

TELEVISION SOON SAYS DEFOREST

# POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

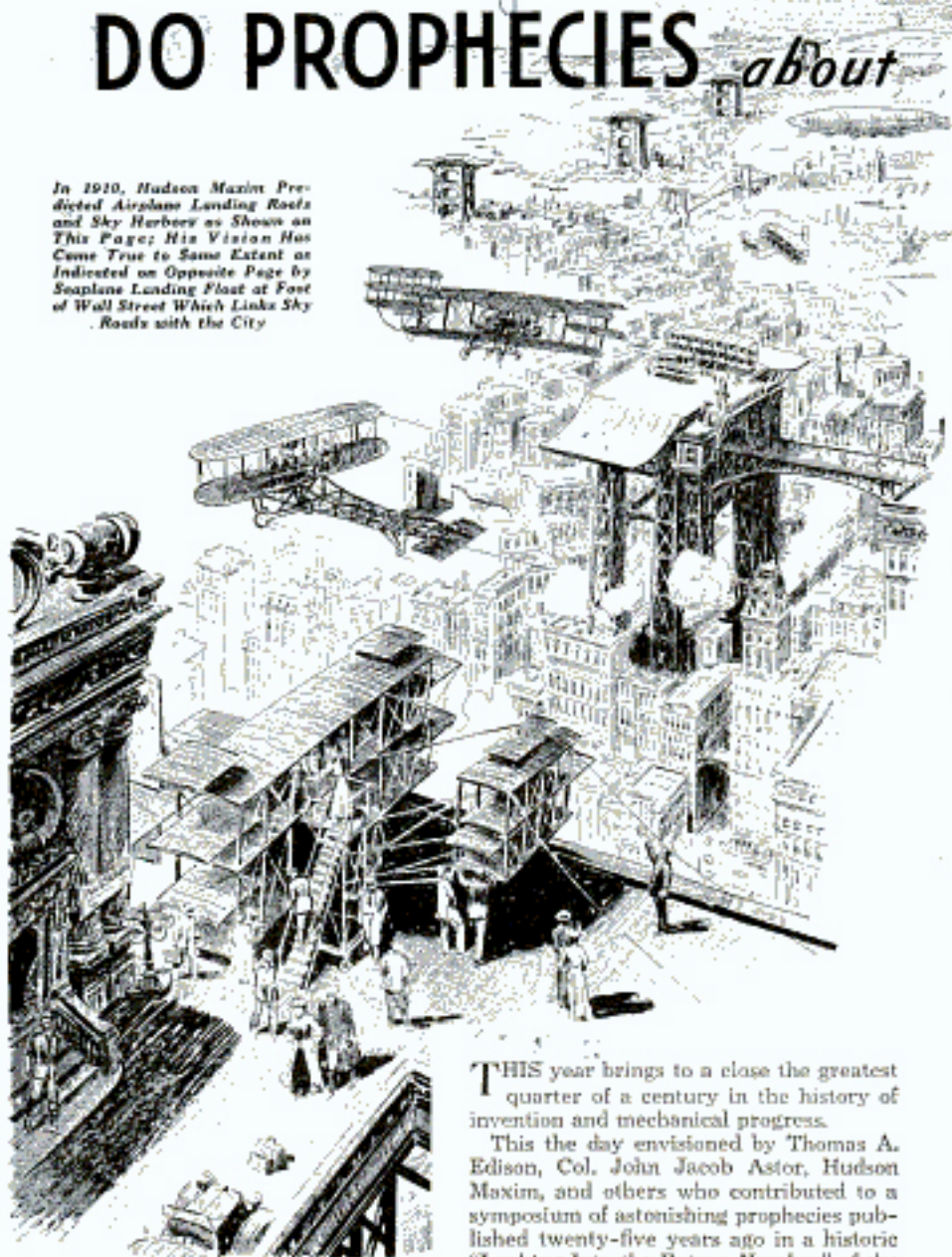
**MARCH**  
**25 CENTS**  
30¢ IN CANADA

SEE PAGE 362

NRA  
CODE

# DO PROPHECIES *about*

*In 1910, Hudson Maxim Predicted Airplane Landing Rosts and Sky Harbors as Shown on This Page; His Vision Has Come True to Some Extent as Indicated on Opposite Page by Seaplane Landing Float at Foot of Wall Street Which Links Sky Roads with the City*



THIS year brings to a close the greatest quarter of a century in the history of invention and mechanical progress.

This the day envisioned by Thomas A. Edison, Col. John Jacob Astor, Hudson Maxim, and others who contributed to a symposium of astonishing prophecies published twenty-five years ago in a historic "Looking Into the Future Number" of the New York World.

In that year, 1910, only seven years after

© Press Publishing Co.

*The Drawing on This Page Represents a Prophecy, That on the Opposite Page the Fulfillment.*



# INVENTIONS *come* TRUE?



the first airplane flight, Edison made a prophecy that seemed wild and irresponsible to his countrymen, but which has proved accurate beyond a doubt.

"We are face to face with aerial navigation on a scale of which we have never dreamed," said Edison. Then he went on to predict that small planes carrying mail would travel 100 miles an hour and even-

tually would go much faster. In 1934 an airplane exceeded 400 miles per hour.

"I don't know how to do it," he said, "but a method will yet be discovered of wirelessly transmitting electrical energy from the earth to the motor of a machine in midair. There is no reason to believe it cannot be done."

In this Edison made a prophecy still un-



fulfilled. Scores of inventors are now working on it, however. James J. Hill, the railroad builder, was another who foresaw the mighty developments in human progress. With astonishing accuracy he foresaw the population trend.

"By 1930," he said, "the population will be 125,000,000, and before the middle of the century, more than 200,000,000 people must find room and food and employment within the United States."

Luther Burbank, the plant wizard, prophesying the future of man as an individual, observed:

"Man has by no means reached the ultimate. The fittest has not yet survived. In the process of elimination the weaker will fall. The fittest of the future is not the fittest of the past.

"The man of the future ages may prove of a somewhat different order of being from that of the present. He may look upon us as we today look upon our forbears."

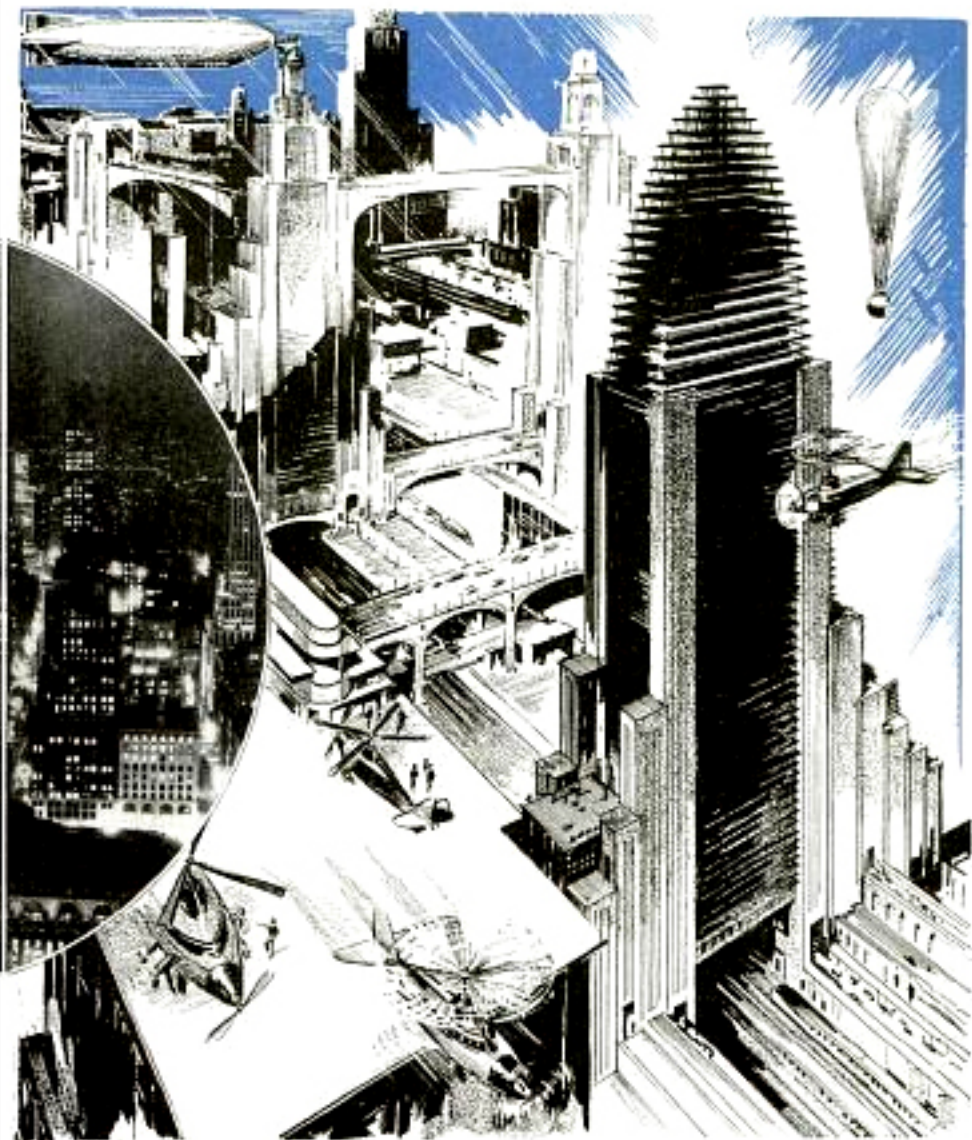
And in the realm of the auto, which in 1910 looked like a milkcart, W. Irving Twombly uttered one of the most interesting prophecies:

"Invention of the future," he said, "will tend toward increased strength of materials, reduction in the weight and size of all moving parts, simplifying and standardizing of all moving parts so that they may be duplicated anywhere in the world at a fair price with the sure knowledge that they will fit in place when received.

*The Evolution of a City: Above, New York as It Appeared in 1854; in Circle, as It Is Today, and, on Opposite Page, as Architects and Engineers Vision It Twenty-Five Years Hence*

"The pneumatic tire as we know it will soon be a thing of the past. I do not mean that it will ever be successfully replaced, but I predict that a practical pneumatic tire will be produced, having all the resiliency of the present type and none of its weak points. It will be non-puncturable, impossible to blow out, will run from 10,000 to 20,000 miles without attention; little or no rubber will enter into its construction, cost will be reduced at least



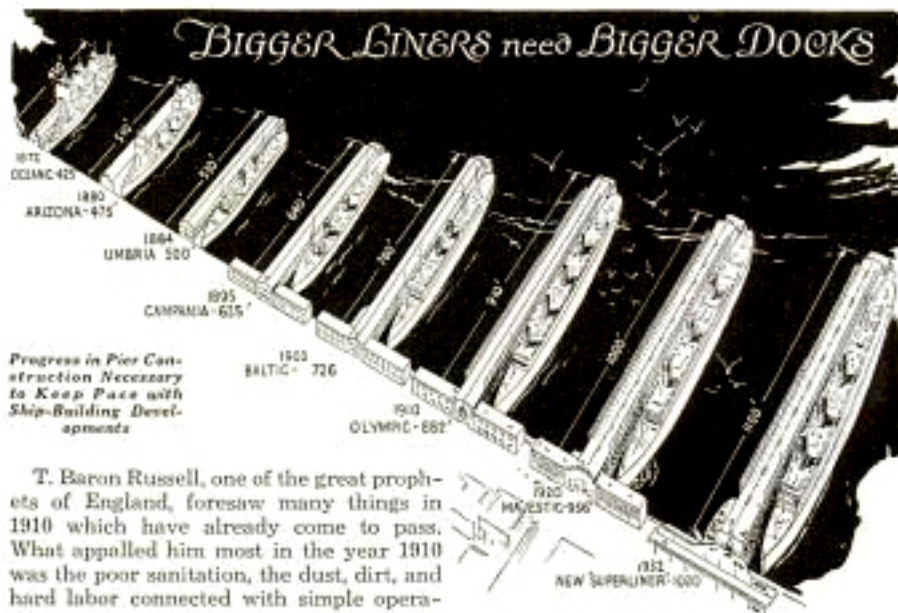


seventy-five per cent and repairs amount to little or nothing.

"The sale of pleasure vehicles will quadruple and the pleasure of motoring increase a hundredfold. The transmission as we know it today will be eliminated, and strong, efficient, durable motors will be produced, weighing less than two pounds to the delivered horsepower.

"Within the next twenty years (by 1930) it will be possible to buy a twenty-horsepower automobile for \$500 that will last longer and give much better satisfaction than those sold today at from \$2,000 to \$4,000 each."

And American automobiles in the \$500 class are rated today at more than twenty horsepower.



T. Baron Russell, one of the great prophets of England, foresaw many things in 1910 which have already come to pass. What appalled him most in the year 1910 was the poor sanitation, the dust, dirt, and hard labor connected with simple operations.

"The new age," he declared, "will be the clean age. Cooking will be a much less disgusting process than it is today. In no case will a domestic servant be called upon to stand over a roaring fire. . . .

"When radiation has been fully studied, it will almost certainly be found that the sun, which is the source of practically all terrestrial activity, has been showering upon us the rays that are capable of correcting every sort of disease germination. The value of sun baths, of exposing the body to sunlight, is already discussed in connection with anæmia, chlorosis, and the early stages of consumption."

"The time has come," cried the famous inventor, Hudson Maxim, "to connect the city and the sky. The marvel of aviation has arrived in our time and it is destined to have a revolutionary effect in shaping the architecture of the future. We must make preparations to travel by the sky-road."

"Provision must be made for the housing of the vast number of airplanes that are destined soon to flock the morning and evening skies. The city will grow skyward to meet aviation. Roof gardens, roof playgrounds, roof hotels, connected with one another by enormous bridges and

promenades will unite and lock the city together into one great unit, one enormous structure."

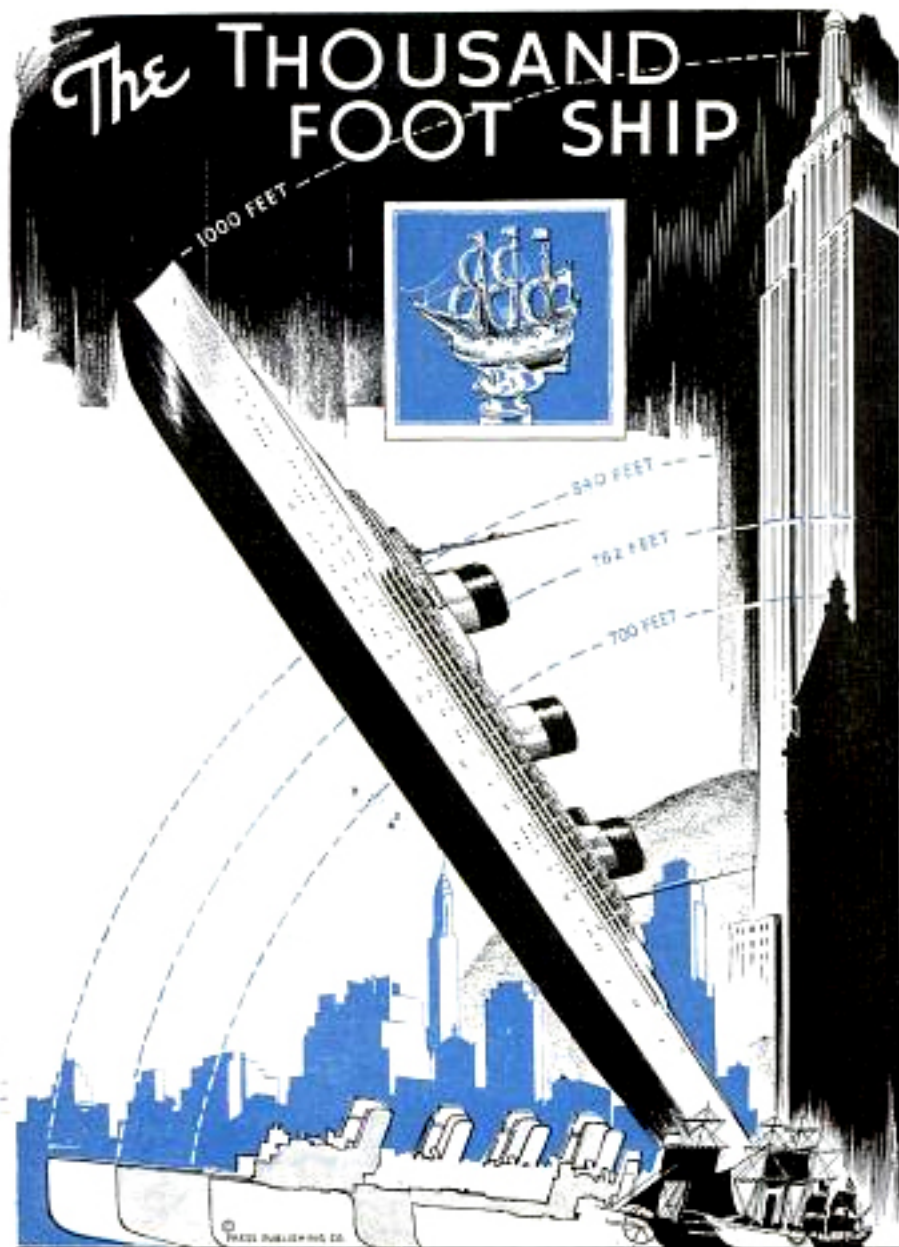
One of the most accurate prophecies made in the year 1910 concerned the coming of 1,000-foot ships to the shore of America. This, of course, will come true in the year 1935, one-quarter of a century after the prophecy was made.

In 325 years the length of ships coming into the Hudson river will have increased from sixty-three feet, the "Half Moon" of Henrik Hudson, to 1,027 feet, the French superliner, "Normandie." The time of crossing will have decreased from fifty-nine days, or 1,416 hours, to four days, or ninety-six hours. In 1910, the "Olympic" and "Titanic" were under construction for the White Star Line. The "Titanic" subsequently went down in a great sea tragedy. The "Olympic" was then the greatest ship afloat, 840 feet in length, and capable of twenty-one knots. Were it not for the "Titanic" disaster, the 1,000-foot ship would undoubtedly have come much sooner than 1935.

These prophecies, which are now part of history, furnish us ample proof of how responsible predictions may parallel the course of human progress.



# The THOUSAND FOOT SHIP



1861-OLYMPIC, 1900-LUSTANKA, 1900-DEUTSCHLAND, 1885-LAMER, 1874-SARATONIC, 1840-BRITANNIA, 1819-SAWYER, 1800-ARIZONA  
 (LENGTH, 840 FT.) (LENGTH, 162 FT.) (LENGTH, 662 FT.) (LENGTH, 509 FT.) (LENGTH, 451 FT.) (LENGTH, 207 FT.) (LENGTH, 160 FT.) (LENGTH, 63 FT.)

*Growth of the Transatlantic Liner from the Sixty-Three-Foot "Hull Moon" of 1809 to the 1,000-Foot Liner of 1935; What May the World Expect in Another 300 Years?*