

SPEECH GIVEN BY E. W. RICE, JR.
AT LUNCHEON FOR THOMAS A. EDISON,
October 18, 1922.

Our distinguished guest objects to speeches, but it is impossible to let this remarkable occasion pass without a few words in commemoration.

It would indeed take a long speech to even enumerate the contributions which Mr. Edison has made to the world,- his improvements in multiplex telegraphy, the phonograph, the motion picture, the new storage battery, the carbon transmitter - all wonderful contributions, but in fields outside of our own activities.

I will limit my remarks to Edison's contribution to our own line of work.

There are four dates which are of great interest to those present here today:

1879 - 43 years ago, Edison electrified the world by his announcement of his invention of the incandescent lamp.

1882 - 40 years ago, he started the Pearl Street station in New York for the generation and distribution, and sale to the public of electricity, according to his system.

1886 - 36 years ago, Mr. Edison started the manufacture of electrical machinery here at Schenectady.

1892 - 30 years ago, the General Electric Company was formed, which united and continued the work of Edison, Thomson and other early pioneers.

In the three years between 1879 and 1882 he invented, developed and worked out the principles and details of a comprehensive system of generation, control, distribution, measurement and utilization of electrical energy for public use on a large scale.

Viewed from the standpoint of today, after a lapse of 40 years, Edison's achievements of those early years appear almost miraculous. They have stood the test of 40 years of the most extensive and intensive technical development of the electrical industry. His system of distribution of electrical energy on the multiple or parallel plan has survived and is the only method by which an unlimited amount of electrical energy can be generated and distributed over an unlimited area in a practical and commercial manner. This simple method seems obvious to the present generation of engineers.

It was by no means obvious in 1882. The series system of distribution had many powerful advocates at that time, but Edison's foresight and practical wisdom have been fully vindicated, as the multiple system is universal today. It is employed in the low tension direct current network for lighting of our cities, in the operation of our trolley cars, on electrified steam roads and in the distribution of electricity at the super distances of our present day hydro-electric power developments.

The incandescent lamp in all its essential features, with its bulb of glass, filament of high resistance, screw base, voltage and candle power is substantially as Edison gave it to us 44 years ago. It has been improved in efficiency by Whitney, Coolidge, Langmuir and others, but otherwise remains the same wonderfully simple practicable device.

The vacuum bulb which Edison first made a practical device in

the incandescent lamp is not limited in usefulness to the giving of light. It is the basis of a whole series of useful electrical devices. It is used in the rectifier for changing alternating current into direct current, and also for changing direct current into alternating current.

The same vacuum tube, through the "Edison effect," discovered by Edison in 1883 and developed by Fleming, DeForest and Langmuir, has become the basis of wireless telegraphy and telephony.

This same Edison vacuum tube in the hands of Langmuir, Coolidge and others, is destined to revolutionize our present methods of generation, transmission and utilization of electricity.

The vacuum tube of Edison, although 44 years old, is still the most interesting and promising of all the wonderful products of his genius.

How keen and justifiable must be the pride and satisfaction of those early associates of Edison who have survived the years and are here to greet their old Chief! Many of these older workers are not here, having finished their work. Their presence is sadly missed by all.

I am sure I properly represent the sentiment of all those present when I suggest that the one who is most missed on this occasion is John Kruesi, an Edison pioneer, the Manager of these Works for many years, respected and loved to an extraordinary degree by all his associates.

We also regret the absence of Mr. Samuel Insull, who was trusted by Mr. Edison with the development of these Works in the

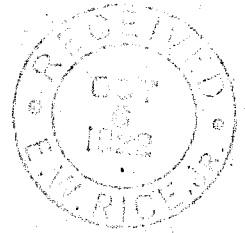
early days, and whose energy, foresight and great administrative ability made possible its success; a man who has become the acknowledged leader of the great Central Station electrical industry.

We also miss Charles A. Coffin, the creator of the General Electric Company, who by his faith, his energy and resourcefulness, led the company through most discouraging difficulties, to its present happy position, where it enjoys the esteem and confidence of the entire world.

It has been a great joy and privilege to have lived during this period of the world's electrical development, a period unique in the world's history. Those of us who started under other leaders and associations, but later joined the Edison forces, are none the less devoted and enthusiastic admirers of the great personality whom we have with us today and whom we delight to hail as our Master.

ELECTRIC COMPANY

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE



Subject:

Location:

Referring to:

Schenectady, October 5, 1922

Mr. E. W. Rice
New York Office

Dear Mr. Rice

It occurred to me that you might wish to discuss with Mr. Morrison Mr. Edison's visit, especially the luncheon feature, and that the attached lists of associates may assist you.

I am of the opinion that List No. 2, which includes fifty-five people, will be the most desirable.

I think a decision should be made as soon as possible regarding the luncheon and the people to attend, together with a definite date for Mr. Edison's visit, so that a menu can be decided upon and the names of those attending listed therein.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "O. H. Cateforth".

VISUAL INSTRUCTION SECTION

CFB:R

W/ S. Andrews	Building #2
A. R. Bush	" #2
W. S. Clark	" #2
C. D. Clark	" #2
C. W. Jefferson	
C. Rach	
W. L. R. Emmet	" #2
H. F. T. Erben	" #2
F. J. O'Dell	" #5
S. L. Whitestone	" #5
George Reilly)	Proposed for membership
Fred. Wilson)	

The above are EDISON PIONEERS now in Schenectady.

1879

Andrews, W. S. A

Engineering #2

Leaf # 2
55 pages

Anthony, G. W.	Pensioned	
2 — Clark, Charles L. *	Consult. Engr.	#2
Conover, John S.	Engineering	#2
Rice, E.W. Jr.	Executive	#2

1881

Emmons, George E.

#2

→ Kaler, C. H.

Winding

#14

✓

→ Rach, Christian

Wire & Cable

#73

✓

✓ Tournier, Julius

Wiring Supplies #77

✓

1883

Bush, A. R.	P & M	#2
Leephart, C. J.	Lighting	#2
Tanis, Edward H.	Cont. Control	#60
Turner, Harry W.	Research Lab.	#5
Van Deventer, Theodore	Shipping	#50

Brown, Fred	Pensioned	
Diehl, John	Controller	#60
Righton, Frederick	Porcelain	#68
Rohrer, A. L.		#2
Smith, Clarence	G.O. Account.	#5
Steward, Walter	Switchboard	#24
Watson, Frank, S.	Shipping	#50

1885

Clark, Wallace S. X	Wire & Cable	#69
Greer, Harry	S. B. Polishing	#26
Paterson, C. F.	Mica	#69 v
Robinson, L. T.	Stand. Lab.	#5

Beck, George M.	Controller	#60
Beyer, E. S.	Receiving	#46
Burger, Charles	Pensioned	
Campbell, Daniel C.	Billing	#2
Clark, Otis R.	Elec. Supt. Office	#2
Cox, Charles M.	Gen. Engr. Lab.	#5
Crane, John W.	Pensioned	
Dempster, John T. H.	Research Lab.	#5
Devine, Michael	Tool Room	#7
Duglin, A.	Machine	#16
Fryer, John H	Power Station	#13
Gardenier, A. H.	Patrol	#45
Geisenhoner, Henry	Industrial Heat.	#105
Hale, W.W.	Marine Eng.	#60
Ham, S. B.	Drafting	#4
Kindberg, Gust	Switch	#23
Kirsh, Peter	Brass Punching	#26
Leland, Herbert W.	Armature	#15
Lovejoy, J. R.		#2
Macholz, Herman	Machine	#16
Nethaway, W. S.	Shipping	#50
Peper, Frederick, W.	Foundry	#49
Shannon, John C.	Testing	#6
Shock, Anthony	Turbine	#60
Tullius, Joseph	Pensioned	
Turrian, Arthur	Experimental	#28
Van Vranken, Earl	Motor	#40
Wagner, J. D.	Foundry	#95
Wilkie, James H.	Machine	#16
Wilkie, R. P.	Winding	#14