

**EDISON HEADS NAVY COMMITTEE**

**WILL GIVE USE OF HIS POWERS IN AIDING UNITED STATES NAVY.**

**He is Placed at Head of Board of Invention Devised by Secretary Daniels—Submarine Will be Especial Feature of Study of New Body.**

West Orange, N. J., July 12.—Thomas A. Edison has accepted an invitation from Secretary Daniels to head an advisory board of civilian inventors for a bureau of invention and development to be created in the navy department.

Mr. Daniels' idea of utilizing the inventive genius of Americans in and out of the military and naval service to meet conditions of warfare shown in the conflict on land and sea in Europe is outlined in a letter written last Wednesday asking Mr. Edison whether, as a patriotic service to his country, he would undertake the task of advising the proposed bureau. The plan is to have several men prominent in invention research associated in the work.

Among the problems to be laid before the investigators, the secretary mentioned submarine warfare, adding that he felt sure that with Mr. Edison's wonderful brain to help them the officers of the navy would be able to meet this new danger with new devices that will assure peace to our country by their effectiveness.

"I have been intending for some time," Mr. Daniels said in his letter, "to write you expressing my admiration at the splendid and patriotic attitude you have taken, as reported in the public press, in refusing to devote your great inventive genius to warlike subjects except at the call of your own country. . . . I have deferred writing, however, because, at the same time, I wanted to take up with you another matter to which I have given a great deal of thought—a matter in which I think your ideas and mine coincide. . . . There is a very great service that you can render the navy and the country at large and one which I am encouraged to believe you will consent to undertake.

"One of the imperative needs of the navy, in my judgment, is machinery and facilities for utilizing the natural inventive genius of Americans to meet the new conditions of warfare as shown abroad, and it is my intention, if a practical way can be worked out to establish a department of invention and development to which all ideas and suggestions. . . can be referred. . . . There is at present no adequately equipped department to which to send them for the careful study required. In addition, our naval officers, particularly those at sea, are in a position to note where improvements are needed and to devise ways in which these improvements can be made. They have, however, neither the time nor the special training, nor in many cases, the natural inventive turn of mind needed to put these ideas into definite shape.

"Were there a place where they could be sent to be worked out and perfected, I am sure we would get many noteworthy improvements from this source alone. . . . There are, unfortunately, no officers now detailed who can take time from the mass of work which they are called upon to do in order to devote it fully to studying new suggestions and inventions. The department is also unprovided with the best facilities for work or pure experimentation and invention with the exception of our testing station at Annapolis, which is as yet a small affair. . . .

"I have in mind a general plan of organizing such a department. . . . I feel that our chances of getting the public interested and back of this project will be enormously increased if we can have, at the start, some man whose inventive genius is recognized by the whole world to assist us in consultation from time to time on matters of sufficient importance to bring to his attention. You are recognized by all of us as the one man above all others who can turn dreams into realities and who has at his command, in addition to his own wonderful mind, the finest facilities in the world for such work. What I want to ask is, if you would be willing, as a service to your country, to act as an advisor to this board to take such things as seem to you to be of value, but which we are not, at present, equipped to investigate, and to use your own magnificent facilities in such investigation if you feel it worth while. . . . This is a great deal to ask, and I, unfortunately, have nothing but the thanks of the navy, and I think, of the country at large, together with the feeling of service to your country that you will have, to offer you by way of recompense; yet so dearly have you shown your patriotism that I feel justified in making this request.

"We are confronted with a new and terrible engine of warfare in the submarine, to consider only one of the big things which I have in mind, and I feel sure that with the practical

knowledge of the officers of navy, with a department composed of the keenest and most inventive minds that we can gather together, and with your own wonderful brain to aid us, the United States will be able, as in the past, to meet this new danger with new devices that will assure peace to our country by their effectiveness. . . .

"With you, it might be well to associate a few men prominent in special lines of inventive research, and I would like to consult with you as to who these men should be. It is, of course, your aid that I rely upon most and if you are not able, for any reason, to do this, I will frankly hesitate to undertake the matter at all. Should you feel like accepting the task, however, I know the relief which the country would feel in these trying times at the announcement that you are aiding us in this all-important matter.

"If you could let me know as early as you may how you feel about this, I would appreciate it, as everything waits upon your answer, and think we can not be too expeditious if we are going to take this matter up at all."

In announcing tonight that he would gladly accept Secretary Daniels' invitation, Mr. Edison said that he believed the proposal so important that it should be attended to now, at a time when the war in Europe was bringing before the public the importance of encouraging and developing ideas and inventions of Americans—especially of officers and men of the army and navy.

"The United States is far behind in these matters," said Mr. Edison. "I believe it is highly important for a board of civilians, made up of engineers from leading industries, to be formed for the purpose of looking into the feasibility of ideas developed by young men. While all ideas that will be submitted may not be feasible, at least they will have the benefit of expert judgment and advice.

"In addition to the advisory board of engineers, I also would suggest a department of experimentation where ideas might be tried out. The cost would be nominal. Only a few acres of land would be required with proper buildings and a corps of efficient men calculated to carry out experiments under direction of those suggesting them after they have been approved.

"It is an important matter and should be put under way at once. The European war has served to draw attention to the fact that many American ideas and inventions have been allowed to slip by, and if this matter is put off until the war is over there is danger of its being forgotten."

**WAITED FOR EDISON.**

**Development of New Plan Hinged on His Acceptance.**

Washington, July 12.—Development of Secretary Daniels' idea of centralizing the inventive genius of the country to assist in perfecting the navy as a fighting machine has hinged on Thomas A. Edison's reply to the request that he head a civilian advisory board. Mr. Daniels had received no word from Mr. Edison tonight, and said that until the reply came he would have no announcement to make, although he was greatly pleased at Mr. Edison's acceptance.

One of the first problems for the new bureau will be that of improving the navy's submarines and aeroplanes. An imperative need of development in these two branches of the service is recognized. There now is no American-made engine satisfactory for aeroplane use nor have submarine engines or batteries been satisfactorily perfected.

An important duty of the proposed bureau of invention and development will be to scrutinize plans which are continually being received at the navy department from officers at sea. These now are referred to the various material bureaus already overcrowded with routine work.

**JAKE BLACK ARRESTED.**

**Negro Charged with Breaking into Car and Stealing Rice.**

From The Daily Item, July 14.

Jake Black, colored, was arrested last night about eight miles from town at a negro house on the Plowden Mill road, where he was stopping preparatory to a fishing trip, according to his statement. Black, it is alleged, broke into a box car on the Atlantic Coast Line yard and stole a quantity of rice and other stuff belonging to Phillips & Company. The stealing was on Monday night. Black, according to the report, was working at Wisdom Gass' bottling works and started out by stealing the wagon and horse before he stole the other articles. He sold the foodstuff and the negroes purchasing it were located. All of them stated that Black was the man who sold the rice to them, although he denied the charge. He was also charged with attempting to break into the warehouse of A. Ryttenberg. The arrest was made by Deputy Sheriff Epperson and Constable Boykin.

**FIND SHORTAGE AT BANK.**

**Lodge Institution Said to Have Lost Over Six Thousand Dollars in Few Years.**

Walterboro, July 14.—A committee of expert accountants has just finished checking the books of the Bank of Lodge, located at Lodge, a small town in the upper end of Colleton county, and reported to the officers an apparent shortage of \$6,100, the same being scattered over a period of three years since the bank was organized. G. L. Gooche was cashier of this bank up until a short while ago, resigning at about the time the shortage was discovered. The cashier claims that the alleged shortage is merely the result of irregularities or mistakes in bookkeeping and that he has not received any money.

The bank examiner made his usual inspection about a month ago, and reported nothing wrong with the books of the bank, but the officers on account of the bank not paying as large dividends as it should and other reasons, decided to have a thorough examination made which resulted as above. Mr. Gooche has been with the bank since it was first organized. Mr. Gooche is still in Lodge, and no arrest or criminal charge has been made against him. It is understood that the matter has been reported to the bonding company which gave bond for him in the sum of \$5,000, and action here is suspended until it makes its investigation. While the books are alleged to show a shortage of the \$6,100, no charge has been made by the accountants or the officers of the bank and every opportunity will be afforded those interested to show that the shortage is only the result of bad bookkeeping.

The shortage existed has been generally known in the community for some time, the exact nature of which not being divulged until just a few days ago. When it was discovered, the president, Dr. W. M. Moor-er, had posted in the bank a sign, telling all depositors who so desired that they could come and get their money, yet none came, and the alleged shortage has in no way interfered with the business of the bank. The financial affairs of the bank are in excellent condition and it is solvent to the letter.

While the matter has been the cause of much conversation throughout the county for some time, yet it has not been heralded sensationally, and every one seems perfectly satisfied to wait for matters to clear.

Dr. W. M. Moor-er, a practicing physician of Lodge, is president of the bank. Cyril Fox, who has been assistant cashier, is now acting cashier. Among the directors may be mentioned, Dr. Moor-er, W. M. Fox, A. P. Carter, A. Bennett and J. B. Miley, all prominent in their community and well known financially and otherwise all over the county.

**SHRINERS FORM NEW TEMPLE.**

**Dispensations Granted for Quartette, With Another to Be Allowed in a Year.**

Seattle, Wash., July 14.—The Imperial council of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, today established new temples in four cities and granted a dispensation, not immediately effective, in a fifth.

Dispensations granted last year for temples at Fort Worth, Texas, and Springfield, Ill., were made effective, and Houston (Texas) and Knoxville (Tenn.) temples come into existence with the usual year's delay. Roanoke, Va., will be required to wait a year.

**Marriage.**

From The Daily Item, July 15.

Mr. John Williams Osteen of Privateer and Miss Mattie J. Davenport, Jacksonville, Fla., were married this morning in his office by the clerk of court, who issued them the license. There were a number of friends in the party to attend the ceremony and facilitate the bride and groom upon their matrimonial estate.

**Frolic and Play Grounds.**

The little children who have been having such fun playing at the play grounds during the hot summer afternoons were given a chance to "show off" on Tuesday afternoon between 7 and 8 o'clock, and there were some a little older than children participating in the events of the afternoon, and it is hard to say which enjoyed themselves most, the children who did the entertaining, or the spectators who were so pleased with the entertainment. There were various songs, games, drills and other features, all of which went through with vim and precision. Ice cream was sold and the people in charge of the play grounds realized a nice little sum to help them thoroughly equip it in the manner desired. The pity of the frolic was that there were not more grown-ups present to see their children, nieces, nephews or just "little friends" at play.

**BOOZE FOR PERSONAL USE.**

**North Carolina Restrictive Statute Declared to Apply Only to Business Dealings.**

Raleigh, N. C., July 14.—The North Carolina law limiting shipments of alcoholic liquors to any one person to one quart of whiskey and five gallons of malt liquors every 15 days was declared to be unconstitutional in so far as it applies to shipments for personal use, Superior Court Judge R. B. Peebles today told the Wake county grand jury in delivering a special charge. He asserted that the law is constitutional when made applicable to shipments for sale and that the burden of proof is on the consignee to show that the liquor is for personal use.

Judge Peebles said he had reached this conclusion after a careful study of the recent ruling of the United States supreme court in the Kentucky parison of the Kentucky statute in-court shipment cases and a convolved with the new North Carolina law.

**APPLES SOLD IN PANAMA.**

**Virginia Growers Supply Large Demand from Canal Zone.**

Charlottesville, Va., July 15.—Virginia apples were sold in the Panama canal zone for the first time during the past season, the market agent of Southern Railway having put the growers in touch with the purchasing department of the Panama railroad which supplies food products to the population throughout the zone. Many carloads of pippins and Winesaps from chards along the Southern Railway, north and south of Charlottesville, were sent to the Isthmus, weekly shipments having varied from 150 to 500 barrels.

Despite the tropical weather, the Virginia apples reached Panama in excellent condition and gave such entire satisfaction to consumers that growers have been assured another permanent export market. This new market was particularly valuable to the Virginia growers, coming in a year when prices were relatively lower on account of interference with the usual exports to Europe, and market agent of Southern Railway has received a number of letters expressing appreciation of this practical aid extended to growers.

**TO AID FLOOD VICTIMS.**

**U. S. Gunboats Wilmington and Callao to Assist at Hong Kong.**

Washington, July 15.—The United States gunboats Wilmington and Callao were ordered from Hong Kong to Canton to do rescue work.

**WILL BE READY SOON.**

**Work on New Orleans Plant Progressing.**

Washington, July 14.—Work of enlarging the New Orleans naval radio station and installing more powerful instruments is nearing completion, and the navy department was informed today that the plant would soon be ready for operation.

As rebuilt the New Orleans station will be second only to the Arlington station in power.

**Captures Large Rattlesnake.**

Manning Times. Last Monday morning while cutting tobacco sticks on the branch near his home, Mr. H. P. Newton came upon a huge rattlesnake about six feet long which had eight rattles. Mr. Newton captured the snake alive and unhurt. Anyone wishing to see it call Newton Bros. at Brewington.

**Marriage.**

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Dan E. Hydric of Spartanburg and Miss Besie Harvin, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Harvin, went over to Sumter in an automobile and were quietly married. They immediately left for their future home in Spartanburg county. Mr. Sam Barron and Miss Corine Barfield accompanied them to Sumter.

**Negro Killed by Lightning.**

Manning Times. Tuesday night during a rain fall and electric storm, a negro named Grant Conyers, was struck by lightning and instantly killed on Mr. T. H. Gentry's plantation a few miles from Summerton. From reports it seems Conyers had just reached the house, and as he started in at the door he was killed, very little if any damage was done to the house.

**SUMTER COTTON MARKET.**

Corrected Daily by Ernest Field, Cotton Buyer.

Good Middling 8 1-4.  
Strict Middling 8 1-8.  
Middling 8.  
Strict Low Middling 7 1-2.  
Low Middling 7.  
Staple Cotton, Nominal.

**Quench That Thirst With "Sweet Sixteen"**

The drink that's different from any other bottled drink yet produced. Knocks that thirst of yours in sixteen different ways.

**It Only Costs a Nickel Everywhere**

**"A ROLL OF HONOR BANK."**



CAPITAL  
**\$100,000.00**  
EARNED PROFITS  
**\$125,000.00**  
**THAT'S WHY**

**Fortunes Begin With Small Savings.**

All your ambitions may be locked up in what you are able to save. At some future day, when opportunity beckons you, as it does everyone sometimes, your Savings Account will be your making.

Saving a dime a day works wonders. Our Little Dime Pocket Banks makes saving easy. If you want to save come in and get one of these banks.

**The National Bank of Sumter**

ESTABLISHED 1889

**"SAFEST FOR YOUR SAVINGS"**

**SUNDAY EXCURSIONS TO THE SEASHORE**

Round Trip Fare From SUMTER to CHARLESTON **\$1.75**

Tickets sold only for trains specified below on Sundays, limited to date of sale.

Schedule Going—Leave Sumter 6.30 A. M., Arrive Charleston 10.30 A. M.

Schedules Returning—Leave Charleston 8.25 P. M., Arrive Sumter 12.05 A. M.

For further particulars, tickets, etc., apply to

**O. V. Player, Ticket Agent,**  
SUMTER, S. C.

**W. J. CRAIG,** Pass. Traf. Mgr. **T. C. WHITE,** Gen. Pass. /gt.  
WILMINGTON, N. C.

**Atlantic Coast Line**

The Standard Railroad of the South