One day during the critical period of the Civil War, a newsboy in Detroit went into the office where he daily obtained his supply of papers. "What is the news?" he questioned. "Haven't you heard?" asked another newsboy who stood nearby. "There has just been a big battle at Pittsburgh Landing.

"Oh!" exclaimed the boy, and he extracted a pencil from his pocket and began to make some calculations. "What are you trying to figure out, Tom?" the other boy asked. "How many papers I shall need today," he replied, as he turned and approached the circulation manager's desk. "I want one thousand newspapers," said young Edison.

The circulation manager of the Detroit Free Press looked in amazement at the lad who made this astonishing request. "Have you the money?" he asked. "No, sir," replied Edison. "Then get out." The boy went directly upstairs to the office of the publisher.

"I want fifteen hundred papers, Mr. Storey," said the boy. Then he explained that the people along the line of the railroad where he had a run as train newsboy would be eager to get the news of the battle of Pittsburgh Landing.

"Can you pay for them?" asked Mr. Storey. "As soon as I sell them," answered the boy. Mr. Storey wrote something on a slip of paper and the boy took it down to the circulation manager.

"Fifteen hundred!" growled the man. "I thought you only wanted a thousand!" "Oh, I thought I might as well be refused fifteen hundred papers as a thousand," grinned the boy. And that is the spirit that helped Thomas Edison, the world's greatest inventor, to success.

Tom knew that the people along the line would be anxious to hear the news. He had no money, but he had courage and, what is better, the habit of thinking things out, that is, of thinking ahead. Usually he sold about sixty papers along this train route. How could he sell fifteen hundred? He had thought that all out in advance. He went to a telegraph operator who was fond of reading, and said to him, "If you will wire ahead to every stop that there has been a big battle and that I am coming with papers telling the story and giving a list of the dead and wounded, I will send you a daily paper and two magazines a month for six months." Thus bargained young Edison. "I will do it,” agreed the operator.

When young Edison reached his first stop, Utica, there was a large crowd of people waiting. "At first I thought the crowd was going on an excursion," said Mr. Edison in relating the incident, "but I soon realized they were waiting for the papers. I sold more than half of my papers there, and at Mount Clemens and Port Huron I sold the remainder."

As a young man, with only a dollar in his pocket, Thomas Edison went to New York City looking for work. Three nights he slept on park benches. One day he went without food. While he was in the office of a gold and stock indicator company the stock ticker stopped and there was great excitement. He said, "I think I can fix it for you." He opened the ticker, lifted a loose contact sprint that had fallen between the wheels, and it started up again.

Just as he did this the man who had a big interest in the ticker service saw him. "We are having trouble with this service. If you can keep it going for us I will give you three hundred dollars a month," he said. "I was amazed when I heard this," Mr. Edison said later, "but I remained calm and agreed to do it, demanding an advance in 'good faith.' I really did not want it for 'good faith' but for food, as I had not eaten for nearly thirty hours." Mr. Edison learned why the ticker would not work well and improved it, securing a patent. When the company asked him for how much he would sell it, he thought of asking five thousand dollars. "I will let the company make the first offer," he said to himself They gave him forty thousand dollars; so he made exactly thirty-five thousand dollars by using his judgment.

All the world knows of his rapid rise after that. This money enabled him to build a laboratory and carry on experiments. He invented the quadruplex telegraph, the incandescent light, the phonograph, moving pictures, speaking parts of the telephone, appliances for use on electric railways, storage batteries, and scores of other great things.