

Successful Inventors

By W. H. Baker.

The policies followed by practically all successful inventors are very much alike. There is one dominating thought under nearly every successful invention, and that is it is an attempt to satisfy a human want. If there is no want, the inventor cannot satisfy a need, and hence will not be a success.

It is reported that Edison explains his method of making inventions somewhat as follows: First he finds a need, a better filament for an electric light, good music at home when no member of the family has any musical talent, anything that would be beneficial to man. To find a human need is not very difficult, for the average American wants the best, is willing to pay for luxuries, desires every comfort and labor-saving device in the home, on the farm and in the office.

When Edison has found a real want, he sets for himself the task of solving the problem as to how best to satisfy the need. He tries to solve the problem in every conceivable manner. By a process of eliminating the impractical and more complicated plans, he frequently eliminates all but one or two. The ideas that appear to be most practical are tested and improved upon until the finished invention is a reality.

While it is often stated that this is the method followed by Edison, it is the method followed by all successful inventors. If the invention fails to satisfy a human need, it can not be a success and if it does, its success is practically assured.

It is a common impression that an inventor seldom makes money out of his invention. Any man who produces a new invention that is practical, that is really novel and that satisfies a want better than any known means will experience but little trouble in finding a purchaser for his invention or capital with which to exploit the same. A valid patent gives to the inventor an absolute monopoly of the subject matter covered by the claims of his patent, and many basic patents are worth vast sums of money.

By far the majority of inventions are made by men skilled in the subject matter covered by their inventions. This is quite natural, for others would not be aware of the need which is satisfied by the invention. This is not always true by any means, Watt was not an engineer, but he was a thinker. Millions had watched a bottle boil before his time, but he was the first to realize that there was real power in the steam. Bell was not an electrician. He was a teacher of stammering children, and as such he became interested in sound and how it is produced. His inventive mind was long centered on making his dog utter a word by pressing on his throat and constructing a wax figure that would say "man."

Anyone with an alert, active mind can see the need for a convenience here, a cheaper construction there, a simpler arrangement of some machine, or a better means of accomplishing something. If then he really sets himself to the task of making the needed improvement, he will almost surely succeed in the end, but he will probably make fifty failures before hitting on the right plan. If he gives up, is a quitter and loses confidence in his own ability, he makes the vote unanimous. The strength of his will is the test of his possibilities.

Some years ago, an attorney in New York was sitting in a park one hot evening in mid summer. He was soon attracted by the conversation of a young couple on a nearby bench

The young man was telling his weeping fiancée that he would have to abandon all thought of marrying her, as his income was too small to decently provide for her.

The attorney walked over to them and said, "Pardon my intrusion, but maybe I can at least give you some suggestions by which you can overcome your obstacle."

The conversation then ran somewhat as follows: The attorney asked: "What is your occupation?"

"I am a stenographer, but I make only \$100 a month and cannot support a wife on that, so I must give her up. I see no chance for promotion."

"Do you consider your occupation essential? Is it worth while?"

"Some, not much."

"But what would happen if all stenographers went on strike?"

"Well, business would stand still."

"Then is it essential?"

"Yes, I guess so."

"Is there any branch of stenographic work that is not over-worked? Is there a need of a special kind of a stenographer or for peculiar hours? Is there any stenographic need not already over-supplied?"

The attorney gave the young man his card and asked him to think hard for two days, and report to him if he was able to think of any such need not already satisfied.

Two days later the young man reported that the only unsupplied need that he could think of was a public stenographer in hotels from say 6 p. m. until such time that nights as he might get through the correspondence of travelers who worked until 5 p. m. and wanted their letters to go out by the next morning's mail.

The idea was practical. It worked, and three years later he reported to the attorney that his assistants in all the leading hotels in New York produced an income for him of around thirty thousand dollars per year, and that he and the young lady whose weeping of three years before had attracted the attorney's attention were very happy in their own home.

The young man had found a need and had filled it. Any man who does likewise is sure to meet with success whether it be invention or stenography or in any other walk of

life. But it takes thought to supply that need, and all honor be to the man who has the brains and ambition to confer upon mankind a means of lessening toil, or of increasing comfort. What he gives is a personal monument to his intellect. The world honors such a man, and his name is long remembered.

The inventor who sees a real need and satisfies that need in a practical manner performs a service that may, and probably will bring wealth to him, but more than this, he performs a work which will be felt everywhere and will last forever as a blessing to mankind. His work, measured by beneficent results, may arise to the dignity of the humane.

Some of us, however, have not the thought, the foresight to make inventions and give a lasting benefit to our fellowmen; to do our part in the onward march of civilization.

A hustling young agent for a farm journal approached an old farmer who was leaning against a rickety fence in front of a dilapidated house, reflectively chewing a wisp of hay which dangled across his ragged beard.

"My paper will be of immense value to you," argued the solicitor. "By reading it, you will be able to do better farming, do it more economically, and you will naturally make more money."

The farmer shook his head decisively. "Nope," he said, "taint no use fer me to read yer paper, young

feller. I ain't farmin' now as good as I know how."

This may be only a story, but does it not suggest that more of us, like that farmer, are not doing as well as we know how. And the worst of it is, most of us never will.

Every once in awhile, we see some man or woman step out of the ranks and accomplish something worthy of note, something that benefits mankind. We fail to see it more because so many of us are "just average." All honor to those who do things. And no one holds a higher place in the halls of fame of all time than the inventors, the makers of civilization.

(Copyright, 1923.)

Salem

(Last Week's Letter.)

Our school has been closed since Christmas on account of sickness in the teacher's family, but has been begun again.

Mr. Chas. Denton, Sibbald and Duffy Smith, of Cherokee, are in our vicinity surveying Indian lands.

Miss Elsie Dockery spent the past week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Payne, at Birch.



Dangerous COUGHS

creep on unawares—but you can quickly check them by using Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar Honey. It is a natural remedy for all coughs and chest troubles, and it is the only one that gives relief. Dr. Bell's stops the cough with the same medicines that your doctor would prescribe, combined with the well-tried old remedy—pine tar honey. Its taste is pleasant, too. Keep Dr. Bell's on hand for all the family.

All druggists. Be sure to get the genuine. DR. BELL'S Pine-Tar Honey

CATARRH
of head or throat is usually benefited by the vapors of—
VICKS
VAPORUB
Over 22 Million Jars Used Yearly

FOR SALE

LOTS AND HOUSES AND LOTS AND GOOD FARMS

—In and near Murphy—Call Or—

L. E. MAUNEY
Murphy, N. C.

"Slimy Taste"

"When I feel stupid, get constipated, or bilious, I take a good dose or two of Black-Draught and it sets me straight," writes Mr. George B. Haislep, of R. F. D. 2, Columbia, S. C. "It cleanses the liver and I feel all right, and have not used any other medicine as I do not see the need of it. I am a guard at the State Reformatory, and have been for three or more years. When I first heard of

BLACK-DRAUGHT
Liver Medicine

and the good medicine it was, I had been having a tired feeling when I'd get up in the morning. I would be stiff and sore, and had a slimy, bad taste in my mouth, but didn't think so much of it till I began to feel stupid and didn't feel like eating—then I knew I needed medicine. It was then I began Black-Draught, and I felt all made over, ready for any kind of work, ready to eat and sleep. So, for any return of this trouble, I take Black-Draught, and for 25 years it has been my medicine, and I wouldn't be without it at all. My work is constant. I am on my feet a lot. I am out of doors, and fresh air and Black-Draught are all the medicines I need. I recommend it to others for I know it is good."

Sold Everywhere.

Pay Your Town Taxes

The Tax Books have been placed in my hands for the year 1923 for collection. All tax payers are urged to see me as soon as possible and pay their taxes as the city is in need of the money.

D. M. Birchfield
Tax Collector

Hastings' Seeds
Catalog Free!

This is the greatest and most accurate Seed Book ever published for the South. 100 pages, full of actual photographic pictures, handsome cover pages in full colors, accurate descriptions, valuable culture directions and the most useful Seed Book there is. It is absolutely free, and we want you to have it in your home. Hastings' Seeds, "The Standard of the South," are as always, the best seeds grown. Garden, field and flower seeds, plants and bulbs that do well in South are all fully described with 1924 attractive prices, the lowest we can possibly sell good seeds, plants and bulbs. All our 1924 customers will get 5 seed packets of beautiful flowers absolutely free. The big new 1924 Seed Book tells all about it. Write for it today.

H. G. HASTINGS CO., SEEDSMEN, ATLANTA, GA.

Mr. Pearly Hogsed, who has been on the sick list, is improving again.

Mrs. Martha Dockery, of Lastview, has been spending the last two weeks with her son, R. H. Dockery.

Mrs. Liza Ann Martin, of Ogreeta, moved to N. E. Dockery's place, near Hangingdog, recently.

Mr. R. E. Carter and boys are sawmilling these days, except when fox hunting.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Robinson on the 6th, a fine boy.

Mira Read has moved to Bob Dockery's place on the branch.

Miss Sallie Mingus and others spent Sunday with Elsie Dockery.

Mrs. Mattie Hunsucker spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. N. E. Dockery.



Housework and Headache

There's relief for you housewives who suffer from aches and pains.

When lack of fresh air, working over a hot stove and the odor of cooking make your head throb, your back ache, your limbs tremble, just take 1 or 2

Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills
They'll relieve you quickly and safely.
Your druggist sells them.

—SUBSCRIBE TO THE SCOUT—

Suffer from sunburn?
MENTHOLATUM
cools and heals.

Subscribe to the Scout

Grass Seed
We have a big shipment of the following Grass Seeds to reach us in a few days:
CLOVER RED TOP
BLUE GRASS TIMOTHY
ORCHARD LAWN GRASS
All of these seeds are the very best and will give entire satisfaction. Call or write for prices
Cherokee Hardware Co. Inc.
Murphy, N. C.

Do You Know?—

We make all of the following goods right in our own shop:

- LIBRARY AND DINING TABLES
- CHINA CLOSETS
- BOOK CASES
- DRESSERS
- KITCHEN SAFES AND TABLES

When you buy these goods from us you get home-made goods, made by home labor and lumber. Every piece is guaranteed by us.

OUR PRICES ARE ALWAYS RIGHT

Townson & Anderson

Complete House Furnishers
MURPHY, N. C.