

international and commercial intercourse between the eastern and western continents in the construction of said telegraph, and keeping the same in working order, and to secure to the Government at all times, but particularly in time of war, the use and benefits of the same for diplomatic, naval, military, postal, commercial, and other purposes, Congress may at any time add to, alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the rate of charges for public or private messages shall not exceed on said line the average usual rates in Europe and America for the same service, or such rates as shall be ascertained and fixed by a convention between the United States, Russia, and Great Britain; *Provided*, That it shall not be lawful for the owners or officers of said telegraph line to make any contract, either directly or through any intervening party or parties, for the transmission of despatches for any newspaper or newspaper association upon terms different from those open to the enjoyment of all other newspapers or newspaper associations.

Approved, July 1, 1864.

A. LINCOLN.