

**23.** Any operator of the said Telegraph Line, or person employed by the said Telegraph Company, divulging the contents of a private despatch, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *twenty-five pounds*, or to imprisonment not exceeding three months; or both, in the discretion of the Court before which the conviction shall be had. Penalty on operators divulging.

**24.** Any person who shall wilfully or maliciously injure, molest or destroy any of the said lines, posts, piers or abutments, or the material or property belonging thereto, or in any way disturb the working of the said line of Telegraph; shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and be punished by a fine not exceeding ten pounds, or imprisonment not exceeding one month, or both; at the discretion of the Court before which the conviction shall be had. Penalty on persons injuring the line.

**25.** The works of the Company shall be commenced within three years, and completed from Quebec to Labrador or to the eastern end of the Island of Anticosti, within six years from the passing of this Act, otherwise the Act shall be null and void. Commencement of works, &c.