

SUBMARINE BATTERY IS NEW, EDISON SAYS

Inventor Replies to Critics at Illuminating Companies' Convention.

MCCARTER RAPS PRESIDENT

Head of Jersey Service Corporation Assails Foreign Policy and Utility Commissions.

Special to The New York Times.

SPRING LAKE, N. J., Sept. 15.—Replying to criticisms on his new submarine battery, made by delegates to the thirty-sixth annual convention of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, Thomas A. Edison said tonight:

"I have a new submarine battery and I have just delivered the first one over to the United States Navy."

Then Mr. Edison went over to the New Monmouth Hotel to hear addresses by Frank A. Vanderlip, President of the National City Bank of New York, and Thomas N. McCarter of Newark, President of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey.

Mr. McCarter, on the platform, delivered an attack on the foreign policy of the Administration and on American bankers promoting war loans; a prayer for early delivery of the people from regulation of public utility companies by national and State commission, and a plea for general support of a broad national defense policy. Mr. Vanderlip talked on the nation's financial situation.

McCarter Talks of Foreign Loans.

"I hold no brief for either side in this great European controversy," said Mr. McCarter. "I believe it to be for the ultimate peace and happiness of the world that militarism in its offensive name should be checked, and I know that our much vaunted civilization has been disgraced and set back one thousand years."

"I believe that this country should maintain an attitude of strict neutrality in law and in morals. I am unable, differing in this respect with a majority of my countrymen perhaps, to keep pace with the diplomacy that threatens a disruption of diplomatic relations with Germany—doubtless to be followed by a declaration of war by one party or other—because a certain small number of Americans, in defiance of expressed warning and thoughtless of their country's welfare, have insisted upon making use of the ships of belligerents, either as passengers or crew, in accordance with their strict rights in the premise according to the moss-covered principles of international law, which they invoke for their protection, while the same diplomacy permits American commerce, bound in good faith for neutral ports, to be held up and sent to prize courts by the acknowledged mistress of the seas, and while this country is engaged in a tremendous expansion in and speculation over the manufacture of munitions of war, deliverable to one side only, and while, to cap the climax, the great bankers of the country are now meeting with an official commission representing two of the great foreign nations for the express purpose of lending these nations a vast sum of money, with the proceeds of which this terrible conflict may be further carried on."

"If President Wilson was right upward of a year ago when he forbade the exportation of firearms into Mexico, because, as he said, the better practice of neutrality required it, then the present policy of permitting this to be done on the present wholesale scale must be wrong. If President Wilson was right last Fall in requesting American bankers not to make a foreign loan, then this present negotiation must be morally wrong to the extent that its proceeds are to be used for munitions of war. In so far as it is made in good faith for the restoration of a stable rate of exchange or to pay for a normal amount of foodstuffs and other American manufactures not munitions of war, it is, of course, legitimate."

Would Be Neutral or Take Sides.

"Of course, I want this country to be prosperous and its manufacturers to thrive, but not at the expense of

what is right and just. We have heard much in this country during the progress of the economic war, to which I have referred, about 'tainted money.' What shall we say of the wealth acquired by Americans in furnishing munitions of war so that this dreadful carnage may continue?"

"I believe in this country remaining absolutely neutral and in keeping out of this conflict as long as it can be done with self-respect, but if the overwhelming sentiment of the country as a moral issue is in favor of one side or the other, we then, in my judgment, should have the courage of our convictions and not continue to really participate in a most effective manner, protected by an assumed neutrality."

"But however all this may be, I think it is now clearly demonstrated that this country must forthwith prepare to defend itself against any likely hostile invasion by land or sea. The day has gone by when we can cheerfully assume that there will never be another war. It is to be hoped that Congress will promptly authorize a properly matured plan to so increase the navy and our coast and border defenses as to make a successful invasion practically impossible. Whatever the cost of such an undertaking may be, and it will not be small, it will, I am satisfied, be cheerfully borne by the American people."

Mr. McCarter then went to the subject of commission government of public utilities, and said:

"The restrictive regulation, as practiced by the Interstate Commerce Commission, has well-nigh brought the railroads of the country to the brink of disaster, and at the moment there is no relief in sight. I resent the treatment which that great industry is receiving, though personally I do not own a bond or share of stock of any steam railroad."

Protection from Jitneys.

"I assume that the history of the rate regulation movement in this country to date, not only as practiced by the Interstate Commerce Commission in regard to railroads and by State commissions in regard to public utility corporations, shows it to be, as practiced by the theorist, the demagogue, and the politician a most dangers menace to the companies involved and to the economic welfare of the communities they serve."

Then Mr. McCarter expressed the belief that companies should be protected from the "new factors" that spring up over night, such as, for example, in the electric railway business, the jitney competition.

CUPID PUTS WINK IN JAIL.

Glass-Eyed Man Accused of Seeking Another Wife by Mail.

The troubles of a wife-seeker who overlooked the fact that he was already married were detailed yesterday by Post Office Inspector Schaeffer when he arrested Charles E. Wink, an electrotyper employed at the Butterick printery. Wink, who has a glass eye, was charged with using the mails for unlawful purposes by posing as "Paul Alt," an electrician and wealthy wife-seeker. He gave his address as 245 West 145th Street, and, according to the postal authorities, he has been married five years and his wife works in a cigar factory.

Wink came to grief when he opened correspondence with "Marguerite," daughter of a letter carrier at Maysville, Chautauqua County, N. Y. She answered the "Alt" advertisement in Cupid's Columns and the letters she received in reply were traced by Post Office Inspector Schaeffer to Wink.

After his arrest Wink was questioned by Assistant United States District Attorney Edwin M. Stanton and it is alleged that he admitted that he had posed as "Alt," and explained that if a girl answering his advertisement proved to be a "stunner" he intended to divorce his wife and marry her.

The prisoner was locked up for the night in the Greenwich Street Police Station, and today he will be arraigned before United States Commissioner Houghton on the charge of violating Section 216 of the Federal Criminal Code.