

## PREPARE TO START KANAWHA BRIDGES

### St. Albans and Point Pleasant Span Plans Approved by Commission

Construction work on both the Point Pleasant and the St. Albans bridges across the Kanawha river probably will be started this summer, it is announced by A. C. Kimpel, secretary of the state bridge commission.

Preliminary details for the purchase of the franchise and the right-of-way for the proposed bridge at St. Albans and for the completed toll bridge at Cabin Creek have been approved by the commission and the stockholders of the properties.

Mr. Kimpel said that the purchases of the franchise and right-of-way for the St. Albans bridge and for the Cabin Creek toll bridge by the state bridge commission are expected to be completed within the next month. The consideration involved, he asserted, probably will be made public.

The purchases of the rights-of-way and the franchise for the proposed bridge across the Kanawha river at Point Pleasant were announced by the commission last year. Plans for this project have been drawn by engineers of the state road commission, who are working in cooperation with the bridge commission, Mr. Kimpel said.

#### Within 18 Months

It is expected that both the Point Pleasant and St. Albans bridges will be completed within 18 months. The latter project will cross the Kanawha river at Third street, St. Albans, connecting the town with Nitro. The Point Pleasant bridge will connect Point Pleasant and Henderson.

Funds for the purchases of the proposed bridges at Point Pleasant and St. Albans and the toll bridge at Cabin Creek will be derived by the bridge commission from the sale of bonds which the commission is authorized to issue by the act of the legislature creating it. Details for the sale of these bonds have not been completed, Mr. Kimpel said. These bonds will be retired from the toll bridge receipts.

The bridges necessarily will be operated as toll bridges until the bonds to finance their purchase have been paid off.

The toll bridge at Chelyan, in Cabin Creek district, on April 10 will have been open to traffic for one year. Toll reports for the year indicate receipts of \$52,000, or \$1,000 a week, bridge company officials said.

It has been estimated that the volume of traffic at St. Albans would be nearly as large, and that the two bridge projects would probably bring in toll receipts of \$100,000 annually.

#### Retain Consultants

At the meeting of the bridge commission here Thursday it also was decided to employ the J. E. Greiner company, bridge engineers of Baltimore, as designing and consulting engineers for the commission. Twelve leading bridge engineering companies of the country applied for the work, according to Mr. Kimpel.

The proposed St. Albans bridge will afford a connection between two important state routes, No. 60, on the south side of the Kanawha river, and No. 19, on the north side of the river. Mr. Kimpel asserted that the bridge commission has been conferring with the state road commission "so as to tie the bridge system of the state in with the state highway system."