

Edison

In celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Illuminating Engineering Society, we are honored to night by the presence of the man, who has done more than anybody else to make the art and science of illuminating engineering.

When our ancestor, the primordial ape, first discovered and used the fire, illuminating engineering was born, and progressed from the camp-fire and the torch, to the candle, the oil lamp and kerosene lamp, until finally in gas - still now the only competitor of electricity - an efficiency was reached, making general illumination possible, such as the lighting of streets of the cities.

But all these illuminants, including even the arc lamp, can be used only in one position, usually the upright one, and require free space above, for the escape of heat and gases, and thus can not be located at or near the ceiling, where the lights belong, for in nature, all light^s comes from above, the sun and the moon.

It was Edison, who gave us the incandescent lamp, the only illuminant, which can be placed in any position, upside down or right side up, located at the ceiling or in corners or anywhere, in short, which possesses the complete flexibility in location and in sizes, which made illuminating

engineering possible, by giving the engineer unrestricted control of the location of the lights. Therefore I say to you, it was Edison, who created modern illumination, who made it possible to convert night into day and extend the hours of daylight, by giving us the incandescent lamp.

This is an age of intellectual giants, who have created modern civilization almost within one generation.

Still within the memory of our generation, the steam ship, the locomotive and the telegraph were recent discoveries; the telephone, electric light, electric power, the conquest of the air and the wireless ether unknown in the womb of future.

Within one generation man has annihilated the limitation of time and space: we have seen the telephone carry the human voice across city and country, and now talk over the copper wire across continents, where at the beginning of our generation no road or trail led through the wilderness.

From water-fall and steam turbine station, electricity brings us the power to do the world's work in home and industry and to merge night into day.

The trolley car is revolutionizing the social conditions, by bringing the advantages of the city to the country dweller, and opening the country as place of residence to the city worker.

The air has been conquered, and higher than the eagle, faster than the albatross, and more enduring than the carrier pigeon, the aeroplane and the dirigible carries man.

There is no place on earth, whether on the storm tossed ocean, or the Arctic ice or the beleaguered fortress, whence lightning does not carry the wireless message across space.

We are studying the chemistry of worlds, which even light, traveling hundred thousands of miles in a second, requires centuries to reach, and observe objects so small, that the most powerful microscope fails to show them.

In the wireless telephone, we have thrown the human voice through empty space across oceans and continents, and in the phonograph, have flung the

human voice across the ages of time, so that still unborn generations will hear the word and counsel, listen to the living voice of the generations of the past.

It is with the greatest pleasure, that I greet in our midst, as a member of our Society, the greatest of these giants, who have made the modern world, the genius-Edison.

Charles P. Steinmetz.

CPS-SW
Schenectady, N.Y.
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