

duy it was to see to the construction and repairs of bridges. These were followed by the establishment of the "ponts et Chaussées". Thus we know that the art of bridge building is of no recent date. It has made its greatest progress within the last century. This is chiefly due to the introduction of Rail Roads.

Bridges may be classed according to their mechanical features; in which case we have arched, Trussed, Tubular and Suspension bridges.

They may also be classed according to the materials composing them; as stone, wood and iron.