Engineer had had no personal experience in sinking pneumatic foundations, and could not be familiar with the hundreds of small details which are only brought to mind through actual experience.

Even the novelty and risk involved in building and launching so large a caisson cost the Bridge Company a large sum, from the fact that the second caisson was built by the same builders, in the same way, for $40,000 less than the first one.

Many of the items in the foundations have cost much less than in the estimate. For instance, the 600,000 cubic feet of timber were charged at $52 per thousand put in place, whereas $42 covered it; concrete outside at $3, and inside at $8, whereas $2.50 and $4 were the respective costs.

Our iron-work cost 2 cents per pound less than the estimate. There were, however, three principal items, which far exceeded the estimate, and are more than sufficient to account for the excess of $160,000. These were the enormous cost of labor in compressed air, the damage done by fire in the Brooklyn caisson, and necessity of making the New York caisson fire proof, and lastly, the unexampled hard digging on the Brooklyn side.

It has been supposed that a laboring man would work in a caisson for 10 hours a day at $1.75.

We are to-day paying $2.75 for four hours' work, which is at the rate of $7 per day, or an increase of 450 per cent., entailing an increased cost on account of labor alone of over $100,000.

Again, the great danger from fire in compressed air was unknown, and no precaution estimated for. This cost $15,000 in shape of a fire in the Brooklyn caisson, and $20,000 more to line the New York caisson with boiler plate, making a total of $35,000.