

What Edison Thought About Electric Light Back in Year 1878

While the successful incandescent lamp dates from October 21, 1879, and its golden anniversary will be celebrated this fall, its inventor was confident of its future more than a year before the general public saw his masterpiece. Someone recently dug up a copy of the New York Sun of September 16, 1878, in which an inter-

view with Thomas A. Edison was published. Mr. Edison said in part:

"When the brilliancy and cheapness of the lights are made known to the public—which will be in a few weeks or just as soon as I can thoroughly protect the process—illumination by carbureted hydrogen gas will be discarded. With fifteen or twenty of these dynamo-electric machines recently perfected by Mr. Wallace, I can light the entire lower part of New York City, using a 500 hp. engine. I propose to establish one of

these light centers in Nassau Street, where wires can be run uptown as far as Cooper Institute down to the Battery and across to both rivers. These wires must be insulated and laid in the ground in the same manner as gas pipes. I also propose to utilize the gas burners and the chandeliers now in use. In each house I can make a light meter whence these wires will pass through the house, tapping small metallic contrivances that may be placed over each burner. Again the same wire that brings the light to

you will also bring power and heat. With the power you can run an elevator, a sewing machine or any other mechanical contrivance that requires a motor and by means of it may cook your food."

Nearly a year later the managing editor of another New York paper bitterly criticised his city editor for publishing a glowing account of the new invention. "You have made the paper ridiculous with such a cock-and-bull story," he said.

Are you trying to keep your house number a secret?



MANY people who have no reason for trying to keep "under cover" make it hard to discover where they live.

Walk along any residence street at night and notice how few of the house numbers are lighted up so that they may be seen from the sidewalk.

How ridiculous it is to have a house number if it can't be seen! A couple of 25-watt lamps would make it easy for Opportunity to find your door after dark.

And what would burning such lamps four or five hours every night cost? Not 60c a month!

Light means cheerfulness

What a difference it makes to the caller if he looks into a brilliantly lighted home when the door is opened to him. He feels that he is having a cheerful reception, and his genial impulses are quickened.

Light encourages the flow of wit and promotes friendliness.

And how little it costs to light up for cheer-

fulness. Lamps are better, and electricity is lower in price today than ever before. It would cost you only about half a cent an hour to have a lamp burning in that empty socket.

And think of the improvement it would make in the appearance of things!

This advertisement is published in the interest of a more beneficial use of electricity and to inform you how to obtain the best lighting service for the current consumed

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

51 South St. Johns Avenue

Highland Park, Illinois

Every woman should know this

Poor lighting is responsible for squinting, which soon causes wrinkles.

Headaches, nervousness, fatigue, faulty digestion, and sleeplessness are often due to poor lighting in the home.

Women who try to get along with poor light expose themselves to the risk of looking old while they are still young in years.

This service is free to you

If you are using lamps that are not of correct wattage for securing the best lighting results, or if your fixtures are not suitably placed, our home lighting specialist can give you directions for making such changes as may be desirable. This service will cost you nothing. Just phone us when a call will suit your convenience.