chancery, a post he retained for twenty-nine years. He died in Montclair at the age of eighty-seven.

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David W. Hirst

WALTER EVANS EDGE (November 20, 1873–October 29, 1956) enjoyed the unique distinction of serving as governor during both World War I and World II. Born in Philadelphia to William and Mary (Evans) Edge, Walter descended from a family resident in the Chester Valley since the eighteenth century. After his widowed father remarried in 1877, the boy moved with his family to Pleasantville, New Jersey, where his father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Edge spent his boyhood in the occupations of late nineteenth-century rural youth—fishing, hunting, limited schooling, and work. His autobiography, *A Jerseyman's Journal* (1948), recalls these years with the urban American's nostalgia for the Arcadian myth. Edge's formal education ended at the age of fourteen, when he completed the equivalent of eighth grade. He began his business career in Atlantic City, as "printer's devil" on the *Atlantic Review,* and when he was sixteen he found part-time employment with the Dorland Advertising Agency. Within two years he bought the agency and began a rapid approach to his goal of being independently wealthy.

In the best Horatio Alger tradition, Edge worked hard, and circumstances came to his aid. Most significant among them was Atlantic City's boomtown growth as a resort. He had grasped the potentialities of the development early and made himself and his business a part of the movement. In 1893 he established a social-notes paper, the *Atlantic City Daily Guest;* this proved so profitable that in 1895 it became a full-fledged newspaper, the *Atlantic City Daily Press.* His advertising agency, meanwhile, expanded to include general commercial advertising. By 1910 the Dorland agency, with offices in New York City, London, Berlin, Paris and other European cities, was grossing some $10 million annually. By the early years of the twentieth century Edge had established a financial independence in business enterprises that continued to support him comfortably over the next fifty years, while he engaged in public affairs.

Walter Edge married twice. By his first wife, Lady Lee Phillips, whom he wed on June 10, 1907, he had one son, Walter E. Jr. The first Mrs. Edge died in July, 1915. On December 9, 1922, he married Camilla Loyall Ashe Sewell of Bath, Maine. One son, Loyall, and two daughters, Camilla and Mary Esther, were born to this union. His second wife and his four children survived him.

Even while concentrating on his goal of early financial independence, Edge had always envisioned a career in politics and public service. In the early 1890s he had become active in the Atlantic City Republican party, and in January 1897 he had been appointed journal clerk of the senate as a reward for his newspaper's endorsement of the GOP candidates. From this undemanding position he observed the tactics of state politics and met its chief figures. With time out for service in the Spanish-American War, Edge

served three years in this post and an additional four as secretary of the state senate. He made an unsuccessful attempt in 1904 to gain the GOP state senate nomination from Atlantic County against the candidate of the local Republican organization. In 1909 he won election to the assembly. In the following year he gained the first of two terms in the senate.

Walter Edge's service in the legislature coincided with the climax of the reform movements of the early twentieth century. But Edge was not a reformer. Perhaps chastened by his unsuccessful opposition to the GOP organization in 1904, he carefully remained with the party leadership throughout the upheavals of the "New Idea" and progressivism, though he cooperated with the reformers when their measures appeared sure to triumph. During the Republican travail of 1912 Edge demonstrated his party regularity when he and his newspapers supported William Howard Taft for the presidency and stood strongly against the insurgent Bull Moose candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt. In the following year he won reelection to the state senate, and in 1915 he was chosen president of the senate. By this time he was well known throughout the state GOP and widely recognized as one of its leading lights.

Although the "Sand Dune Senator," as Edge was sometimes called, was not a reformer, he was not a reactionary either. He supported some significant social legislation. Appointed in 1910 as an assembly representative on a commission to develop an employer's liability law, he worked diligently through the summer of that year examining American statutes and judicial decisions and going to Europe to study developments in the compensation field. As a freshman senator in 1911, he sponsored the commission's bill in the upper house and won Woodrow Wilson's acceptance of it. The measure became an early example of successful legislation on employer's liability. He pushed also for a ten-hour day for women and a measure to protect factory workers against industrial hazards. Edge developed a reputation for concern with the economy and the efficiency of state operations. As chairman of a joint legislative commission he was instrumental in shaping measures to reduce the number of boards and commissions conducting state business and to provide a rational organization of the whole. He introduced and steered to passage a budget bill to make the governor the responsible fiscal head of the state and a measure to create a central purchasing bureau to economize by bulk purchase.

On January 21, 1916, Edge announced his candidacy for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Well known because of his prominent legislative service, he counted on his business success to win popular confidence and on his long record of party regularity to gain the endorsement of the state and county GOP leadership. In a three-way primary he defeated—by a mere three thousand votes—Austen Colgate of the Colgate Soap Company and George L. Record, prominent reform spokesman. Had Record not been in contention Edge might have lost. Since Edge was the most conservative of the three, most of Record's twenty-nine thousand votes would probably have gone to Colgate.

In the last summer before the United States entered World War I the New Jersey Democracy chose H. Otto Wittpenn as its gubernatorial candidate. A prominent Wilson supporter and former mayor of Jersey City, Wittpenn, with his close ties to the German-American community, would supposedly offset any defections resulting from the international situation. The strategy probably would have worked if the New Jersey Democrats had not been so divided between Wilson and anti-Wilson factions that they failed to develop an effective campaign or issues. The Republicans, on the other hand, had for the first time in four years a truly united party, and Edge developed early a campaign slogan and image: "A Business Man with a Business Plan." The GOP platform promised speedy revision of corporation and election laws and ef-

fective and efficient government with the governor as "the business manager, the legislature as the board of directors, and the people as the stockholders." The vigorous campaigning of Edge and the entire GOP organization returned New Jersey to its normal place in the Republican column; Edge's margin over Wittpenn was a convincing 69,647.

In his first message to the legislature, in January 1917, Edge spelled out his conception of gubernatorial leadership and emphasized the need to consolidate state boards and agencies, to improve civil service by the standardization of duties and compensation, and to find solutions to the administrative and fiscal problems of state institutions—penal, custodial and rehabilitative. He also proposed a close examination of the impact of the "Seven Sisters"—the Wilson-era corporation reform laws—on state finances, greater home rule for municipalities, an increased franchise tax on public utilities corporations and a complete reorganization of the state board to provide for comprehensive road development. By an effective combination of cajolery, armtwisting and patronage, Edge achieved most of his program.

The legislature of 1917 enacted Edge's franchise tax on public utilities corporations, allowed greater home rule for cities, and authorized consolidation of state boards. It also created special commissions to examine the problems of civil service reform, corporation law reform and the problems of state institutions; the reports of those commissions led to significant improvements in the state institutions, especially the prisons, and to the emasculation of the Wilsonian corporation laws. The 1917 legislature also granted the governor his desired reorganization of the road department. To direct the new department and to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive system of roads, Edge secured General George W. Goethals of Panama Canal fame as state engineer. As part of the overall plan, Edge successfully initiated construction of the Holland Tunnel, connecting Jersey City and New York City, and of the Delaware River Bridge (now the Benjamin Franklin Bridge), spanning the Delaware from Camden to Philadelphia. Although completion of these projects came well after his term, Edge secured the preliminary legislation. He also figured prominently in the bistate negotiations that led to the establishment of the Port of New York Authority. In addition, during his term he won improvements in the workmen's compensation law and in public health education, and he pushed for the creation of a state police force to provide adequate protection to rural and developing suburban areas.

The 1917 state legislature adjourned two weeks before the United States entered World War I, but the ominous shadow of war had led it to delegate emergency authority to the governor in advance. Late in March, after conferences with the war department, Edge set in motion the acquisition of the area which became Camp Dix. The New Jersey Committee of Public Safety, composed of municipal executives, was formed to coordinate action throughout the state in emergencies. National Guard units were recruited to full strength, a state militia was created to replace the National Guard, and a system of recruiting high school youths to work on farms was initiated. In his last annual message to the legislature in 1919 Edge addressed the problems of the returning veteran. He urged the state to inaugurate a transitional program of public works and road building to take up the employment slack created by the conversion to a peacetime economy, retrain and rehabilitate disabled veterans through a special program in the public schools, and establish a public health program to combat the venereal disease that had become alarmingly evident during the war. Little came of these plans, however, since the governor based them on the assumption that the federal government would be equally provident and would cooperate with the states.

By the time Edge presented his postwar

program to the legislature, he had already won election to the United States Senate in the 1918 GOP landslide. He continued as governor until May 1919, when he resigned to attend the special session of Congress dealing with the peace settlement. Though active in the Senate, Edge was not among its leaders. In November 1929, as his second term drew to a close, President Herbert C. Hoover appointed him to the post of ambassador to France, which he held until March 1933.

For the following decade Edge enjoyed a life of retirement at his homes here and abroad and served as an elder statesman of the Jersey GOP. With the outbreak of World War II he was anxious to return to some form of public service. In 1943 the state Republican organization was desperately divided and had long been out of power. Edge agreed to run for governor on condition that nobody oppose him in the primary and that the party maintain strong discipline. Other potential candidates were persuaded to withdraw, and Edge was nominated.

The Democrats ran Vincent J. Murphy, the state leader of the American Federation of Labor and the mayor of Newark. Edge, telling the voters they must choose between the program of the GOP and the domination of "labor leaders, communists and Hagueism," hammered on the theme of the power of Hudson County boss Frank Hague. On the positive side, he proposed streamlining state government and planning early to meet postwar problems, and he strongly supported the referendum Governor Charles Edison had initiated for a new state constitution. The voters chose Edge by 127,000 votes and constitutional revision by over 150,000.

Assuming office early in his seventy-first year, Edge ensured party discipline in the legislature by withholding patronage appointments until the end of the session. In the interim between his election and inauguration he set in motion the drafting of measures to fulfill his program. A liberalized servicemen's voting law supplemented the emergency wartime legislation already in effect. But Edge concentrated on measures to secure the modernization of state government and to ensure successful dealing with anticipated postwar problems. In his mind they were closely linked, for only by improving the structure of government could the state solve the problems.

First Edge attended to constitutional revision. On January 24, 1944, he submitted to the legislature a new document drafted by thirty Republican legislators, and it was approved within six weeks. It extended the governor's term to four years and amplified his powers to make him a "strong" executive, increased legislative terms to four years in the senate and two in the assembly, reorganized the judiciary, and provided for one state budget to deal with all receipts and expenditures.

Although the proposed constitution met the demands of most proponents of revision, it was politically vulnerable. Drafted by Republicans only, and passed only because Republicans controlled the legislature, it was not assured of ratification by the voters. It was also involved in the battle against Frank Hague, who stood to lose much patronage if the judiciary was reorganized. During 1944 Hague and Edge engaged in a running battle. First they fought over the allocation of $15 million in railroad taxes, which Hague eventually won for the cities where the taxed property was located. Edge won a round by obtaining legislation that required the use of voting machines in Hudson County and reduced the chance of electoral flimflam. But Hague took top honors when, a few weeks before the elections, he launched a multi-pronged attack on the new constitution. Charging that it would limit organized labor's activities, inhibit the opportunity for the advancement of returning veterans, and subject all church property to taxation, he engineered its defeat at the polls by 126,000 votes.

Despite defeat on the constitution in 1944, Edge achieved much of his program. He consolidated a number of state boards and commissions, set up a Taxa-

tion and Finance Department to handle all fiscal matters, and obtained some support for civil service reform. He also created an Economic Development Department to deal with postwar planning and began to accumulate a fund—initially $25 million—for state support of efforts to insure an orderly postwar conversion. He obtained legislation that created a state insurance program to guarantee loans to veterans who wished to establish themselves in business or in the professions, an antecedent to the G.I. Bill. After the defeat of constitutional revision, Edge sought to accomplish some of the reorganization through legislation and continued to pressure for a new revision of the constitution. In addition, in 1945 he obtained remedial legislation to improve the living conditions of migrant workers and a series of seven measures to ban racial or religious discrimination in employment, schools, hotels and elsewhere, and he sought legislation to prevent strikes in public utilities.

During Edge's last year in office problems connected with reconversion to a peacetime economy came to the fore. Demobilization brought housing shortages and unemployment. State planning agencies could give some help. Federal involvement sometimes obstructed progress. For example, although Edge complained bitterly that the federal government was using only small portions of Camp Kilmer and Camp Dix, the government refused to consolidate its activities to make housing space available. In addition to these problems, a wave of strikes led to bitter political battles and occasional street confrontations. Edge effectively used the principal state agency, the State Board of Mediation, to end most of the strikes without lengthy disruptions. But like all his contemporaries, he failed to find any effective means to preserve public services in disputes between capital and labor, especially in such instances as the Public Service gasworks strike of 1946.

As his term drew to a close in 1946, Edge had sufficient control of the state Republican organization to insure the nomination of Alfred E. Driscoll as his successor. In the election of 1946 the Republicans won easily. After his term, Edge continued actively supporting constitutional reform until the constitution of 1947 was adopted. Remaining thereafter an elder statesman of the party, he took little active part in politics. After his death in 1956 he willed Morven—the Stockton family residence, which he had purchased—to the state as an official residence for the governors.

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Joseph F. Mahoney

EDWARD IRVING EDWARDS (December 1, 1863–January 26, 1931), a distinguished public servant, was born in Jersey City, to William W. and Emma J. (Nation) Edwards. He attended the Jersey City public schools, went to New York University from 1880 to 1882, and studied law in the office of his brother, William D. Edwards, former state senator from Hudson County. On November 14, 1888, he married Blanche Smith; during their forty-year marriage, the Edwardses had two children, Edward Irving and Elizabeth Jule.

A businessman and bank president, Edwards rose to political prominence in his native Jersey City and soon attracted the attention of the Hudson County Dem-