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The Incandescent Electric Light

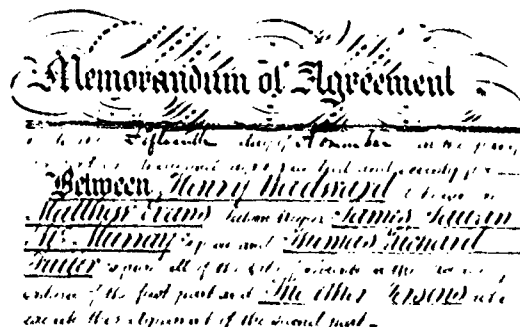
DATA SHOWING ITS ORIGINAL DISCOVERY IN TORONTO, CANADA. DR. WOODWARD'S PATENT ANTE-DATES THE PATENT OF MR. T. A. EDISON, AND IS PURCHASED BY THE AMERICAN INVENTOR.

Some interesting historical data has recently been placed at our disposal and is herewith presented to readers of THE ELECTRICAL NEWS, relative to the original discovery of the principle of the electric light. It will interest our readers to learn that this discovery appears to have been made in Toronto, Canada, and patented in Canada and the United States prior to the time when a patent was granted to Mr. T. A. Edison. It is quite as interesting to know that the patent for the Canadian discovery was purchased by Mr. Edison in New York City at the time when he was making his original investigations and before he obtained his patent.

To Henry Woodward, a medical student, and Matthew Evans, a hotel keeper, of Toronto, Ont., appears to be due the credit for the first discovery of the principle of the incandescent electric light. They were neighbors and frequently experimented together with a large Smead battery and induction coil, of which Woodward was the possessor.

While seated at dusk one evening watching the buzzer of the induction coil, the light of the spark at the contact post drew their attention. Evans was the first to notice it, and drawing out his watch exclaimed, "Look at the light from that spark! Why you can see the time!" "My!" said Woodward, "if one could only confine that in a globe of some sort, what an invention we would have! It would revolutionize the world!"

From this beginning, in the early part of 1873, Woodward and Evans worked to perfect the idea, and on August 3rd, 1874, were granted a Canadian patent. The method of exploiting the discovery is set forth in the accompanying agreement by the original promoters:



"Whereas the said Henry Woodward having invented a new and improved method of obtaining light by means of electricity, and having received advances and other assistance from the said other parties hereto of the first part, agreed to grant, convey, transfer and assign to each of them a one-fourth share of interest in the said invention and in letters patent therefor whenever and wherever obtained.

"And whereas the said parties of the first part being desirous of raising a further sum of one thousand dollars for the purpose of obtaining letters patent from Washington and of making certain experiments, agreed to and did by the instrument herein recited grant, transfer, convey and assign seven thirty-fifth parts or shares in the said invention and in letters patent therefor whenever and wherever obtained to the following parties to wit: Rupert Mearse Wells, W. J. Gibson, George Trimble, E. Heimrod, Messieurs McMurray and Fuller, Emma Pepler and M. Sheppard, all of the said city of Toronto, J. E. O'Reilly of the



DR. WOODWARD'S PIONEER ARC LAMP.

city of Hamilton, and A. M. Sutherland of the town of Barrie.

"And whereas the said instrument is in the words and figures following, that is to say.....

"Whereas Dr. Woodward has invented a new and improved method of obtaining light by electricity, and has obtained letters patent for the said Dominion of Canada, and has made application for letters patent to the patent office at Washington.

"And whereas Matthew Evans, James S. McMurray, and Thomas Richard Fuller have each made advances to the said Dr. Woodward for the purpose of assisting him in carrying out the said invention, and are each equally interested with him therein.