NIKOLA TESLA AT NIAGARA FALLS

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him, and the great electrician declared that they solved one of the most important and difficult problems in electrical science.

It is a well known fact that Tesla does not like to speak of business. He is free about electrical discoveries or inventions, but when his own are broached he modestly says that he prefers to say little about them.

I do not like to speak of what I am doing or what I hope to do," he said. It is enough to let others do that when what I have done is before the world. I am content to be in my workshop and to work day and night to discover something which we are looking for, and which will assist the development of electricity as a great and universal power. The time will come when steam will not be used for commercial purposes. I am working to bring that about.

This, then, is the present great ambition. He desires to see electricity fully occupy the power field.

"I came to Niagara Falls," he said, "to inspect the great power plant, and because I thought the change would bring me needed rest. I have been for some time in poor health, almost worn out, and I am now trying to get away from my work for a brief spell, and at the same time see the great results of electrical development within the last half dozen years. These results have been wonderful, have far surpassed the expectations of the people generally, but they are what those who have made electricity their study in years and their life work have expected, and have laboured so hard to bring about. Yet scientists are not content, and great wonders in the future development of electric power for many purposes are anticipated, and are confidently expected, by the great men in all countries who are trying to discover Nature's secrets, and to develop the things which God has placed within the reach of those who will seek that they may find."

"What do you think of the Niagara power plant, Mr. Tesla? Is it fully up to your ideas and expectations?"

It was this question that aroused the great electrician's enthusiasm. "Yes," he said; "it is all and more than I anticipated it would be. It is fully all that was promised. It is one of the wonders of this century. The power-producing plant of the S. A. Construction Company is a marvel in its completeness and in its superiority of construction. When it shall be in full operation the result, in many ways, will be wonderful, will be surprising to those who have doubted that such things could be accomplished. In its entirety, in connection with the possibilities of the future, the plant, and the prospect of future development in electrical science, and the more ordinary uses of electricity, are my ideals. They are what I have long anticipated, and have laboured, in an insignificant way, to contribute toward bringing about."

"What, in your judgment, will be the effect on Niagara Falls?"

"The first effect naturally will be to the advantage of Niagara Falls, and the falls will be the greatest reaper of benefits. The result of this great development of electric power will be that the Falls and Buffalo will reach out their arms, and will join each other, and become one great city. United, they will form the greatest city in the world."

"This is your first visit to the plant?"

"Yes: I came purposely to see it. I am somewhat interested in the working of some of the machinery. But, and it is a curious thing about me, I cannot stay about big machinery a great while. It affects me very much. The jar of the machinery curiously affects my spine, and I cannot stand the strain."

"Is Mr. Tesla's two-phase system in which used," put in Secretary Rankine, who was standing by. "It is the new and great system of the two-phase alternating currents."

"What do you think of the transmission of electric power to Buffalo? Is it an assured undertaking?" Tesla was asked.

"Its success is certain. The transmission of electricity is one of the simplest of propositions. It is the application of a principle, and accepted rules which are as firmly established as the air itself."

"Do you think the cost of electric power in Buffalo will be half, or lower than the present cost of steam?"

"I do not know what the cost of steam power in Buffalo."

"About 60 to 70," said Mr. Rankine.