MAGAZINE·SECTION THREE

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SUNDAY · WITH HER SHE FLIES OWN WINGS

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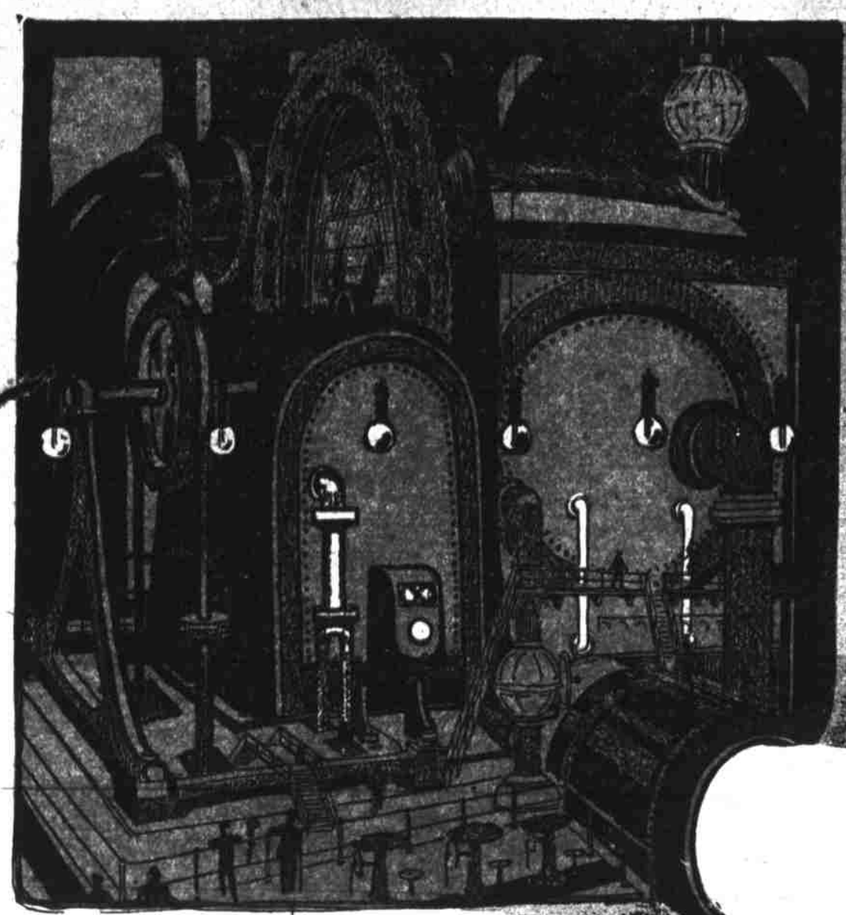
ELECTRIC WAVES FROM NIAGARA TO TURN WHEELS IN AFRICA



May Also Drive Ships Across Ocean and Furnish Heat at the Poles

INTO the clouds like birds, airships, huge winged creatures flying from nation to nation, carrying men on voyages of new discovery, even to the frozen poles.

"Vessels slicing the waters of the ocean, speeding across the seas with amazing velocity, without fuel, devoid of huge engines and smokestacks, not needing great storages of coal, drawing the power from the air as if by a miracle.

"At the North or the South Pole, in the land of darkness and cold, brave explorers, sitting comfortably in well-heated tents, or huts, reading by an incandescent electric light mimicking day. And they, too, receiving energy for light and heat from the bosom of the earth.

"In the innermost jungles of Africa, the land of the lion and the savage, travelers lying in hammocks, cooled by electric fans, with telephone receivers in their hands, talk leisurely to friends in New York, London and Paris.

"In the heart of civilization itself, in the big cities, the passing of engines that darken the sky with smoke and make intolerable hells of heat where men labor. Men heating and lighting their homes simply by tapping the electricity of the atmosphere. These, and more, are some of the things which will come to bless mankind in the near future."

With his dark eyes glowing like incandescent orbs, his long, lean arms moving prophetically in the air, his tall, thin form trembling with the intensity of his prophecy, Nicola Tesla, producer of electrical marvels, stood in his room in a big New York hotel and voiced the foregoing predictions of things which he is confident will develop from his latest invention to bring about the wireless transmission of power.

Wild? A dream! you exclaim? Would not the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, the marvelous achievements of wireless telegraphy and the hundred and one other wonders of electricity of today have been termed "wild" and "dreams" at a corresponding period of the last century?

What is a dream in the still almost unexplored realms of electricity?

"Striking the electric chain wherewith we are darkly bound."—Byron.

THIS fall Tesla hopes to complete a plant on Long Island where he says he will produce power which will enable men to talk to one another from opposite ends of the earth.

He has drawn specifications for a plant at Niagara where he expects to produce electric energy which can be tapped to propel machinery or to produce light and heat in any portion of the globe.

As he stood in his room telling of the marvels he expects to bring about, he reminded one of the impassioned prophets who cheered the people of Israel with promise of a Messianic reign.

Only Tesla appeared the modern prophet of the commercial twentieth century, promising freedom from the resultant evils of commerce—a modern worker of miracles, who had control, not of spiritual forces, but the wonderful forces of nature.

And as he spoke he reminded one, too, of the terrible magician of Bulwer-Lytton, the Lord of the Burning Belt—only Tesla seemed more remarkable, more powerful.

For what marvels of the Pompeiian magician could compare to the magic of a man who promises to free the cities from the noxious ills of smoke and smell and noises! Truly, if his prophecy comes true, he will be the great emancipator of generations, the Messiah of science of the golden age.

Should Tesla succeed in the wonderful plan he has conceived, and should he generate the terrific volume of electric energy which he claims he will be able to do when he has erected a plant at Niagara Falls, he will, without doubt, be the most powerful individual on earth.

He will control a force which, heretofore, no man has mastered. He will wield a power greater than any of which the magicians and the seers of the ages dreamed.

From his fingers' ends, comparatively speaking, will dart jets of fire that will penetrate the four corners of the earth. In his hand the earth will be a bauble and he—the dark-eyed, fervid delver into nature's mysteries, will be its lord.

A girdle of fire to encircle the earth!

A terrific electric force that will vibrate from pole to pole, with absolutely no diminution of power at any point between the antipodes!

"I have already drawn plans for the plant which I expect to build at Niagara Falls," declared Mr. Tesla, "and I hope to see it begun next spring.

"By using power from the Falls I shall be able to generate electric currents of 100,000,000 volts. These currents will travel 50 per cent. faster than lightning, and will go through the earth in one-half second.

"There will be no diminution of power in the energy. It will be equally distributed in all parts of the earth."

"How will you do this?" was asked. "Is there not necessarily a diminution of power in the transmission of electricity?"

"I shall create electric energy at the plant," he replied, "and produce what is known as stationary waves. These electric waves will vibrate between two points in my apparatus, and as they vibrate the earth will vibrate in unison.

"It will vibrate uniformly in every part, and no matter whether you were in the desert of Arabia or the wilds of Siberia you could tap the power with a receiving apparatus.

"Imagine the world as a great tuning fork or as a live wire. The stationary waves will go through the earth with hardly any perceptible loss.

"On any part of the earth the power can be tapped. Ships at sea can throw open their receivers and get the power, engines in all parts of the world can run by using it, and airships can get it, no matter where they are in the atmosphere.

"The receiving apparatus, of course, will have to be delicately tuned. Thus the invention will be of service only to those who possess the proper receiver.

"With a receiving apparatus the power can be tapped from the earth, houses can be lighted and heated, manufacturing plants can be run, motor cars can be operated in any portion of the world, and ships can be propelled over the sea by using this energy."

Mr. Tesla is convinced that these things will come to pass. For more than eight

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