

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1905.

THE EDISON BATTERY FOR AUTOMOBILES

It Should Revolutionize the Auto. Business—It is a Combination of Constancy, Lightness, Cheapness, and Durability, Says the Wizard—Very Satisfactory Experiments Made.

"The most practical thing about my storage battery, as I have developed it," said Thomas A. Edison, as he sat in his library in his fine home on top of the Orange hills, puffing rings from a big black cigar toward the ceiling, "are three—the constancy, its lightness, its cheapness, and its ability to stand a great deal of abuse. I have worked it down now so that it can be depended upon for a certainty. For the past two years I have been experimenting, but today I can say that the storage battery is absolutely sure to do the work demanded."

"The great thing that has handicapped me heretofore—and the same thing has worried others who have been experimenting along the same line—has been the great weight necessary to carry along with electrically equipped vehicles. The old batteries which we used weighed about seventy pounds per horsepower. Now I have cut this down to about forty-five pounds. To obtain this advantage required constant work and tests in all directions."

"I put out about 14,000 battery cells to experiment with. These were divided up in all conceivable ways and put on about one hundred and sixty automobiles. We used twenty, thirty, forty and sixty cells to a car; some of them were made to carry a constant and permanent power, some were calculated to keep part of their voltage as soon as they had gone to short distance, some were changed for only a short distance at high speed, some were changed for longer distance at lower speed, some were ground for high speed and long distance—we tested all sorts and conditions and schemes. From these trials we were able to decide on the permanent model, and that is now being made."

"The great wizard leaned back in his heavily cushioned chair and smiled with a satisfied air. He studied the end of a cigar for a moment; then, with a twinkle in his eye, he continued:

Up to the Auto People

"I have done my work; now it is up to the automobile people to do theirs and produce the proper car."

"The car, consider that the battery is standard."

"No, I would not say that it is perfect," he declared, frankly, "but I have used it down to a commercial basis and to a reliable condition. Most of my time has been devoted to developing the battery for the propulsion of business vehicles—such as delivery wagons and the like. I have reduced the weight so that now, with my storage battery, a wagon can carry ten for ten—that is, a vehicle one ton, battery and all, will carry a ton of weight."

"All the vehicles that we are equipping for business purposes will be equipped with what we have figured on as the standard battery—sixty cells. These will be able to carry a ton of weight from forty-five miles to seventy-five miles, according to the weight and thickness of the cells, on one charging. About 30 per cent. of the business that we are looking after will be in business vehicles. I can equip a wagon now that will cost

Jersey roads. I have a number of runabouts using the battery now, and they are doing very well; they are making from 100 to 120 miles on one charging.

"As an experiment a company built a trolley car and equipped it with electric motors. The car, with passengers aboard, weighed 4,200 pounds. It was sent out to experiment on wind resistance. It made thirty-three miles an hour. It was equipped with sixty cells, the battery is lighter. The difficulty in the way of long-distance touring by electric machines is that there are not enough charging stations throughout the country."

"The battery that I am now putting out will be of permanent voltage, and will outlast three machines. I do not use any lead or acids at all in the construction. I use potash, iron, nickel and iron. The whole battery is of steel.

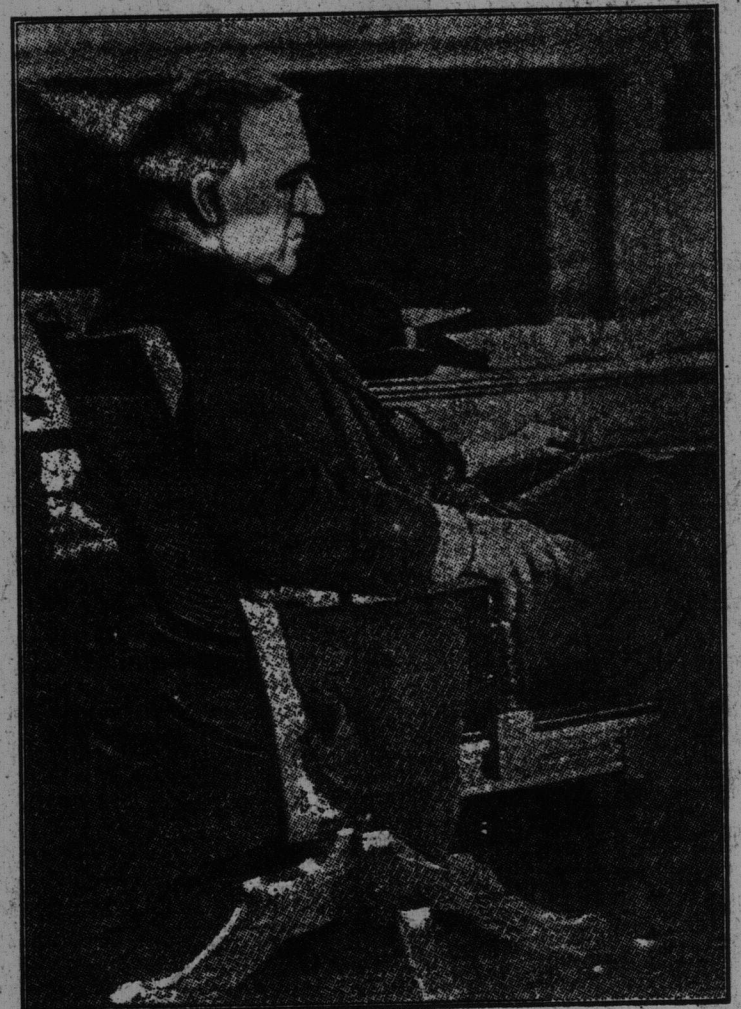
"What are the advantages over a gasoline-propelled machine?" was asked.

Advantages of Machine

"Manifestly, if you have a gasoline machine you have an expert to run it. There are a thousand things to get out of order at a second's notice. Your car has spark, trouble, and trouble. With an electric any one can become an expert inside of twenty minutes. All he has to do is to learn how to turn on the switch and then take hold of the wheel and drive."

150 Miles on One Charging

"I have not paid much attention to touring cars, but I think that the time will come soon that a big car, electrically



THOMAS A. EDISON AT HIS DESK.

equipped, will be able to take four or five passengers 100 miles on a single charging at a rate of twenty or twenty-five miles an hour over the ordinary roads. I do not mean city streets, but

in the running of gasoline machines. In a short time there will be a great advance in the price of the fuel, and a small amount of gasoline can be distilled from the oil and the radiator will not go into the practice of running out oil for the purpose of getting the gasoline. It will soon have a prohibitory price on it.

Mr. Edison was not making an effort to run down gasoline machines in favor of the adoption of electric power, but he knew as well as any one who knows anything about automobiles that the gasoline car is a thousand miles from perfection, and all along the line roads that lead past his residence he saw, many times, machines drawn up at the side of the thoroughfares with the chauffeurs and generally the owners digging away at the bellies of the "beasts"—dismantling, hunting, vainly hunting. The search leads generally to some slight disarrangement—the mere failure of a spark, a chunk of coal on the intake or exhaust valve, or a lack of dust that chokes the spraying inside of the carburetor.

Even these minute things are enough to spoil a pleasant trip, and very frequently will take a whole day's pleasure when the occasion has been most costly upon. Mr. Edison has been most careful upon. Mr. Edison has been most careful upon. Mr. Edison has been most careful upon.

Difficulties Mechanical

"The troubles in the battery that I have been trying to remedy," he concluded, "have been purely mechanical. They have been greatly due to the wearing of the plates. Of course, the old lead batteries were out of the question for use in machines. I overcame this when I first invented my storage battery that did away with lead and acid. The life of a lead battery was only about eight months when its weight was diminished to put it into a machine. Its strength of current disappeared."

Mr. Edison has already planned a big new building in which the new battery will be made. The structure will be 60 feet long, and there will be about 100,000 cells. The building will be opposite his present laboratory.

A Kansas City young man had an unusual but excellent reason for complaining when he was impounded for jury duty. He was waiting in the hall outside the court, a young man looking over the problem of how he was to be excused. He looked so dejected that finally another juror asked him what was wrong.

"Why, I'm summoned here on the jury," was the reply, "and I don't see how I can possibly serve."

"You got an engagement to take a young lady riding the afternoon, and if I don't drop it she'll never look at me again. Hang it!"

But the young man was kept on the jury panel.

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A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND How Hundreds of Children Are Made Happy in Pittsburgh

The Work is Carried On by the Young Women's Christian Association and Has Done a Vast Amount of Good.

(Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.)

The Lawrenceville vacation playground conducted by the Lawrenceville branch of the Young Women's Christian Association is the most popular spot in that section of the city for children. Over 100 boys and girls ranging in age from 1 to 16 years are cared for and entertained by the women in charge every day and almost every night.

This playground is in the rear of the association building at No. 281 Fortieth street, and is about an acre in extent. It has been fitted up with swings, sand gardens, tennis courts and other devices for the amusement of children. The average daily attendance during June and July was 180. During July 3,000 little ones were entertained. The total enrollment is 800 and it is growing. This playground work, which was taken up by the Young Women's Christian Association two years ago, has developed rapidly. From one small sand pile it has grown to a complete summer playground in one year, and arrangements are being made by the board of directors to enlarge it still further next summer.

Last year the association furnished a pile of sand for the little ones at Lawrenceville to play in, and about 25 children were to be found there daily. At that time vacation school was being conducted in the Fortieth street school and a majority of the children in that district attended the playground there. This year, however, the Fortieth street school building is not being used, and the work was transferred to Shoenberger's Park in the Eighteenth ward. This left Lawrenceville without a vacation playground and the Young Women's Christian Association decided to establish one.

Funds were solicited from members of the association and the response was so liberal that arrangements were made to care for a large number of children. The work was begun June 4, and by the end of the month all the apparatus had been installed. Twelve swings of different styles were erected, sand gardens laid out, hammocks were swung and several scenes were built. A place was provided for pitching quoits, two tennis courts were laid out, and many baby baskets were secured for the infant members.

A feature of nature study work is a small garden which was planted during the early summer for the purpose of giving the children practical instruction in the growth of vegetables. The garden contains beans, peas and corn and their growth is being watched daily by the interested children. Aside from the little nature study, the playground is devoid of the educational features of the regular vacation school, as no provisions were made for that work. Next year the association members hope to see that carried on, however, and arrangements are being

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TEMPTING DISHES AND WAYS OF SERVING THEM
(Continued from Page 9.)

made by the board of directors to that end. Several assistants likely will be secured and it will be made a feature. Owing to the large number of children in charge regularly have really more than they can do, and if it was not for the assistance of volunteers many of the children could not be cared for properly at all times. When the grounds were opened this year, it was thought that only a few would attend, and provisions were not made for the large number that are present every day.

Several forms of entertainments have been provided for the children. Among them is the blowing of soap bubbles which is a favorite pastime with the little ones. They also are fond of knitting watch chains with colored yarns on knitting spools. The boys seem to like the latter amusement as well as the girls. The swings are filled at all times, as are the hammocks. Several of these swings were built expressly for the use of small children, who are cared for by their older sisters. These "little mothers" bring the babies to the playground, and care for them in the shade during the summer hours. When the infant gets sleepy, it is placed in a baby basket, and the older sister spends the rest of her time in play with the children. They have been taught several juvenile games which are accompanied by music, and much time is spent each day with that pastime. The seesaws, which are erected on trusses, and placed so firmly that accidents are impossible, are very popular. Six of them are kept busy nearly all day, and more may be added later. A few of the older girls play tennis, but the greater portion are content with simpler amusements.

The children are required to assist in keeping up the appearance of the playground, and every night before going home, must clean it up. They also scrub off the back porch and walks which they are permitted to use and when they go home, all traces of their play have disappeared.

At night the mothers and grandmothers with the little ones, come to sit in the grounds and watch the children enjoy themselves. The older ones seem to enjoy it as much as the children, and the association members use the tennis courts during the night, and many mothers are attracted there to watch the games. Next summer, arrangements may be made to entertain the older ones in a better manner than at present, but no conclusion has been reached in that regard.

The playground will be kept open until the end of September. During the last month only afternoon sessions will be held, as the public schools are open during the mornings. The grounds are opened at 9 o'clock in the morning and kept open all day, with the exception of an hour at noon. The children usually are sent home about 5 o'clock, but many remain until 7 and stay until the shades of night have fallen. Mrs. Seifer has a novel way of sending their home at closing hours. They do not like to be ordered out of the grounds, and the secretary hit upon

a plan that has proved effective and is liked by the children. She tells one and all that they are birds, and, after a minute's play, she clears the grounds by "shooting" them out of the gate. This method of ejecting them causes no offense. The association members are more than pleased with the work that is being done this year on the playground. The burdens of many tired mothers have been lightened, while many rays of sunshine have been caused to enter into the lives of the little ones.

"What a comfort the exchange system is," exclaimed one woman shopper to a friend she met in the elevator of a big department store. "Yesterday I bought a hat which I didn't like after I got it home, so today I brought it back and got three pounds of butter and a mousetrap for it."—New York Sun.

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