

THAMES TUNNEL HALVES MEET.

Under the Thames between Dartford and Purfleet, the biggest road-tunnel built in Britain for twenty-five years reached an important stage nearer completion. For two years, borings have gone on from both sides of the river. Now, only a few feet separated them. For the 400 men who've worked on the project it was a day they'd longed for. Down here, air pressure must be kept at about 25 pounds above the normal, to prevent water from peering in.

From the Kent side, boring had already reached the meeting place. Here on the Essex side, a few more feet, and they were through! It was considerable satisfaction for the men, and an engineering triumph. Only experts know how a tunnel, starting from opposite sides, meets in the middle, but it would be embarrassing if it didn't. As the chalk has been dug out, the tunnel, 28 feet in diameter, has been lined with steel; 34,000 tons of it by the time the job's done. Greatly relieving traffic, the tunnel will be a roadway under the river, fifteen miles down stream from London.