. Louis, Mo.

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You are looking from the Illinois end (East St. Louis) westward towards St. Louis itself. The river is sweeping steadily southward, (left). That river steamboat, kicking spray from her stern-wheel, is headed up-stream.

This is the most magnificent bridge crossing the Mississippi in the whole course of the river, indeed one of the finest in the world. The middle arch of the three you see now is the largest steel arch in the United States. James B. Eads designed the structure and engineers all over the world know of it as a master-piece of modern steel-arch construction. You can see from here that the nearer span (the others are like it) is composed of four parallel arches. Each of those strong graceful curves is made by steel tubes nine inches in diameter. The separate sections of tube are themselves straight but their adjustment with the wedge-plates that connect them gives the whole line the curve you see. The lateral bracing of those steel girders is for added strength to support superincumbent weight and resist the tendency to spread. Railways, teams and passenger traffic are all carried now along roadways supported by this lace-like network of steel.

It was in 1541 when De Soto sailed up this very stream, the first white man who ever explored this greatest river in the western world. Only a century ago, when that farther shore became a part of the United States by virtue of the Louisiana Purchase from France, St. Louis was only a frontier village, grown but little beyond its original condition of a trading-post. Today it has a population of 575,238, and immense volumes of the grain-product of the great northwest are shipped down this river to foreign ports.

The Missouri joins the Mississippi twenty miles above here (at your right). Some parts of those hurrying floods were once rain-drops falling from clouds that drifted over Yellowstone Park.

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Ten Million Dollar Bridge over the Mississippi,
St. Louis, Mo.

Un pont de dix millions de dollars sur le Missis-
sippi, St. Louis, Mo.

Die Zehn-Millionen-Taler Brücke über den Mis-
sissippi. St. Louis, Mo.

Un puente de diez millones de dollars sobre el
Mississippi, San Luis, Mo.

En tio millioner dollar bro öfver Mississippi-floden,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Десяти-миллионный мостъ на рѣкѣ Миссиссипи, С.
Луи, Миссиссури,