

TOM EDISON.

He Still Has Faith in Himself—His Plans for Lighting New York.

From the Philadelphia Record.

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Mr. Edison says: "My experiments have been crowned with perfect success, and the commercial value of the electric light for illuminating either streets or dwellings is established beyond question." The difficulty at first experienced in the breaking of the lamps, caused by the expansion of the wires, has nearly, if not entirely, been overcome. In his laboratory are lamps which have been burning constantly for upward of a month without the least sign of interruption of any kind, and he says that he sees no reason why they should not continue in their present perfect condition *ad infinitum*. Beside twenty lamps used for lighting the streets at Menlo park, every night there are sixty lamps placed in different houses, which furnish the only light at night for illuminating the residences.

Mr. Edison is now preparing the ground for laying the foundation for three new buildings in connection with those now in use. One of these will contain dynamos for lighting the park, his intentions, being to erect, as soon as possible, 700 additional lamps in the park. Another building, 25 by 100 feet and two stories in height, will be devoted to the manufacture of his lamps. The third building will be con-

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carbons and lamps are the only articles in connection with the electric light which will be manufactured at Menlo Park; the dynamos will be made in Newark.

Mr. Edison has already taken steps toward establishing central stations in New York city, and has perfected his plans for districting the city, each district containing from twenty-five to thirty stations. Each station will be supplied with five Holly engines of from 250 to 300 horse power. Four of these engines will be in constant use, the fifth to be reserved for use in the event of an accident to any of the others. Each station will occupy a space of 50 by 100 feet. His canvassers in that vicinity of New York known as Newspaper Row, fronting the city hall, have nearly completed their work of ascertaining the number of burners in each building in the proposed station, the number of hours that gas is used, and the amount consumed.

"It is astonishing," observed Edison, with a significant smile, "with what cheerfulness the people give the information desired, and how ready they are to extend every courtesy to our canvassers when it is ascertained what they want the information for. I guess there are a great many people in Philadelphia who feel the same way toward your Gas Trust."

It is the purpose of the Electric Light Company to sell the franchises of large cities absolutely. In reply to the inquiry: "Do you know how much capital will be required to put a station into practical operation?" Mr. Edison answered, "Yes, I know to a fraction, but I am not at liberty to state the figures. I will say this, however, that it will cost four times less than it would to furnish the same illumina-

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original inventor of the generator, but generators are like sewing machines—they are of many different kinds. My machine will afford 40 per cent more of electricity than any other machine ever made. What I mean is, the amount of electricity you actually get into the lamps."

In response to the inquiry as to the date when he would be able to open his first central station in New York, Mr. Edison said he could not fix a definite time. His lamp, he claims, is perfected, but before starting with it in New York, he will test an entire station, by constructing at Menlo Park a fac simile of the first station to be opened in New York. So careful is he in his experiments that the measurement of every belt, the distances between pulleys, the elevation of machinery and every minute detail connected with his electric lights will first be tested at Menlo Park, and then removed to New York and placed in exactly the same positions there.

Taking down a book containing over 300 pages, Mr. Edison remarked: "There is a book on the use of belting, in which are the opinions of over one hundred master mechanics, and no two of them are alike. What am I to do? Why, I must find out for myself before I run the risk of putting up my apparatus in New York. In less than a year we will have the electric light in successful operation in New York, and when we are once under headway we will wipe your Gas Trust out of existence."

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