

*Act. Those reprinted below, though originally applying to the then Province of Quebec, are, as relating to the Montreal Telegraph Company, extended as respects such application to the whole Dominion, by the Acts above recited, 35 Vict., chap. 95, and 36 Vict., chap. 95.*

Duties of  
Company in  
transmitting  
despatches.

**14** The owner of, or the association owning any telegraph line in operation at that time or since that period, shall, except in cases provided for in the next section, transmit all despatches in the order in which they are received, under a penalty of not less than twenty, nor exceeding one hundred dollars, to be recovered, with costs of suit, by the person or persons whose despatch has been postponed out of its order.

What mes-  
sages entitled  
to preference.

**15** Any message in relation to the administration of justice, arrest of criminals, the discovery or prevention of crime, and Government messages or despatches, shall always be transmitted in preference to any other message or despatch, if required by persons connected with the administration of justice, or any person thereunto authorized by the Provincial Secretary.

Penalty on  
operator di-  
vulging  
secrets.

**16** Any operator of a telegraph line, or any person employed by a telegraph company, divulging the contents of a private despatch, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or both, in the discretion of the court before which the conviction is had.

Government  
may assume  
the same  
temporarily.

**17** Her Majesty may, at any time, assume and for any length of time retain possession of any such telegraph line, and of all things necessary to the sufficient working thereof, and may for the same time require the exclusive service of the operators and other persons employed in working such line, and the Company shall give up possession thereof, and the operators and other persons so employed shall, during the time of such possession, diligently and faithfully obey such orders, and transmit and receive such despatches as they may be required to receive and transmit by any duly authorized officer of the Provincial Government, under a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars for any refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements of this section, to be recovered by the Crown for the public uses of the Province, with costs, in any way in which debts of like amounts are recoverable by the Crown

Penalty for  
malicious or  
other injuries  
to telegraph  
works.

**21** Any person who wilfully and maliciously cuts, breaks, molests, injures or destroys any instrument, cap, wire, post, line, pier, or abutment or the materials or property belonging thereto, or any other erection used for or by any line of electro-magnetic telegraph in operation in this Province, under any Act in force herein, or who wilfully and malici-