

# EDISON CAR SUCCEEDS IN TEST

## Railway Men Pleased After a Long Trip Up First Avenue.

The Beach battery car, equipped with the Edison storage batteries, which is offered to solve the problem of relieving the rush hours and to supplant horse cars without compelling the construction of expensive underground circuit, was tested yesterday by officials of the Central Park, North and East River Railroad Company.

Officials and invited guests were passengers on the trip, which began from the car barn at Fifty-fourth Street and Tenth Avenue, and continued north to Fifty-ninth Street. The car then crossed on Fifty-ninth Street to First Avenue and continued north to 125th Street. The route was retraced to the starting point.

R. H. Beach of 10 Fifth Avenue demonstrated the car. Mr. Beach is connected with the Edison Company and is the constructor of the new car. When Mr. Edison was convinced that the batteries would be successful he asked Mr. Beach to devise a car. It took Mr. Beach two years to work out the details of the new car.

The car, which was built in the Edison works, weighs only about one-half as much as the large new cars used on the main lines in the city. As a result, the power consumption of the new car, it is asserted, is only about one-half that of the larger cars. The batteries can be charged in the maximum time of seven hours, and the car has then sufficient energy to run 100 miles, or an ordinary day's run of a city trolley car, it is stated.

Among those who made the trial trip were James A. McDonald, President of the line; A. J. Hemphill, President of the Guarantee Trust Company, who is also Vice President of the line; George L. Lynch, General Manager, and ex-Senator Clark of Montana. All of them seemed highly pleased with the performance of the car. The ride went smoothly and without the least trouble. The steep hill on First Avenue, south of Ninetieth Street, was taken without the least difficulty, and whenever the track ahead was clear the car developed a speed equal to that of any other electric car.

Vice President Hemphill said he was very much pleased with the car. He said that the company would make tests under all possible weather conditions in the course of the next month, and if the car gives the satisfaction promised it will replace the horse cars owned by the Central Park, North & East River Railway Company.

General Manager Lynch, who had tested the car on a previous occasion, said that some minor improvements would be necessary, but that the problem of a storage battery car was solved. The Edison Company, he said, was prepared to deliver cars within ninety days after an order, and if the company should decide for the new car the horse cars under its control would disappear from the city within the next four months.

Mr. Beach said that Mr. Edison had no interest in the car beyond the fact that his new storage battery was being used. A company was about to be formed which would make the new cars.

## CAUGHT BY EX-GENDARME.

### Imposato's Ruse Fooled Blackhanders Who Threatened His Friend.

The cleverness of a former gendarme of Italy last night resulted in the arrest of two Italians, who, the police charge, extorted \$500 from Joseph Ferraro, a rich Italian, living at 63 Central Avenue, Brooklyn, threatening the lives of him and members of his family.

In all seven letters were received by Ferraro. Here is one of them:

Your house will be blown up and your business and friends destroyed. Maybe we will first of all carry off your daughter, and then you and your wife and family will be killed. That is unless you pay us \$500 at once. Do not tell the police or anybody—but bring the money to a house in Liberty Avenue, East New York, where our men will meet you. Do not fail us or everybody you love will die—you first.

Ferraro noticed suspicious-looking Italians hanging around near his home day and night. His wife was prostrated with fear, and fled to the home of a friend, taking her daughter with her. Ferraro confided in only one man, and that was his closest friend, Anthony Inposato of 664 Liberty Avenue, East New York. Inposato was formerly a gendarme in Italy. He advised Ferraro to meet the agents at a house a few doors from Inposato's home.

The agents were there, and a twenty-dollar bill was passed to them by Ferraro, who begged for further time to pay the balance of \$480. The men agreed, and then the ex-gendarme proposed that all drink to the health of the Black Hand Society. He led the way into his home, a few doors away, and, getting out a decanter of Italian wine, again proposed the toast to the Black Hand. As the visitors raised their glasses the former gendarme, watching closely for his opportunity, pulled a revolver from one of his overcoat pockets.

He ordered the men to throw up their hands and back up against the wall. They were taken completely by surprise and made no resistance. Inposato then turned his prisoners over to the police. The prisoners said they were Gaspar Ciaravina of 259 Sackman Street and Vincent Biella of Powell and Pacific Streets.