

Published Articles
of
Power Generation at
Upper Dock
Ossining, NY

The Republican
01.14.1888

Electric Lights at the Brandreth Works. The Brandreth Works are now lighted up early in the morning and at night with sixty electric lights, the Company having put in an electric plant, and it is one, which does not cause a flickering and sputtering light like some systems. This light is a great improvement over gas. Now is their pill making season and the Works are open early in the morning and late in the evening, so that the electric light is a great benefit to them, as well as a luxury. The Company got tired of waiting for somebody to put into the village an electric light plant, so they put it in themselves. A dozen places in Westchester County are lighted with electricity. Why don't our Gas Company do something in this line? They can do it cheaper than an outside company.

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The Democratic Register
2.06.1892

Going into the Electric Light Business. The newly organized Sing Sing Gas Manufacturing Company has petitioned the Board of Village Trustees for a franchise for twenty years for lighting the village, etc., with electricity. They will have both kinds – arc and incandescent. The matter is referred to the Gas and Water Committee, which will probably report at the next meeting.

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The Democratic Republican
8.25.1894

Sing Sing Electric Light Company. Thursday of this week Contractor Thos. McCormick commenced the erection on the Upper Dock of a power house for the Sing Sing Electric Light Company,

the company having leased the property for a number of years for that purpose. The structure will be in the form of two one-story buildings, side by side gable ends facing north and south, 90 feet long and 51 feet wide, 30 feet from peak to ground and 16 feet from bottom of truss to ground. Within will be two large rooms – one for the fire room and the other for the engines and dynamos. Beside, there will be an office, a work room and an oil room, and outside the main building ample coal bunkers, 25x50 feet. The building will be constructed of brick, twelve inch walls with iron truss and sheet iron roof. The roof inside will be covered with a non-condensing material; ventilation will be had from the cupolas, and in every respect the edifice will be fire proof. Two Babcox and Wilcox boilers, 240 horse power each, will furnish the steam to run the three engines and dynamos with which the plant will commence operations. There is room for four dynamos in the dynamo room, and the plant can be increased to six dynamos, when the business demands it, at a small expense.

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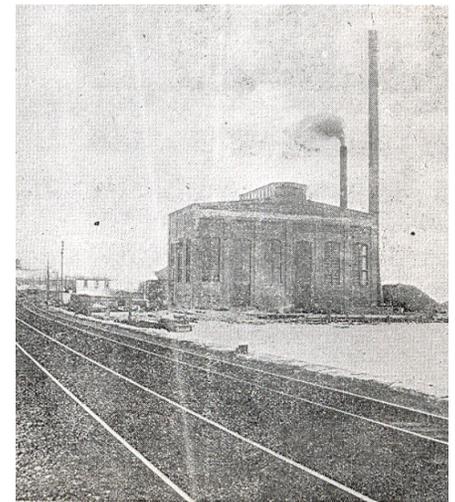
The Democratic Register
12.09.1905

Improvements That Count. How the Northern Westchester Lighting Co. is Paving the Way for Ossining's Future Prosperity – Progressive Ideas, Liberal Management and Ability.

The cut [on the following page] represents one of the two new engines just installed by the Northern Westchester Lighting Co. at their power station, on the upper dock. They were built by the Ball & Wood Co. of New York and are known as tandem compound condensing engines, of 420 horse power each, and are attached to great generators, each of 250 kilowatt capacity. The engines are not only very powerful, but economical in use, being savers of coal and water. In the condensing process water taken from the river is used, and in all ways they represent the best and latest and most approved examples of the engine builders' skill.

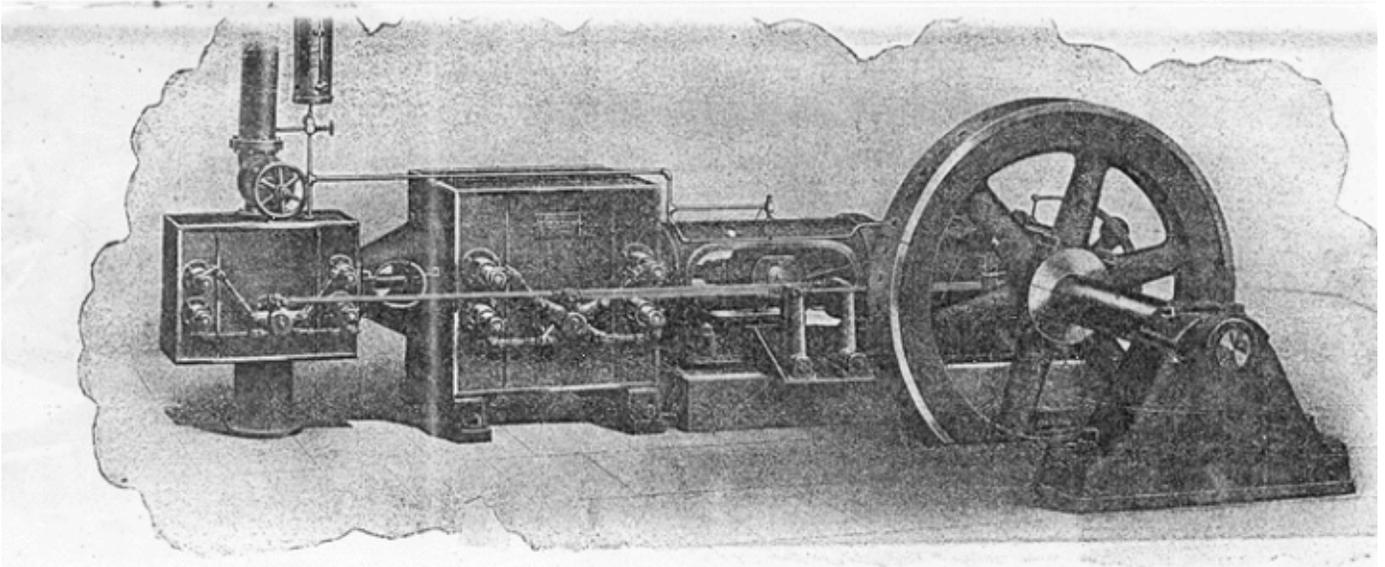
While the cut gives the general features of the machine it does not indicate its size, which the reader may infer by understanding that the highest point on the engine is about seven feet from the floor, its entire length something over twenty-two feet; width twelve feet, and there is almost as much of the engine underground, and out of sight, as there is on top.

The work of placing these engines and their dynamos in position has been no small undertaking, some of the sections being castings of many tons in weight. The matter of forcing in position on its shaft the inner wheel, or field, as it is called, of the dynamo, required a pressure [force] of 275 tons, furnished by a hydraulic jack procured especially for this purpose.



One of these engines and its generator, or dynamo, constitute what is called by electricians a "unit" and can produce electricity to supply a territory much larger and more thickly populated than that of the Northern Westchester, embracing as it does the villages of Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff Manor, Pleasantville, and surrounding country; consequentially there will always be a reserve unit to take the place of the one in use, should anything happen, or when repairs or overhauling become necessary.

These engines and dynamos are only a part, however of the great work the Northern Westchester is doing at its electric station. A new Altman-Taylor 420 horse power water tube boiler has



been set up, thus more than doubling the boiler capacity of the old plant, and a new stack, 90 feet in height and 20 inches in diameter, towers above the old stack; rather pointedly indicating the difference between the new and the old plants. The stack is certainly a monster, built of steel, and so solid in its construction, and so firmly is it bolted to its bed of concrete, that it stands alone, without help from guy wires, as is generally the case with structures of this kind.

Another addition to the electric station is a new switch board, a handsome and costly structure of marble for controlling the several circuits and furnished with the most approved apparatus for measuring the current and automatically recording the out-put. The old company put in a new switchboard last year, but the requirements of the new concern called for a larger and more complete apparatus.

As to the site of the power station, the "Upper dock" as it is familiarly known, in contradistinction to the "Middle dock" and the "Lower dock", phrases that have come down from old-time Sing Sing and the days when sloops and schooners and the early steamboats played so large a part in the business interests of this place, if some of these Sing Singers were to come back they would rub their eyes to see what has been done in the way of rebuilding and enlarging. The dock has been extended out in the river on the west and north, so

that the company can store up thousands of tons of coal, if it wishes to, and the river dredged out so that there is more water along the dock now, at low-tide, than there used to be when the tide was at its height.

In an article of this kind it would be impossible to go into all the details of the work done by the Northern Westchester since the first of last June, in improving – rebuilding would be the better word – its electrical plant in this village, and its electrical construction generally. It has been an immense work and a very costly one, but it has gone along steadily and progressively from the beginning.

The work being done by the Northern Westchester Lighting Company, in improving and more than doubling its manufacturing facilities, has a direct influence upon the future welfare of this village that cannot be overestimated. Reliable electric light and power, and good gas for lighting and heating, are as essential to local progress as good streets, good railroads, good water or any of the other requisites of a modern village, and if good streets and all other good things cost money certainly the light, heat, and power proposition to be properly met, requires an outlay that is perfectly staggering when a country district is concerned, and requires a certain amount of faith in the future of that particular territory that is undoubtedly well founded in the case of

Ossining and its adjoining villages. This faith President Stratton and his fellow members of the Northern Westchester Lighting Company have certainly shown in the most practical manner, and nothing will tend more to the development of this section of Westchester than the liberal and progressive way in which these gentlemen are preparing to meet the demands of what they believe will be a future filled with business possibilities.

From now on, if a manufacturer desires to bring his plant to his village, the Northern Westchester Lighting Company is ready to furnish him with power – available at all times and reasonable cost.

If the man of means, attracted by the beauty of the surrounding country wishes to build a home he will be assured of the same lighting and power facilities he has in the city.

In the same way the convenience of the gas range, the gas heater, as well as gas for illuminating purpose, is being extended further and further out from the built-up sections of the village, rendering more territory attractive for home builders and home makers.

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Democratic Register
2.04.1911

Electrics to Hastings Now. All Croton local passenger trains now run as far as Hastings by electricity, and pending the completion of the electrification to Croton, go the rest of the way by steam. Previously they went only as far as Yonkers, where engines were waiting in the yards to haul them the rest of the journey.

Two trains were sent to Hastings, Tuesday on trial trips and the first Croton train from New York on Wednesday was the first regular train under the new schedule. On account of the change, a new time-table went into effect Wednesday, for the suburban trains between Grand Central terminal and Peekskill and intermediate stations.

The new electric service means the saving of two minutes on the time for trains leaving Yonkers for Hastings, but this gained time will be lost at Hastings in connecting on steam locomotives. The running time between Ossining and New York, of course, continues the same as it was.

Only local trains are operated electrically between High Bridge and Hastings. Expresses and through trains depend, as usual, upon steam power, as do all freight trains.

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Democratic Register
7.22.1911

Ingenious Labor Saving Device at Lighting Plant. The Northern Westchester Lighting Company now has an expensive and ingenious construction for handling coal, gravel, etc. at its plant at the upper dock.

Coal is hoisted from barges by "Clam - shell" scoop, similar to those used on a steam shovel, and deposited in a car on an elevated runway. The car carries the coal to the bins dumping it, and returns to the barge, the entire process being done automatically. About three hundred tons of coal can be handled in a day, five days being needed [by] the old method in conveying it to the bins.

The company consumes about twenty tons of coal a day and the new system saves about one-half the cost of handling coal.

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Democratic Register
1.11.1913

Wind Storm Does Damage. The Hurricane of Friday of last week continued throughout the night and caused considerable damage. The eastbound track of the New York Central Lines at Scarborough was washed out and not a train ran over it from 3.30 Friday until noontime Saturday, when a large force of Italians restored it to its former condition. Telephone poles were blown down and the lighting company was greatly hampered by breaking wires.

The tide, the highest in years, swept over the docks and the Northern Westchester Lighting Company had ten tons of coal stood on its wharf washed away. Some five inches of ice were blown out of the Fowler ice pond at Glendale.

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The above clippings were transcribed from the original newspapers, which reside at the Ossining Historical Society in Ossining, New York