

1890

Timeline of Bangor Hydro Electric Company Activities from 1887 to 1890

Bangor Hydro Electric Company

Bangor Daily Commercial

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HISTORICAL NOTES COVERING THE YEARS

1887 - 1888 - 1889 - 1890

TAKEN FROM THE COLUMNS OF THE BANGOR DAILY COMMERCIAL

February 26, 1887

The incandescent lights are soon to be run all night, instead of being turned off at midnight. This will greatly be appreciated by the Company's patrons.

March 4, 1887

It looks as though the capacity of the incandescent dynamo at the Electric Light Station was to be seriously tested. It is good for about 315 lights and this number is being rapidly approached. There is room for another dynamo in the station, and it will undoubtedly be put in.

March 18, 1887

A new incandescent dynamo is to be put in the Electric Light Station at once to accommodate the rapidly increasing business.

April 7, 1887

The new dynamo arrived today.

April 11, 1887

The incandescent lights about town are being changed from sixteen candle power to twenty candle power. They will be run from the new dynamo tonight.

May 10, 1887

The Electric Light Company are stringing a wire to the residence of Dr. Healley on Harlow Street. It will be used to run the first electric motor installed in this City.

May 13, 1887

Mr. F. S. Palmer of the electric light station is receiving many inquiries concerning electric motors to be introduced here. Mr. Palmer is to put in a 1 HP motor in the printing office of James Mooney & Co., next week. This is a very good place to display its working.

May 17, 1887

The electric arc lamps which have been used for street lighting here so long, are to be replaced by double carbon lamps. These lamps will burn all night with one trimming.

May 19, 1887

The new double street lights were tried for the first time last night and worked perfectly. They are very brilliant and give great satisfaction.

May 23, 1887

All of the old street lamps have been removed, and the new type installed except in front of G. W. Merrill & Company's store, where a bird built its nest in the fixture in such a way that it cannot be taken down without destroying the next. The linemen have therefore decided to let it remain until the eggs are hatched.

August 19, 1887

A new electric motor was received by the Bangor Electric Light & Power Company yesterday, and it can be seen in operation at the Station. This motor is of one horse-power. It will cost the purchaser \$200 with a charge for current consumed besides.

August 25, 1887

The electric motor was given a trial last evening at B. A. Burrs printing office, before quite a number who are interested in its working.

Sept. 11, 1887

The demand for incandescent lights has caused the purchase of a new engine and dynamo for the electric light station. The engine will be of 115 horse-power and will be the largest in the station. It will supply the demand for some time to come.

1888

Jan. 21

The incandescent light system in this City now has three wires, the introduction of the middle wire doubling the conducting power of the two outside ones and allowing the dynamos to be coupled. Therefore every incandescent light among the 700 now in use represents the combined effect of two dynamos and is made stronger by such an arrangement. Mr. T. J. Brown of the Thomson-Houston Company who has been here introducing the system left for home yesterday.

The Bangor Electric Light & Power Company is in a very flourishing condition. A 6% dividend was declared at the annual meeting held on the 19th of January.

July 31

The extension of the electric light is already to receive the new dynamo that will run the street railway. The machine will be in place by the time the railway is ready for power.

March 11 - 1889

The Bangor Electric Light & Power Company now talk quite seriously of removing their entire plant to Veazie early this Spring, and there to run by water power in the future. The saving they claim would be very great as the power to be used is now running to waste at the Veazie Mills. It would, of course, take longer wire to bring the current such a long distance, but the difference in the cost would not be so very great after all. The railway is to be started this spring, and as there will be a falling off in the number of lights after the City starts the Municipal Lighting Plant, the Company feels like reducing the outlay at its present very expensive plant. It is quite probable that the move will be made. It is proposed to erect a wooden building at Veazie to hold the plant and also to put in an engine to run the plant at any time when water cannot be employed.

March 20, 1889

The large new dynamo to be placed in the Cross Street Electric Light Station for the use of the electric railway, arrived yesterday and was hauled to the station today. It will be set up and ready for business at once. The dynamo is very large and peculiarly shaped one, 62 kilowatt capacity made by the Thomson-Houston Company. Hon. F. M. Laughton is now in Boston making arrangements for the electric railway. It is now said that the cars will be in operation by the very first of April.

April 3, 1889

The engine which is to run the railway dynamo was shipped from Boston Monday and is expected here today. It will be set up as soon as possible. Men are expected today to put the cars together at the car house. The frost is throwing the track out of position in some places but it will soon be settled again.

April 5, 1889

The large new engine for the electric railway has arrived and was hauled to the Cross Street station today.

April 9, 1889

There is now said to be no doubt but that the Bangor Electric Light & Power Company will remove its entire plant to Veazie at an early date in order to lessen the expense of operation. There are various indications which point in this direction. The engine just arrived to run the railway dynamo is an old one and has been leased for the time it is expected to be in use here. At Veazie it is expected there will be a great quantity of power for all station purposes and it will be cheaper than that now in use. The price of electric lighting will be greatly reduced no doubt when the move is made.

July 13, 1889

A crew of 25 men and 6 horses is now engaged upon the excavation for the new Electric Station which the Bangor Electric Light & Power Company is putting in at Veazie. As soon as the excavation work is done and the foundation built the building will be quickly erected and the change of machinery from Bangor to Veazie will take place.

Sept. 19, 1889

Progress on the excavation at Veazie for the new power station is slow as it is largely rock work requiring much blasting.

Oct. 11, 1889

The poles for the new transmission line that will bring current from Veazie to Bangor are all set up and Mt. Hope Avenue has now quite a metropolitan appearance. The poles have four cross bars accommodating 16 wires and it is intended to put up that number.

Oct. 30, 1889

A line of wire is to be run to Veazie and arc lamps will be installed in the excavation for the new station, to enable work to be carried on night and day.

Nov. 26, 1889

Six 48 inch water-wheels for the new power plant at Veazie are done and will be shipped the latter part of this week from the shops of P. C. Holmes Co., at Gardiner. One of the castings for these wheels weigh 3500 pounds and is the largest single casting ever made in Maine.

Dec. 4, 1889

Another carload of machinery is on the way for Veazie power station. The men are at work night and day on the foundations.

Dec. 11, 1889

Owing to the flooding by high water and filling up of the excavation by anchor ice, work has been suspended at Veazie. Dynamite has been freely used to free the River of ice but without avail.

Jan. 1890

The water-wheels for the power station at Veazie are well along in the shop of the P. C. Holmes Co., at Gardiner.

Feb. 16, 1890

The blasting for the great pit at Veazie Power Station which has been in progress for so many months has at last been finished. The masonry at the station is now well along and a few weeks more will greatly change the appearance of the place.

Feb. 27, 1890

The Old Town Electric Company started its dynamo last night (Feb. 26) Westinghouse make.

Mar. 25, 1890

The Old Town Electric Company has put four arc lamps in the Old Town streets as a demonstration. They were first lighted on March 23d. The town will vote on a contract later.

April 12, 1890

A contract has been signed by Old Town to take 16 arc lamps for \$1000 per year.

April 28, 1890

Work has just commenced on the building of the electric plant at Veazie. The building will be of brick and one million bricks will be required. It is expected that in a month power will be had from this source to run the cars in Bangor. The building is 250 feet long and will contain the latest type of electrical machinery.

May 3, 1890

The Bangor Electric Light & Power Company commenced work last June on its power plant at Veazie, and an immense amount of work has been done. The excavation is 240' x 140' and from 7' to 12' deep partly in solid ledge. The foundations consist of 2000 cubic yards of masonry. Six 48-inch Holmes turbines are to be installed at once. These are of 100 HP each and eventually 15 such are to be installed. 110 men are at present at work. This is the largest electric station in New England when completed.

May 10, 1890

The electric wires carrying current to Brewer that are now strung across the Toll Bridge are to be changed. A tall pole will be erected on the end of Robert's dock on the Bangor side and one on top of the sand bank in Brewer.

June 10, 1890

High water has interfered with the work at Veazie but there are now 150 men at work.

June 30, 1890

Everything is looking finely at the new electric station at Veazie and in thirty days it is expected that the dynamos will be running and electricity will be coming over the wires to this City. Six wheels are already placed and a section of the station 100 ft. long is in process of erection to be done some time this week. The station at Veazie will be something pretty nice when completed.

July 19, 1890

President Laughton says that the new plant at Veazie will be ready to run sometime before the Eastern Maine State Fair and the Cottageville and Brewer lines will be doing business at that time. The station building is now nearing completion.

Aug. 15, 1890

PRICES (Ad of Bangor Electric Light & Power Co.)

Single arc lamp per year		\$90.00
1 Incandescent office light to 6 P. M.		6.00 per year
" " " " to 8 P. M.		.75 per mo.
" " " " to 10 P. M.		.80 per mo.
" " " " to 12 Midnight		1.00 per mo.
" " " " all night		1.50 per mo.
House Lighting per lamp hour on meter	1¢ (20¢K.W.)	
Construction & Renewal at consumer's expense		
Motors	1/8 to 1 HP	120.00 per year
	1 to 3 HP	100.00 per HP per year
	3 to 5 HP	75.00 per HP per year
Horsepower over 5 at special rates		
Special rates to Hotels, factories and other large users.		

August 20, 1890

The dynamos for the new station at Veazie are being placed in position. M. H. Rideout left here today to superintend the installation of the switchboard at Veazie.

Work on the Baptist Hill switch station is nearing completion. The lower floor will be used for the offices of the Company and will contain the switchboards and a testing room. There will be a second entrance from Park Street. The lighting switchboard is 24 ft. long and 8 ft. high. All the power from Veazie will be distributed from this center.

August 22, 1890

The main shaft at Veazie was placed today. Two railway dynamos and an alternator are due to arrive here Monday.

August 26, 1890

It is now thought that water will be turned on the six turbines at Veazie tomorrow and the machinery given a trial.

Sept. 4. 1890

At about one o'clock this morning the City cars were run from Veazie Power Station and everything proved to be all right. About the first of next week the generator from Cross Street will be moved to Veazie and then the whole system of lights and railway will be run from that point.

Sept. 8. 1890

Work commenced this morning putting up the feed wire from the distributing station on Baptist Hill, to connect with the trolley wire of the Cottageville line. It is the intention of the Company to run the Brewer and Cottageville lines by current from Veazie before shifting the generator from Cross Street. Thus the Main and State Street lines will be running on power from Cross St and the branches by Veazie power. If all works well the change will be made and all run from Veazie.

The Brewer City Council voted last night to take 13 arc street lights from the Bangor Electric Light & Power Company for the remainder of the municipal year.

Sept. 22. 1890

Two generator armatures arrived yesterday for Veazie Station and the current for Ohio Street and Brewer lines is once again coming from veazie.

Sept. 27. 1890

The arc light machines were started at Veazie last night and that place was lighted by electricity for the first time. Another arc machine will be installed for lighting Brewer. (T.H. * LD & MD Machines)