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[Bill accompanying the petition of the Selectmen of the Town  
of Templeton. Manufactures.]

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

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BILL

To authorize the Town of Templeton to erect and  
maintain an Electric-light Plant.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the  
same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. That portion of the territory of the Town  
2 of Templeton which is included in the voting precinct  
3 No. 3 as now defined upon the records of said Town, is  
4 hereby constituted a District for the purpose of provid-  
5 ing the District and its inhabitants with electric light,  
6 with the powers given in this Act. This District shall  
7 be known as the Otter River District.

1 SECTION 2. That portion of the territory of the  
2 Town of Templeton which is included in the voting  
3 precinct No. 4 as\* now defined upon the records of the  
4 said Town, is hereby made a District for the purpose of  
5 providing the District and its inhabitants with electric  
6 light, with the powers given in this Act. This District  
7 shall be known as the Baldwinville District.

1 SECTION 3. Either or both of such Districts, severally  
2 or conjointly, under the limitations of this Act, may con-  
3 struct, purchase, lease, use, establish, and maintain within  
4 its or their limits one or more plants for the manufacture  
5 or distribution of electricity for furnishing light for muni-  
6 cipal use, and for the use of such of its inhabitants as  
7 may require and pay for the same as herein provided.  
8 Such plants may include suitable land, structures, ease-  
9 ments, water privileges, stations, boilers, engines,  
10 dynamos, tools, machinery, conduits, poles, conductors,  
11 lamps, and other apparatus and appliances for generating,  
12 distributing, and using electricity for lighting purposes.  
13 A plant having been obtained, said District or Districts  
14 may manufacture, generate, and distribute electricity  
15 for the District's use or for the use of its or their  
16 inhabitants under such regulations as it or they may  
17 establish.

1 SECTION 4. Either or both of said Districts having  
2 established a plant for the distribution of electricity for  
3 lighting purposes, under the provisions of this Act, with-  
4 out a plant for manufacturing the same, may purchase  
5 electricity to be distributed by means of the same from  
6 any person or corporation; or may purchase power from  
7 any person or corporation for the operation of its  
8 dynamos.

1 SECTION 5. Neither District shall exercise the author-  
2 ity conferred in Section 3 until a vote that it is expe-  
3 dient to exercise such authority shall have been passed by  
4 a vote of not less than two-thirds of the voters present  
5 and voting at a meeting of the District duly called for  
6 the purpose. At such meetings such vote shall be taken  
7 by written or printed ballot and by the use of the check  
8 list. The question whether the District taking the vote

9 shall act in conjunction with the other District shall be  
10 determined by a vote taken in the same manner.

1 SECTION 6. When the District or Districts have voted  
2 under Section 4 that it is expedient to establish a plant,  
3 the Town shall proceed to build such plant and may  
4 incur an indebtedness for the purpose of this Act to an  
5 amount not exceeding 5 per cent. of the valuation of the  
6 estates in the District or Districts within the limits of  
7 which the plant or plants have been established. The  
8 indebtedness so incurred shall not be reckoned in deter-  
9 mining the limit of indebtedness of the Town, and to  
10 provide for the same the Town may issue its notes at a  
11 rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent. and payable in  
12 such annual instalments as shall in the aggregate extin-  
13 guish the indebtedness within ten years. All expenses  
14 of operation and all other expenses shall be paid by the  
15 Town upon warrants drawn upon the Town Treasurer  
16 by the Manager of Electric Light, and all of which sums  
17 shall be repaid to the Town by the District or Districts  
18 maintaining such plant or plants in the manner herein-  
19 after provided.

1 SECTION 7. The price to be charged for electricity to  
2 persons and corporations shall be fixed and shall not  
3 be changed oftener than once in three months. Any  
4 change shall take effect on the first day of the month,  
5 and the new price adopted shall, before the change shall  
6 take effect, be advertised in the newspaper published in  
7 the Town of Templeton, if any is published therein.  
8 Such price shall not, except with the written consent of  
9 the Gas and Electric Light Commissioners, be fixed at  
10 less than cost, in which shall be included, in addition to  
11 all operating expenses, interest on the net investment in  
12 the plant at the rate paid upon the notes above provided

13 for, together with the requirements of the annual pay-  
14 ments to meet such notes and also depreciation of the  
15 plant, to be reckoned at not less than five per cent. per  
16 annum of its cost and losses. In fixing such cost to  
17 establish the price to be charged to persons and corpora-  
18 tions, the electricity used by the District or Districts  
19 shall be charged to it or them at cost. A sufficient  
20 deposit to secure the payment for electricity for three  
21 months may be required in advance from any taker and  
22 the supply may be shut off from any premises until all  
23 arrearages for electricity furnished thereon, to whomso-  
24 ever furnished, shall be paid. After three months'  
25 default in the payment of such arrearages all appliances  
26 for distribution belonging to the District or Districts on  
27 such premises may be removed, and after such removal  
28 shall not be restored except on payment of all such  
29 arrearages and a sufficient sum to cover all expenses  
30 occasioned by removal and restoration.

1 SECTION 8. Whenever either or both of said Districts  
2 shall obtain the plant as provided in this Act, or shall  
3 hire power to operate such plant, the operation, control,  
4 management, and repair thereof, the manufacture and  
5 distribution of electricity thereby, including the purchase  
6 of supplies, the hiring and discharge of employees, and  
7 all business relating to such manufacture, generation,  
8 and distribution, the collection of bills, the keeping of  
9 accounts, and the payment of bills, shall be intrusted to  
10 one officer who shall be appointed by the Selectmen, who  
11 shall be known as the Manager of Electric Light, and his  
12 compensation shall be annually fixed by the Selectmen.  
13 Before entering upon the duties of his office he shall  
14 give bond to the Town for the faithful performance of his  
15 duties in such sum and form and with such sureties as  
16 the Selectmen shall approve. He shall, at the end of

17 each municipal year, render to the Selectmen such  
18 detailed statement of his doings and of the business and  
19 financial matters in his charge as the Gas and Electric  
20 Light Commissioners may prescribe. He shall also,  
21 at any time, when required by the Selectmen, make to  
22 them a statement of his doings, business, and disburse-  
23 ments in the detail required; and shall at least once in  
24 each month pay over to the Treasurer of the Town all  
25 receipts collected.

1 SECTION 9. The books and accounts pertaining to the  
2 business authorized by this Act shall be kept in a form  
3 to be prescribed by the Board of Gas and Electric Light  
4 Commissioners, and the accounts shall be closed on the  
5 thirtieth day of June of each year, so that a balance sheet  
6 of that date can be taken therefrom and included in the  
7 report to said Board; which return shall be for each  
8 year ending the thirtieth (30th) day of June.

1 SECTION 10. The provisions of Chapter 259 of the  
2 Acts of 1892, and all general laws of the Commonwealth  
3 relating to the manufacture or generation or distribu-  
4 tion of electricity, of the quality thereof, of the plant or  
5 appliances therefor, shall apply to such District or Dis-  
6 tricts, so far as the same may be applicable and not in-  
7 consistent with this Act, in the same manner as the  
8 same apply to persons and corporations engaged in  
9 generating or distributing electricity.

1 SECTION 11. Meetings of the inhabitants of either or  
2 both of these Districts for any purpose connected with  
3 the powers authorized by this Act shall be called by the  
4 Selectmen of the Town of Templeton, in the same  
5 manner as town meetings are called. If the Selectmen  
6 refuse or neglect to call such meeting a Justice of the

7 Peace may call the same. At all such meetings a Moder-  
8 ator shall be chosen, who shall have the powers of a  
9 moderator at a town meeting. At the first meeting a  
10 Clerk shall be elected, who shall hold office for one year,  
11 and shall keep a record of the proceedings at said meet-  
12 ings, and shall furnish the statements and reports called  
13 for by Chapter 259 of the Acts of 1892.

1 SECTION 12. At the end of the municipal year the  
2 Selectmen shall certify to the Assessors of the Town of  
3 Templeton the expenses for operating said plant or  
4 plants, less actual cash receipts for light, together with  
5 all interest upon said notes and the amount required to  
6 make the annual payment heretofore provided for and  
7 any other sum or sums which may be required to meet  
8 any expenditures or payments on account of such plant  
9 or plants, to the Assessors of the Town of Templeton,  
10 and the total amount required without further vote shall  
11 be assessed by said Assessors of the Town of Templeton  
12 upon the estates within the Districts or District maintain-  
13 ing such plant or plants, and all assessments so made  
14 shall constitute a lien upon the estates and shall be col-  
15 lected in the same manner as taxes upon real estate.

1 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect upon its  
2 passage.



