

terested in obtaining scientific results. In a seaplane flying 90 to 100 miles an hour, and with a very limited accommodation, it is impossible to take topographically trustworthy photographs of regions over which the seaplane is passing, nor is it possible to sound the depths of the Arctic Ocean. But in an airship such as Commander Bruns contemplates, with a capacity of 150,000 cubic meters, supplied with four engines and with a crew of 50 men, conditions will be different. The airship will be flown at 80 miles an hour, and each engine is to be supplied with fuel for 100 hours. The whole distance, Murmansk—Alaska—Murmansk, is about 4,000 miles. The whole journey is expected to last four weeks.

Dr. Nansen is in no hurry to leave. He knows that no great things can be achieved without great preparations, and as his scientific ambition is not overshadowed by other considerations, he can afford to wait until everything is in order. At any rate, he says, we are not going to start until 1927.

#### HALL OF FAME FOR ENGINEERS

PLANS for an Inventors and Engineers Hall of Fame have been announced for the proposed \$5,000,000 National Museum of Engineering and Industry to be erected on The Mall in Washington. Decision to establish such a hall in the central rotunda of the museum was reached unanimously by the Board of Direction of the Museum Foundation which has undertaken to raise a national endowment of \$10,000,000, and among those who probably will be represented in marble or in bronze will be Charles P. Steinmetz, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas A. Edison, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Eli Whitney, Captain John Erikson, Mergenthaler and Robert Fulton.

Thomas A. Edison, Orville Wright, Charles F. Brush, Leo H. Baekeland, Edward G. Acheson, Frank J. Sprague and Edward Weston have been elected vice-presidents of the museum movement organization.

Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel Company, and Melville E. Stone, former head of The Associated Press, also have accepted posts on the Honorary Advisory Board, where they will serve with Secretary Herbert Hoover, Dr. Charles W. Eliot and General George W. Goethals.

Records of the achievements of the outstanding leaders in invention and engineering, now scattered throughout the country, are to be assembled, and all original models, so far as recoverable, are to be obtained for the museum.

Many American colleges specializing in technical education have already attempted on a limited scale to maintain museums exhibits, where members of the student body can study in graphic detail the evolution of the technical field in which they are preparing to take their places. The present movement for the Na-

tional Museum of Engineering and Industry embraces, beside the central edifice in Washington, a chain of local museums of industry, situated in the various industrial sections and affiliated with the parent institution for the diffusion of technical knowledge to all parts of the country.

The Board of Direction also determined to dedicate a suitable chamber adjoining the Hall of Fame, to be designated "The Founders' Room." Herein will be honored, by suitable busts, tablets and other memorials, those public-spirited individuals, societies and corporations whose contributions in energy, time or money shall have made possible the establishment in Washington of the world's greatest industrial museum institution.

#### THE YALE ASTRONOMICAL STATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

DR. FRANK SCHLESINGER, accompanied by Mrs. Schlesinger, sailed from New York on December 27 for South Africa *via* England. He is taking with him the 26-inch photographic objective intended for the Yale southern telescope. After selecting the exact site, work will be begun at once on erecting the observatory and mounting the telescope, which he hopes to have in operation by May or June.

The mounting for the telescope was constructed for the most part in the Yale Observatory shop at New Haven, and was temporarily erected in New Haven. It has now been crated and will be shipped direct from New York to South Africa at the end of January. Mr. Walter O'Connell, foreman of the shop, is to accompany the mounting and to take part in its erection in South Africa.

Dr. H. L. Alden, now of the McCormick Observatory, has been appointed assistant professor of astronomy at Yale University and will be in charge of the Yale station in South Africa. He expects to sail from New York at the end of April and begin work with the telescope in June, when Dr. Schlesinger will return to this country.

Mr. C. H. Hall, Jr., formerly in charge of the Observatory of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, has been appointed assistant to Dr. Alden in the operation of the telescope. He will arrive at the station early in February.

This telescope is to be the principal instrument at what will be Yale Observatory's chief observing station. The work of the telescope will at first consist in the determination of the parallaxes of many stars to supplement similar work now being done in the northern hemisphere; the determination of the proper motions of many faint stars, and work in cooperation with other observatories in the selected areas. It is expected to send later other instruments to the station.