



Thomas A. Edison

# THOMAS A. EDISON

## Builder of Civilization

This is Edison Week,  
The Week We Honor Him

Paul P. Finigan

WHEN there threatened to be more telegrams than wires to carry them, the need for a cheaper carrier of telegrams became an urgent necessity of commerce.

Thomas A. Edison, super-American engineer, supplied that necessity with his mysterious quadruplex telegraphy, by which four messages are sent over one wire at the same time—two in each direction.

That was building civilization.

When Alexander Graham Bell found that his wonderful invention, the telephone, could carry the voice only a few miles, an improvement that would transmit the voice any distance became the imperative need of the world of commerce. Thomas A. Edison, super-American mechanic, supplied that need with his surprising carbon telephone transmitter.

That was building civilization.

When the world was small and houses few, people retired early and artificial light was not a great nocturnal need.

But when the world became large, and houses many, light loomed large as a crying necessity. And Thomas A. Edison, super-American scientist, supplied that necessity with his unparalleled incandescent lamp and lighting system.

That was building civilization.

When life was simple and there was little strain on man, diversion was not a national need.

But when society grew complex, man felt the strain, and relaxation in each home became a human necessity. Thomas A. Edison, super-American inventor, supplied that necessity with his astonishing discovery—the phonograph.

That was building civilization.

When life became still more intense, home entertainment failed to furnish sufficient diversion, and a theatre in each hamlet became the nation's need. Thomas A. Edison's super-American imagination supplied that need with his bewildering moving pictures.

That was building civilization.

When England and Germany, in 1914, placed an embargo on carbolic acid and threatened to paralyze American industry, Thomas A. Edison brought into being in four weeks a plant that could produce two thousand pounds of carbolic acid per day.

That was preserving civilization from the iron heel of autocracy.

When business was small and there were few letters to write, correspondence could be done by hand. But when big business came into being, and letters by the billion had to be

written by busy executives, a swift, efficient, economical correspondence system became a burning business necessity. Thomas A. Edison, super-American business engineer, supplied that necessity with the unprecedented Edison Dictating Machine and Edison Dictation System.

Not all business men have yet come to realize that Mr. Edison's system of dictation is one of his greatest achievements.

Not all business men have come to understand that Mr. Edison's dictation system will not only reduce the cost of correspondence, but actually enable every dictator and stenographer to produce *BETTER LETTERS*.

But when the business world comes to a full realization of the Edison Dictating Machine and the Edison Dictation System, the business world will echo as above—

That was building civilization.

As Richard Wagner soothed the ear; as William Shakespeare amused the mind; as Michael Angelo pleased the eye, so Thomas A. Edison, super-American engineer, has built civilization.

This is Edison Week, the week we honor Thomas A. Edison. He is seventy years of age—still working eighteen hours per day and more—still sleeping six hours per night and less—working day and night to help America—to help America preserve civilization from the grinding greed of autocracy.

## The Edison Dictating Machine

Paul P. Finigan, District Manager

Telephone Main 155



1340 New York Avenue N. W.

Washington, D. C.