

ARTICLE XVII.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Paris with as little delay as possible, and, at the latest, at the expiration of a year.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE.

The stipulations of the Convention concluded under today's date for the protection of submarine cables shall be applicable in conformity with Article I, to the colonies and possessions of Her Britannic Majesty, with the exception of those hereinafter mentioned, namely:—

Canada,	Victoria,
Newfoundland,	Queensland,
The Cape,	Tasmania,
Natal,	South Australia,
New South Wales,	Western Australia,
	New Zealand:

Provided always, that the stipulations of the said Convention shall be applicable to any of the above named colonies or possessions, on whose behalf notice to that effect shall have been given by Her Britannic Majesty's representatives at Paris to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs

Each of the above named colonies or possessions which may have acceded to the said Convention shall be at liberty to withdraw from it in the same manner as the powers, parties to it. In the event of any of the said colonies or possessions desiring to withdraw from the Convention, a notification to that effect shall be made by Her Britannic Majesty's representative at Paris to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

SCHEDULE B.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH DECLARATION.

Certain doubts having been raised as to the meaning of the word "wilfully" used in article two of the Convention of the fourteenth of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, it is understood that the provision in respect of penal responsibility contained in the said article does not apply to cases of breakage or injury caused accidentally or of necessity in the repair of a cable when all precautions have been taken to avoid such breakage or injury.

It is equally understood that article four of the Convention had no other object and is to have no other effect, than to empower the competent tribunals of each country to decide in conformity with their laws and according to the circumstances the question of the civil responsibility of the owner of a cable who, in laying or repairing his own cable, breaks or injures another cable, as well as the consequences of such responsibility, if it is recognized as existing.