



ing process by reducing the friction of wood on wood.) The draw ropes come up from the far end of the footway and pass over the sheaves of a double block before being brought together and hitched to the tackle with a catspaw. The theory is that this would ensure a straight haul, but if there is any taper on the heavy hinge-bar you may discover that it has a tendency to slide in one direction or another until the butt-end of the footway grinds against the leg of the shears. (Adventurous pioneering is fraught with these incidental problems.)

It might help to drive restraining pickets into the ground at either end of the hinge-bar, allowing it just a couple of

inches clearance. Alternately, you could replace the double block with two single blocks at either end of the transom to give you a wider spread.

As for all those irritating square lashings along the footway, how would it be to use marlinespike hitches, as for a rope ladder? The idea would be to lash the top and bottom treads in position, and then make a ladder, using the other treads as rungs, and stretch it along the top of the bearers. The ropes could be shear-lashed at intervals to the outsides of the bearers. The labor-saving would be enormous.