

1912

HENRY FORD

FORD, Henry, automobile manufacturer; b. Dearborn Township, Wayne County, Mich., July 30, 1863; s. William and Mary (Litogot) F.; ed. in dist. sch., Dearborn, Mich., D.Eng., U. of Mich., 1928; LL.D., Colgate U., 1935; m. Clara J. Bryant, Apr. 11, 1888; 1 son, Edsel Bryant. Learned machinist's trade; in Detroit since 1887; was chief engr. Edison Illuminating Co.; organizer, 1903, pres. many yrs. Ford Motor Co. (largest mfr. of automobiles in the world, employing over 100,000 persons). Announced, 1914, plan of profit-sharing involving distribution of ten to thirty millions of dollars annually to employees. Mem. Soc. Automotive Engrs., Detroit Board of Commerce. Clubs: Detroit, Detroit Athletic Country, Detroit Hunt, Automobile of America. Chartered ship, and at own expense conducted party to Europe, leaving New York, Dec. 4, 1915, with object of organizing a conf. of peace advocates to influence belligerent govts. to end the war; ~~returned~~ returned home after reaching Christiania, Norway, but members of the party proceeded to Stockholm, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark, and through Germany to The Hague. Built Henry Ford Hosp. at cost of \$7,500,000. Apptd. by Pres. Wilson mem. Wage Empire Bd., July 13, 1918; Dem. candidate for U.S. Senate against Truman H. Newberry, 1918. Author: My Life and Work, 1925; Today and Tomorrow, 1926; Moving Forward, 1931. Home: Dearborn, Mich.* Died Apr. 7, 1947.

Pioneer in the auto industry and the founder of one of its largest firms. He developed the first true assemblyline to produce his Model T. It led to increased production efficiency and reduced cost and the techniques revolutionized production methods in industry the world over.