

THIS WEEK IS EDISON WEEK

THOMAS A. EDISON



The Miracle Man

World's greatest inventor, 69 years young, a prodigious smoker, small sleeper and hard worker.

WIZARD OF WEST ORANGE BEING HONORED THRUOUT CANADA AND THE STATES

Busy America Pauses to Pay Homage to Wonderful Inventor of Electric Light, Phonograph and Other Devices Which Are of Inestimable Value to Mankind —In 69th Year and Still Inventing.

Many cities of Canada and the United States will observe Edison Day in honor of the first notable invention of the "Wizard of West Orange"—the electric lamp.

The world has no inventor to whom it pays greater homage than to Thomas Alva Edison.

The world honors a great many men who have produced some wonderful invention, but none of them have produced so many and such a varied line of wonderful and useful inventions as the "Wizard."

It is a great thing to have lived in the age that has known Edison.

If Edison and his inventions should, thru some agency, suddenly be blotted from existence with no hope of reproducing his marvelous works, it would not only drive back civilization with its remarkable achievements, but it would impose upon the world a calamity more disastrous than could result from a dozen European wars.

It is not alone the inventions which Edison has given the world, but his discoveries in the electrical and other fields have undoubtedly been the inspiration for other inventors.

Marconi made wireless telegraphy possible, but would there have been a Marconi if there had been no Edison?

Edison began life as a telegraph operator. Nearly everyone has heard the story of his first electrical invention. It may be true, it may not. It is a good story nevertheless and it sounds like Edison. He had a wire which was making him work too hard. The dispatches were coming in too fast and he devised a contrivance by which the ticks came slower. He practically made the ticks wait. It had been said that this feat was impossible. But Edison produces the impossible.

Edison has been called the master mind. His inventions prove that he is all mind.

Edison was born on February 11, 1847, at Milan, Ohio.

As a boy the inventor was rather "fragile" and for this reason he was not sent to school very early. As a child he was thoughtful. His thoughts were continually floating to the realms of what appeared to be the impossible. The school inspector told his mother that he was "addled." She indignantly took him out of school and taught him herself. She had been a high school teacher and his father, who lived to be 94 years of age, was a minister.

Edison showed originality of thought as a child. Under his mother's tutelage he acquired a good education and he acquired a taste for good reading.

At 11 years of age Edison became interested in chemistry. He fitted up a laboratory in the cellar, procured some books and laid in a supply of chemicals at the drug store. He labeled them "poison" to keep others from handling or molesting them.

Edison's pocket money was not sufficient to keep him supplied with chemicals and he secured the consent of his parents to become a news butcher on the Grand Trunk Railway. He sold newspapers, magazines and candy between Port Huron and Detroit. In those days they were not so particular on the railroad and he fitted up a place in the baggage car for a laboratory. When he wasn't selling gum and magazines he was experimenting.

He bought a small printing press and published The Weekly Herald on the train. He was the whole thing, editor, compositor, pressman and circulation manager. He had at one time 400 subscribers.

One day a bottle of phosphorus fell off the laboratory shelf to the floor and set the car on fire. He was put off the train and the conductor boxed his ears so viciously that deafness set in, from which he has suffered since.

He saved the child of a station agent from death. The station agent in gratitude taught him telegraphy.

At 15 he secured work as a telegrapher.

He worked with enthusiasm and went with only a few hours' sleep. He considered it nothing to work twenty hours a day.

After his telegraphic duties were over he was always ready to take the place of some skilled pressman and work all night at his trade. He became expert as a telegraph operator and worked various places in the United States and Canada. He finally went to New York and arrived there penniless from Boston. He had not enough in his pockets to buy his breakfast. He walked the street until he met an operator, of whom he borrowed a dollar. He applied for a job to the Western Union and slept in an operating room of the Gold Indicator Company.

An accident to the central transmitter threw out of commission the machines of patrons, in 300 offices. Confusion

followed. No one seemed to know just what was the matter excepting Edison. He told the president he could fix it. In two hours he had everything operating as smoothly as before. Edison was asked if he would accept a position at \$300 as superintendent. The offer staggered him, but he pulled himself together enough to accept.

This was the real beginning of his inventive and commercial career, although he had already produced a number of small inventions.

Electricity had a fascination for him. He was continually experimenting. He seemed to live in another world when not tied up by business activities. He dreamed, but his dreams were real—to Edison. Eventually they became real to the world. He had wonderful ideas and he began to reduce his ideas to material units so that the world could grasp them.

He invented the duplex, quadruplex and sextuplex telegraph. The quadruplex made it possible to send two messages in each direction over the same wire and saved millions of dollars in line construction.

He invented a relay operated entirely by electro-chemical decomposition and made \$100,000.

He had begun to speed up the world and it began to move faster, at least commercially.

He invented the printing telegraph and other wonderful electrical devices. He established a factory in Newark where some of his inventions, including stock tickers and other telegraph instruments, were turned out. In 1837 he moved the plant to West Orange, N. J., where he manufactured his multiple telegraphic transmission inventions.

He started the age by producing the electric light. This invention he gave to the world October 21, 1879.

He again made the world fairly reel with amazement when he invented a machine for storing and reproducing sound and which he named the phonograph. After Bell invented the telephone Edison studied its limitations and invented the carbon transmitter which made telephonic communication commercially practical. He sold the invention to the Western Union for \$100,000.

He made the self-starter auto and the electric automobile possible by inventing dry storage batteries.

He produced the kinesiograph and, marvels, pictures moved.

This was the real beginning of the motion picture.

He invented the kinegraph and the kinetophone. He improved the phonograph and invented new types of motors and generators.

His inventions astonished not communities or nations, but a world. "What will the wizard do next?" was the eternal question. It is still the question. It will continue to be the question so long as the wizard of Menlo Park plays with electricity and other materials in which the secrets of eternal truth are hidden.

Edison invented the microtasmeter for the detection of small changes in temperature, the alkaline storage battery and other useful devices on which he holds something like 200 patents. All sorts of honors have been show-

ered upon him by scientific bodies of the world.

And Edison is still inventing. He has improved many of his original inventions.

One of the inventor's greatest works to benefit mankind was the electric lamp. In 1889 an employee of the Edison electric works carried all the electric lamps in the world to New York. They filled a market basket and were carried on the employee's arm.

Today the Edison factory at Harrison turns out 20,000 lamps per hour. It has turned out over 800,000,000 of them. Perhaps if the exact figures were at hand they would reach the billion mark.

For years the lamps were made with bamboo filaments. This was the only inexpensive substance that could be used and make the lamps of commercial value. Subsequently a cellulose filament took the place of bamboo carbons.

The metal filament which lights up so brilliantly in the tiny glass globes is a later invention.

The first dazzling tungsten lamp was produced in 1906 and the Mazda lamp in 1912. The improvement in incandescent lighting seem to have reached the perfect stage in the last few years.

Captain Lawson Will Avenge Murder of Edith Cavell

A crowd of 3000 people attended a joint recruiting meeting for the army and navy at Riverside Park yesterday afternoon when Capt. Joe Lawson, of the 204th Battalion, made a special appeal for recruits. Eight men answered the call, six joining the 204th Battalion and two the home guard; Seaman Sanderson secured two recruits for the British navy.

Capt. Lawson delivered a Yuletide appeal, during which he said: "A year ago, Edith Cavell was murdered in Belgium. As she lay unconscious on the ground, a Prussian officer stepped from the firing squad and with his revolver shot her." At this juncture the captain flourished a revolver and exclaimed: "By the living God, altho I am the paymaster and a non-combatant before I come back from France I will avenge that murder." Other speakers were Capt. O. Hezzlewood, chief recruiting officer for Toronto; Sergt. Geddes, Pte. Mackey, who especially appealed to the Russians in the audience, and Seaman Sanderson.

"POURED-OUT HOUSES," EDISON'S NEW IDEA

One of Edison's latest inventions involves the use of cement in the construction of cheap and indestructible homes for workmen. His scheme is unique in that it contemplates the pouring of a complete house, from cellar floor to tip of chimney, in one operation in a few hours. The plan is to provide two sets of iron molds, one set within the other at a certain distance apart, and to pour into the space between them a continuous stream of a specially invented free-flowing concrete mixture. This fills all the space between the molds. In a few days, after the concrete has hardened, the molds are taken away, leaving a complete house, indestructible, fireproof and vermin-proof, and needing only doors, windows and lighting and heating fixtures to make it ready for habitation. Edison does not intend to reap any pecuniary reward for his invention, but, in order to carry out his original idea, proposes to license responsible concerns to construct these houses and rent them at a stated percentage of the cost, in order that the wage-earner may receive the benefits planned for him.

Beavers Back Home From Borden Camp Wednesday

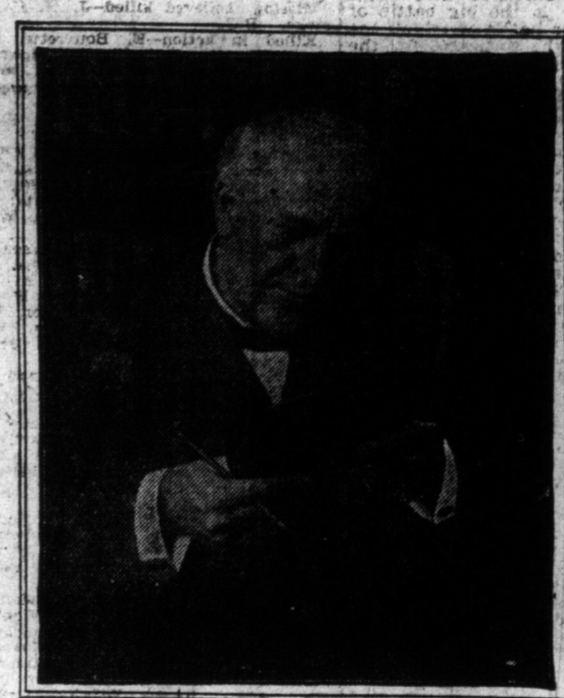
On Wednesday next the entire 204th Battalion, under the command of Lt.-Col. W. H. Price, will arrive from Camp Borden at the Davenport station at 4 p.m. The battalion will meet at the station by Capt. Joe Lawson and his recruiting staff, who will march behind the battalion to winter quarters at the Exhibition grounds. The route of the march will be Davenport road, Symington avenue, Royce avenue, Dundas street, Roncesvalles avenue, Queen street, Dufferin street to the Exhibition grounds. All recruits obtained this week will also be in the line of march.

\$1000 IN PRIZES

WE want your opinion of the New Edison, the instrument which The New York Globe calls "the phonograph with a soul."

Thomas A. Edison has spent over \$2,000,000 in research work in acoustics and chemistry to produce this wonderful new instrument.

The music critics of more than two hundred of America's leading newspapers have heard this instrument in direct comparison with living singers and instrumentalists, and admit that their trained ears are unable to distinguish the original music from Edison's Re-Creation of it by means of this wonderful new invention.



MR. EDISON wants your opinion

HE has the opinions of the music critics, but he made the New Edison for the American and Canadian homes, and he wants your opinion. Accordingly the Edison Company has arranged a prize contest for the best opinions about the New Edison, written by people who hear it in their homes.

- \$500 is to be paid for the best opinion.
- \$200 for the second.
- \$100 for the third.

In addition, there is a Consolation Contest in which the prizes aggregate \$200. Opinions which do not win prizes, but which nevertheless are considered suitable for publication, will be purchased at 10 cents per word. No opinion should exceed 200 words.

We make it possible for you to compete for a prize even though you do not own one of these wonderful new instruments

WE have set aside a number of specially tested New Edisons. These instruments will be placed in homes in this city on three days' absolutely free trial.

During this trial you and your family can listen to Mr. Edison's new invention and form an opinion of it, just as well as if you owned the instrument.

There is absolutely no obligation to buy. There is no obligation except that you take good care of the beautiful instrument and the wonderful Re-Creations of music which will be sent with it.

This week is Edison Week, and this offer is limited strictly to Edison Week.

Come to Our Store This Morning and enter the Edison Week Free Trial Prize Contest before it is too late. Remember that the number of instruments available for these free trials is limited, and it will necessarily have to be a case of first come, first served.

Professional Writers Barred From the Contest

Professional writers and members of the phonograph trade are barred from this prize contest. Mr. Edison does not want finely written opinions. He wants opinions that come right from the heart and that are couched in unstudied language. An opinion may be misspelled and ungrammatical, and still win a prize. Literary embellishments are not desired.

The conditions of the contest are perfectly simple. They can be explained to you in a minute if you will call at our store.

THE WILLIAMS & SONS CO. LIMITED.

HAMILTON 21 King St. East

TORONTO 145 Yonge Street