

Chain of Automatic Stores Is Planned

New York.—Creation of a nationwide chain of automatic department stores in which all goods would be sold by talking automatons and the entire store governed and operated by one man is being planned by the new Consolidated Merchandising Corporation, representing consolidation of leading companies in the mechanical vending field. The "Robot" stores would sell small package goods so well known that no personal sales effort would be required. The talking feature of the new mechanical unit would be applied to give instructions for the use of products where considered necessary.

One or more of the machines to be manufactured will be placed in chain stores of the Woolworth Co., Liggett Drug Co., Walgreen Drug Co., J. C. Penney, Owl Drug Co., Happiness Candy Stores, United Cigar Stores Co., Schulte Stores Corporation, Union News Co., Metropolitan Co., McCrory Stores Co. and W. T. Grant Co.

Directors of the new company will include Albert C. Allen, Executive Vice President and director of the United Cigar Stores Company; Robert E. Allen, Vice President of the Central Union Trust Company of New York; A. Granat, Vice President, United Cigar Stores Co.; F. J. Lisman of F. J. Lisman & Co., bankers; Saunders Norvell, President, Remington Arms Co.; Stanley Nowak, director of the General Vending Corp.; A. J. Sack, Chairman of the Automatic Merchandising Corporation of America; Joseph J. Schermack, President of the Schermack Corporation of America; Nathan A. Smyth of Smyth, Wise & O'Connell, attorneys. The voting trustees who

will vote all of the common stock of the company follow: A. Granat, Robert E. Allen, F. J. Lisman, A. J. Sack and E. S. Steinam.

Public offering will be made of part of the stock of the new company, it is understood.

Groceries To Have Automatic Machines

Automatic vending machines will soon be installed in grocery stores, according to C. H. Flint, sales manager of the Automatic Merchandising Corporation of America. "Our market research department," he said, "is at present gathering data to serve as a guide in establishing the standardized units to be used in the machines for grocery use, but we do not expect to be prepared to offer a complete proposition in this field much before another sixty days.

"Our machines will sell any type of merchandise sold in uniform or small sized packages and we believe it will fit into the national distributing plans of many of the larger advertisers for their products in the same manner as it is now doing in the cigarette and candy field. Already we have had inquiries from provision, packing and dairy product people for details of a machine to handle their products which will give an idea of how far-reaching the automatic idea is at the present time."

Lady Arcade Operator

Following the death of Mr. E. J. Frick of Houston, Texas, nearly a year ago, Mrs. Frick assumed the conduct of their penny arcade at Casino Park, Lake Worth, and she reports she will continue through the present season.