

upon the filing of such petition, establish his right to the several shares referred to in such petition; and the delays to plead and all other proceedings in such cases shall be the same as those observed in analagous cases before the said Superior Courts: Provided also, that the costs and expenses of procuring such order and adjudication shall be paid by the party or parties to whom the said shares shall be declared lawfully to belong; and such shares shall not be transferred until such costs and expenses be paid, saying the recourse of such party against any party contesting his right.

Proviso.

25. It shall be the duty of the Company (subject to the provisions in the next following section) to 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 is postponed out of its order; and the Company shall have full power to charge for the transmission of such despatches, and to receive, collect and recover such rates of payment as shall be from time to time fixed by the by-laws.

Order of sending despatches.

Charges for transmitting despatches.

26. Any message in relation to the administration of justice, the 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 any person connected with the administration of justice or any person thereunto authorized by the Secretary of State of Canada.

Priority to be given to Government messages.

27. Any operator of the said telegraph line or person employed by the Company, divulging the contents of a private despatch, except when compelled as a witness by a Court of Justice, shall be held to be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be prosecuted summarily before any Recorder, Police Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, where the offence was committed, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both, in the discretion of the court before which the conviction shall be had.

Penalty for divulging contents of private despatches.

28. Any person who shall wilfully or maliciously injure, molest, or destroy any of the lines or posts, or the material or property belonging thereto, or in any way obstruct the working of the said line of telegraph, shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol for any period less than two years, with or without hard labor at the discretion of the court.

Injuring property of Company to be a misdemeanor.