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EAT LESS, LIVE LONG SAYS EDISON AT 73

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—They call him “The Old Man” out at the works in West Orange—everybody, from his chief executives down to the gatekeeper. But it's just the expression of their affection for him and hasn't anything to do with his age, even if Thomas A. Edison was 73 yesterday.

What's 73? He was up at 6 and down at the works by 8.30 eager to pitch into some chemical and metallurgical problems that he is working on determined to steal at least two or three hours for work out of the day of celebration which his family and associates had planned for him. He hadn't had a real birthday party for a long time. Yesterday made up for it.

There was a sort of informal reception in the main office shortly before noon, which was so informal that Mr. Edison answered an inquiry after his health by booting a hat which he held higher than his head, and there wasn't any one else about who could do as well. There was the parade past the office of the Edison employees, with Mr. and Mrs. Edison reviewing them; there was the luncheon with the Edison Pioneers—all early associates of the inventor—which lasted late into the afternoon, and last night there was a hall in his honor at the Orange Armory.

He stood on the steps outside the general office as the parade went by, and the girls who were in line pelted him with flowers. He caught most of them, and those that didn't Mrs. Edison standing at his side, placed on the brim of his hat. The men as they passed saluted or touched their hats.

All his children were with him but one, Theodore, who wired “73”, which in the Morse code means, “All good wishes” from Boston. Thomas A. Jr. was there, and Charles and Mrs. John E. Sloane, with the two latest Edisons, Thomas Edison Sloane and John Edison Sloane.

Mr. Edison posed patiently for the camera and movie men. He is habitually sober faced before the camera, and while a family group was being taken Mrs. Edison asked him, “Are you looking happy or sober dear?” And in honor of the occasion he allowed the smile that lights up his face whenever he talks to break through.

He talked cheerfully with the newspaper men, and told them that he didn't know but that he could better that mark of 85 that he set for himself five years ago on his sixty-eight birthday. “You see,” he said, “I take good care of this machine of mine. I don't eat more than a pound and a half of food on any day, and overeating is, I believe cutting down men's efficiency and the length of their days more than anything else today.”

“America is consuming three times as much food as she ought; better habits would lower the cost of living and raise men's capacity for work. The Germans ate too much, and I think that's one reason for their failure.”

Questioned as to what he is working on at the present time, Mr. Edison gave his usual answer: “Lots of irons in the fire and there's not much use talking about them until I know whether they are going to be any good or not. I'm working more on non-commercial problems now. The ether of space interests me I want to learn more about that.”

He said he was looking forward to the development of automatic machinery which would cut down the amount of monotonous labor now necessary in the world. That, he seemed to think, was the biggest thing ahead in the immediate future of invention.

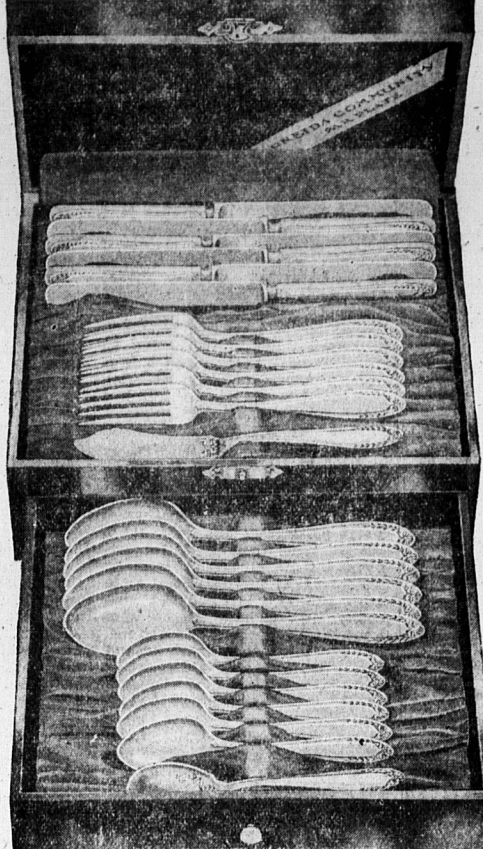
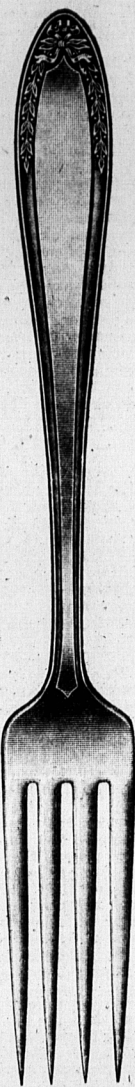
One of the reporters had commenced to quiz him on spiritualism and the future life. Mr. Edison hadn't committed himself any further than to say that immortality was “a 50-50 proposition when William H. Meadowcroft, his private secretary, came over and reminded him that there were to be no questions on spiritualism. “Well,” said Mr. Edison with a twinkle, “I haven't said anything, have I?”

There were bushels of congratulatory letters and telegrams. President Wilson wrote: “I cannot deny myself the pleasure of sending a message to be read at the celebration of Mr. Edison's seventy-third birthday. I am proud to count myself among the friends and admirers of Mr. Edison and beg that you will convey to him my warmest congratulations and my hope that he will see many very happy returns of the anniversary, marked by an increasing number of scientific triumphs.”

Secretary of the Navy Daniels telephoned from Washington that he was wearing the “73” button which 20,000 employees in the Edison industries throughout the country were wearing yesterday. There were telegrams from Governor Cox of Ohio, Mr. Edison's native State from Henry Ford, Charles M. Schwab and a host of others.

At 1.30 Mr. Edison and his family were the guests of the Edison Pioneers, John W. Lieb, vice president of the New York Edison company and retiring president of the association presided over by his custom the inventor would make no speech Mrs. Edison, however arose beside him and expressed appreciation of the tributes of the “pioneers.” The following new officers of the association were elected: Major William Hammer, of New York, president; Charles L. Edgar of Boston, Alfred W. Kiddle of New York, Samuel Insull of Chicago and Sidney Paine of Boston, vice presidents; R. T. Lozier, of New York, reelected secretary; F. A. Scheffler of New York re-elected treasurer and W. H. Meadowcroft reelected historian.

“How did Alice behave when her father discovered them eloping?” “She burst into tears.” “What did Jack do?” “Oh, he went all to pieces.” “Oh, he went all to pieces.” “And the old man?” “Why, he exploded with rage and blew them both up.”



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TWENTY-NINE DANGEROUS ANARCHISTS ARRESTED.

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 17.—Twenty-nine radicals, said by secret service agents to include the most dangerous terrorists in the United States, were captured early today by one hundred picked men of the United States Department of Justice in a dramatic raid on Red headquarters here. Thirty-two were sought, but three escaped the net.

The captives are said to include some members of the notorious L'Era Nuova group, whose creed is assassination and violence by individuals without waiting for mass action.

All official documents of the I. W. W. for the entire district east of Chicago were gathered in. The authorities say that their most important prisoner is Luigico M. Caminetta, editor of the Italian anarchist magazine “The Massacre.” Truckloads of inflammatory literature were seized in the library of Ferruno Gallo, said to have the most complete collection of anarchist literature in the United States.

Every anarchist captured in this raid federal agents asserted, are

not like the Russian workers or Communists. They are anarchists of the exact type, not philosophical anarchists such as the Ferrer Colony at Stelton, nor the so-called constructive anarchists, but these are “terrorists” to be compared with the nihilists of Russia. They are enemies to all government, whether it be so-called capitalist or communist.

The prisoners will be taken to Ellis Island to await deportation proceedings.

LABOR PARTY SCORED FOR GOING TOO FAR IN DEMANDS

FREDERICTON, N. B., Feb. 16.—At St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church, yesterday, very Rev. F. L. Carney, the pastor, expressed the opinion in the course of his sermon to the congregation at the morning masses that the labor organizations were going too far in their demand for advanced wages.

Reference to the matter was brought about by the recent intimation of demands for increased pay under a new scale to be effective on May first for the various branches of the building trades, the plumbers, carpenters and masons having been reported as de-

manding advanced wages after the date named.

Father Carney said that under prevailing conditions it would be impossible for a man to erect a

home at less than from \$5,000 to \$10,000 on account of the high wages demanded by the building trades. These homes, he said, would in a few years bring not

more than \$2,000, it was bound to be which the labor would be in a gross possible.

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Over Here



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