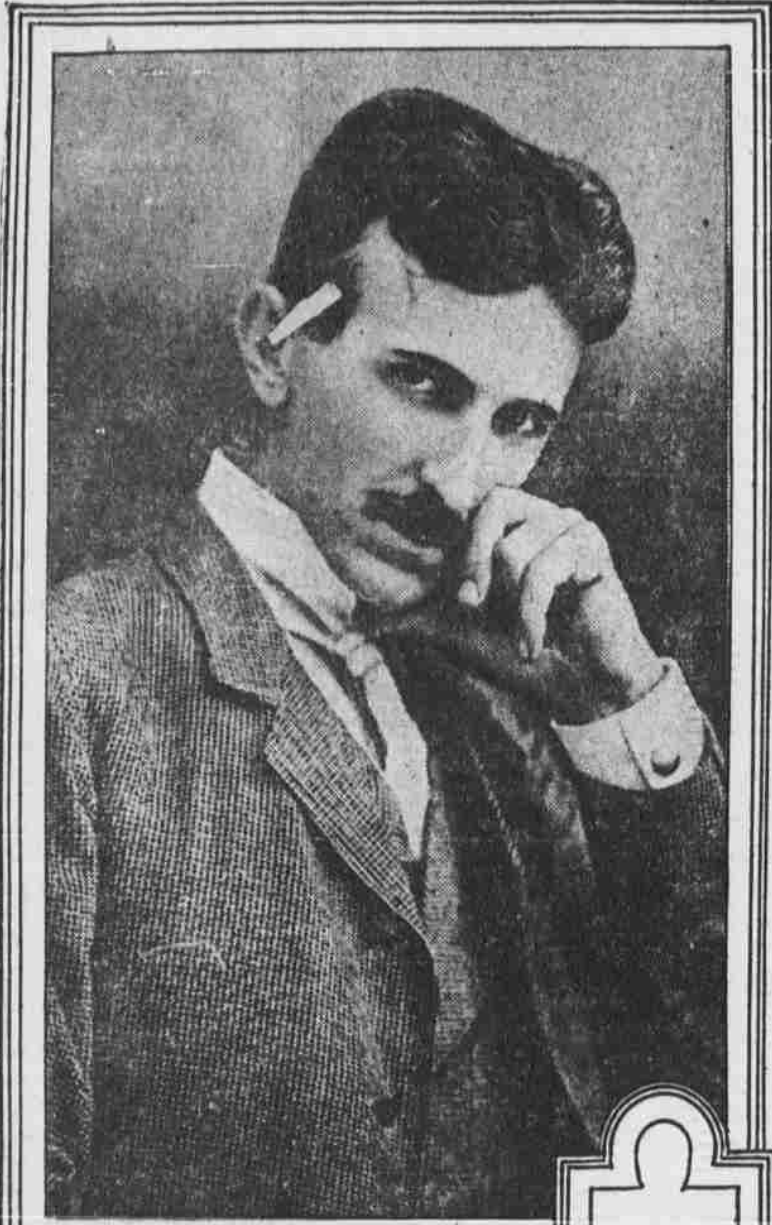


## Marconi Credits Mystery Flash to Far Planet

Strange Wireless Signals Stimulate Inventor's Belief We Soon May Communicate With Mars or Other Celestial Bodies—Edison and Tesla Regard Success Possible



NIKOLA TESLA WHO FIRMLY BELIEVES WE MAY SIGNAL OTHER PLANETS.

By EDWARD MARSHALL.  
HERE is one of the most amazing newspaper articles which was ever published. In it Marconi declares belief that he has been receiving signals from the stars. In it Edison says that this is not at all impossible and that the wizard of wireless is quite right. In it Tesla announces his belief in the startling possibility which the Marconi statement suggests, and goes further, directing attention to his own experiments and statements made some years ago, indicating the inevitability of such signalling.

The discovery, if discovery it proves to be (and the testimony of these three great men, most able of the world's investigators makes it reasonable to call it that, makes it unreasonable indeed to call it anything less definite), opens fields so wide that they well may appeal to the human mind which speculatively begins their exploration.

They well may hold vast secrets whose revelation will revolutionize the thought of all humanity, they may clarify and simplify religious theories, putting behind faith proof undeniable, and taking from the back of superstition the last prop which holds it up to fool mankind.

### May Reveal Great Secrets

They may reveal material secrets of an epoch-making magnitude, metamorphosing theories which have been accepted as fundamental fact, adding new principles which will give us basis for tremendous progress.

The statement by the famous Italian engineer, who is known throughout the world as the discoverer, or at least the first perfecter, of wireless telegraphy, was made in London to a member of my staff there, Mr. H. M. Forbes, a well known and entirely reliable journalist. What he wrote upon the subject afterward was submitted to the great Italian for revision, and therefore, as I shall quote it, actually represents the views of Signor Marconi.

The Edison and Tesla statements were made to me, Mr. Edison's at his laboratory in Orange, N. J., and Mr. Tesla's at his hotel in New York, after they had read Marconi's statement.

"During my experiments," Marconi said, "I have received signals which conceivably might have been sent from or have arisen in interplanetary space."

"You mean they may have been sent by beings upon other planets to the inhabitants of this one?"

"Yes." The word was positively spoken.

But let me quote his statement consecutively and in full. It is purposely made non-scientific, so that the untrained mind may grasp the great inventor's meaning.

Forbes called on Marconi during



GUGLIELMO MARCONI WIRELESS AUTHORITY WHO HAS RECEIVED MYSTERIOUS MESSAGES

one of the latter's frequent visits to London, where he spends much of his time.

"Then you regard interplanetary communication as a possibility?" asked Mr. Forbes.

"Yes; the idea of interplanetary communication appears to me to be by no means outside the range of possibility.

"I shall be in no way surprised if, in case there be existent upon Mars beings of an intelligence analogous to that of human beings, they find a means of getting into communication with us on this planet.

"Immense things remain to be learned. We have only nibbled at the edge of the vast feast of knowledge which awaits us in the science of astronomy. It will link up with the science of electricity. Indeed it already has done so. Thus linked almost anything may be expected of the two.

"Coupled with wireless, especially, the science of astronomy presents a study of superlatively engrossing interest. The fact that scientific understanding upon this planet, upon the little earth, may be far less advanced than that on other planets in no wise detracts from this interest.

### May Have Tried to Signal Us.

"For all we know for years past, possibly for centuries uncounted, many of the 'stars' that we see in the firmament may have been in communication one with the other. Thinking it, we inevitably must be stimulated to great effort toward realization for ourselves of such possibilities if they exist.

"What reflection at first could be more staggering to the human imagination and then a greater urge toward renewed and ceaseless study than the thought that, through the ages, messages flashed from one celestial sphere to another may have helped to develop whatever conscious life exists upon the communication spheres, to urge along on them through the exchange of thought whatever there exists of the nature of that which we call 'civilization.'

"We upon the earth have worked alone

and stumblingly. If those dwelling in other worlds have had the help of other beings, so that each finds itself in possession of a progression representative of the sum of the wisdom existing among all the communicating spheres, they may have far surpassed us."

"What first suggested to you this idea?" Mr. Forbes inquired.

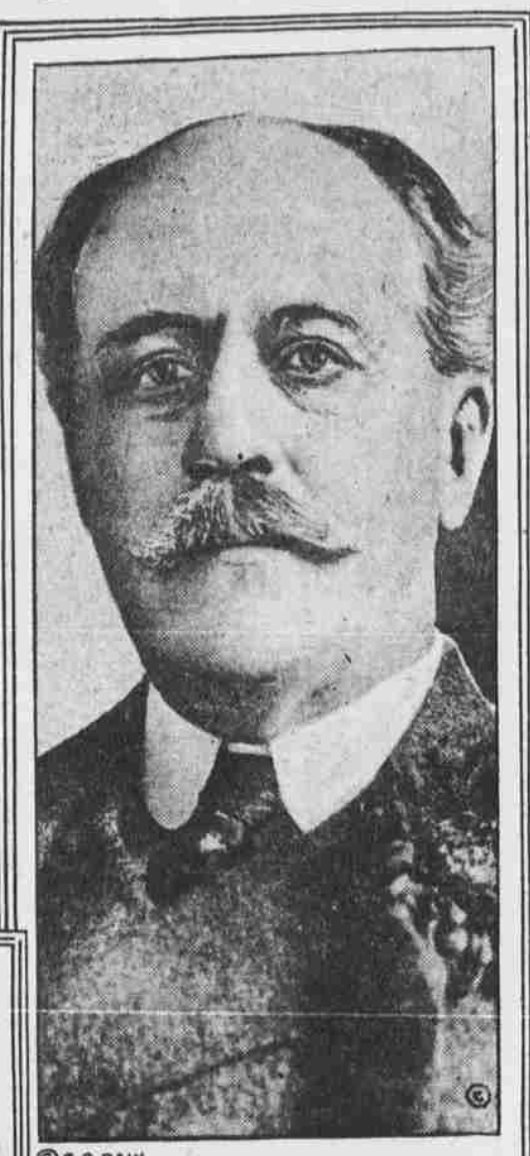
And here comes the most amazing thing Marconi said, one of the most amazing things that any man ever has said.

"During my experiments with wireless," said the great inventor, "I have encountered many striking phenomena.

"I have received signals which quite conceivably might have arisen somewhere in interplanetary space!

"The marvels of the cosmos are unlimited. It is idle to suppose that our comparatively insignificant planet sets the fashion, leads the van, represents a development higher than or even as high as that which exists on other spheres.

"And our own planet is a storehouse of wonders. That being so, we may rest assured that the same is true of the vast hosts of stars at which we gaze with eyes



THE LATE PROF. PERCIVAL LOWELL WHO STUDIED POSSIBLE PLANETARY MESSAGES

this is an entirely unreasonable assumption?"

"I do not regard it as at all unreasonable."

"May there be in existence elsewhere in the realms of space beings with a magnetic sense, a sense of orientation, or, perhaps, an electric sense?"

"Discoveries to that effect would cause me no surprise."

"If beings existed possessed of an electric sense highly developed might this render them capable of the reception of wireless messages?"

"Who can say? It seems not beyond the range of possibility."

### What Mr. Edison Thinks.

Mr. Marconi went no further in his speculations with regard to these extraordinary and till now scientifically untouched puzzles. He left the subject wrapped in profound mystery, but he had suggested startling possibilities and declared that he was working at the task of trying to penetrate it. Mr. Forbes' record of the startling interview was sent to me at once.

I took the article, as I received it from my London office, to Mr. Edison at his Orange laboratory. He did not fail to take the matter very seriously, although he instantly explained that he lays no claim to being expert in the science of the wireless.

"The thought," said Mr. Edison, "of course is not a new one. Humanity, almost as far back as our records go and very likely far beyond, has been trying to communicate with these heavenly bodies which we call the stars.

"We all have wondered if, some day, signals between the earth and other planets would not be a possibility. Most of us who have studied any of these problems have wondered if efforts to signal us have not been made already by inhabitants of other planets.

"I have thought about the matter and have seen some signs of which I must be careful not to exaggerate the importance or significance. I remember that one day while seated under a tree at the apex of a large mass of iron ore, I was eating my lunch near my reduction plant, when I noted that the magnetic needle of my compass jumped about astonishingly. It was very strange.

### Marconi's Suggestion Reasonable.

"At once the thought came to my mind that signals sent through interstellar space might be responsible for the disturbance. Not long afterward I made the definite suggestion that a scientifically kept watch for interstellar signalling should be established in Michigan, where enormous masses of ore might be expected particularly to attract magnetic signals from space if any should be sent.

"Marconi's suggestion is more reasonable, for it would be easier to send static



RECENT PORTRAIT OF THOMAS A. EDISON WHO SAYS PLANET COMMUNICATION IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

signals through space than it would be to send them through the atmosphere. Resistance would be less. He is quite right when he maintains that the development of wireless is only in its infancy.

### Disease Vapor in Space.

"We have no reason positively to declare that definite influences even other than electrical have not reached us out of space. There was the Spanish influenza, so called, for example. We are not sure that it originated on this planet. It spread everywhere irrespective of the lines of human travel. It has been established, for example, that it appeared upon Pacific Ocean islands which had had no communication with any infected portion of the world; or, indeed, any portion of the world whatever. Ships reaching utterly isolated islands found half of their inhabitants ill or dead of the disease.

"Some scientific man has said that we were passing through a cloud of benzol vapor floating in space. Benzol is poisonous. It might affect all humanity physically; it might affect all human thought, distorting it, for it is known to have an influence on the brain.

"It is not unreasonable to suppose that more than once we have passed through realms of space permeated with vapors of one kind or another. If this occurs it is not unreasonable to expect them to affect humanity.

"If any development of signalling occurs it will be accomplished by some pure scientist with the unstinted aid of com-

mmercial men of imagination and not afraid to spend of effort and of money. The astronomer is a pure scientist, who can have no hope of large material reward, or any, indeed, beyond his own satisfaction of achievement and the commendation of his fellow men.

"Wireless would seem to be the medium of which we most reasonably may expect something in the way of signals from the other planets if we ever are to receive such signals. It operates in that unknown and wonderful substance or mechanism which we call the ether and which fills all space. Atmosphere is local to us.

"It has been suggested, and I neither indorse nor reject the idea, that the activity of our wireless effort during the war may have attracted the attention of experimenters upon other planets. I doubt that, but I do not deny it. It is my thought that when we begin to signal we shall have discovered new means, more powerful and effective than any we at present know. Of course, we may expect the future to produce exactly that.

### Signals From Intelligent Beings.

"If the theory suggested by Marconi is accurate and signals are being sent out by some one or more of the other planets they must be the work of beings of intelligence—these planets must have inhabitants, in other words. As a matter of fact it is an inexcusable and stupid bit of egotism for us to assume that only this small earth has produced life and intelligence.

"The intellectual individuals, if there be any, upon the other worlds may be very different from those upon this earth. They may be different in form and different in many ways, utterly unlike mankind. But to assume that they do not