

NAVY TEST BOARD SUCCESS ASSURED

Orville Wright and Other Well-Known Inventors Willing to Serve with Edison.

MANY NAMES SUGGESTED

Great Experiment Laboratory to be at Annapolis, Where All Present Stations Will Be Concentrated.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 13.—The names of several distinguished American inventors have been suggested to Secretary Daniels for appointment to the Advisory Board of Inventors, which will be headed by Thomas A. Edison, and which is to co-operate with a Bureau of Invention and Development for the purpose of producing devices that will add to the efficiency of the navy in time of war.

It is understood that Charles Proteus Steinmetz of Schenectady, Chief Engineer of the General Electric Company, will be invited to become one of the advisers. Others who probably will receive invitations are Hudson Maxim and Orville Wright. The latter is said to have expressed his willingness to serve. Among those mentioned as likely to be asked are Alexander Graham Bell, Professor R. A. Fessenden, Peter Cooper Hewitt, Nikola Tesla, Lewis Nixon, Henry Ford, Simon Lake, and John Hays Hammond, Jr.

It is the intention of Secretary Daniels to lay his plan before the Naval Advisory Council on Thursday afternoon, and it is expected that the first step toward developing it in a practical way will be reached at this meeting. Secretary Daniels today had a preliminary talk with three members of his Advisory Council, and discussed with them in a general way the plans he has in mind. These members are Rear Admiral Joseph Strauss, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance; Rear Admiral David W. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, and Rear Admiral Robert S. Griffin, Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering. They have for some years been identified with the development of new ideas in ordnance, ship construction, and engineering machinery for the navy, and Secretary Daniels was anxious to obtain their views regarding the plan for the establishment of a great laboratory of naval invention under the direction of the advisory board of civilian inventors.

Secretary Daniels Enthusiastic.

Secretary Daniels today issued a statement in regard to the Advisory Committee, saying in part:

"I am very much gratified by the acceptance of Thomas A. Edison of the position of head of an Advisory Committee, composed of men who have been recognized by all the country for their inventive genius, to assist the Navy Department in developing such ideas for new things as may be presented. Miller Reece Hutchison, Mr. Edison's representative, called this morning and explained that, as I asked Mr. Edison for his judgment on some features, the formal letter of acceptance would be delayed, but that Mr. Edison had authorized him to inform me that he would gladly undertake what I asked.

"As I stated in my letter to Mr. Edison, I am not as yet prepared to announce the full details of the plan; these must be worked out in conference with the various bureaus and the details perfected so as to insure successful operation. An informal conference with the Chiefs of the Bureaus of Ordnance, Steam Engineering, and Construction and Repair was held this morning, and I expect to be able to announce the organization in a more definite way in a very short time.

"The country does not yet know the far-reaching and important experimental work done by Admirals Griffin, Strauss, and Taylor. They and their assistants have for months been studying every new development brought out by the war in Europe, and already they have contributed to increased naval efficiency. Additional experts will be given to them to carry on the development work they have been doing with ability and success.

"The selection of the members of the Advisory Committee requires careful thought, but I hope to announce them shortly. In a broad way, the underlying idea is to make available the inventive genius of our country to improve our navy.

"With Mr. Edison so willingly and cheerfully responding to my request, I feel sure that the advisory council, when the names are all selected, will be composed of men of such prominence as to make the country feel that what is possible for the human mind to devise will be devised for our navy.

"By the creation of this machinery no suggestion will be overlooked. Ideas impracticable in their details but which contain the germ of possible revolutionary improvement will be scrutinized both by our own naval experts and by men whose brains are peculiarly fitted for detecting possibilities in suggestions of this kind and who are particularly qualified for developing such germs of ideas into actual, practical things."

May Ask Congress for Authority.

The attention of Secretary Daniels was called to an act of Congress which forbids the appointment of any person to serve the Government without compensation. Mr. Daniels was of the opinion, however, that this law would not prohibit Mr. Edison and others not connected with the Government from giving the benefit of their advice. He indicated that if necessary Congress would be asked to grant authority for the advisory committee to co-operate with the Naval Board. Such authority was obtained to enable President Wilson to appoint a board of eminent civilians to advise the Government with reference to the development of aeronautics for military purposes.

It is the idea of the Secretary of the Navy to concentrate naval experimentation at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, where the navy has an experiment station. The work there would be under the control of the proposed Board of Invention and Development. The Navy Department maintains special ex-

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periment stations at several navy yards, and it is the intention to have all these transferred to the central station at Annapolis.

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