

Government to  
have preference in  
sending messages.

VIII.—The Governments of Great Britain, of the United States, and of Newfoundland, shall, respectively, have, at all times, a Preference over all Persons, of conveying Messages upon the said Lines of Telegraph, relating to the Public Services of these Governments respectively, and the Rate of Charges therefor shall not exceed the Charges made to private Individuals; and the said Company shall at all times transmit the Messages of private Parties without preference or delay.

Penalty for in-  
terrupting use of  
Telegraph line or  
works.

IX.—Any Person wilfully interrupting the free use, by the said Company, of any Telegraph Line established by it, or any Works connected therewith, shall be subject to a Penalty of not less than Ten Pounds, nor more than One Hundred Pounds, to be recovered by any Person informing and suing for the same, in a summary way, before one or more Justices of the Peace, and to be levied by a Warrant of Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels; One Half of such Penalty shall go to the Party suing for the same, and the other Half to be paid to the Treasurer of the Colony for the use thereof; and in default of Goods and Chattels to satisfy such Warrant, every such Offender shall be committed to Gaol by such Justice or Justices for any Period not exceeding One Hundred Days; and if any Person shall wilfully or maliciously obstruct or damage any such Telegraph Line, Works, Building, Machinery, or other Property connected therewith, he shall be guilty of Misdemeanor, and shall be punished by Imprisonment for a period not exceeding One Year, and by a Fine not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds. And every Operator, Agent, or Servant of the said Company, employed in the transmission or delivery of Intelligence or Messages, shall, before he enters on the duties of his office, make oath before a Judge or Justice of the Peace, that he will not wilfully divulge the contents of any Message transmitted by said Company, or left with any of its Operators, Agents, or Servants, for transmission or delivery; and every person violating the said oath shall be adjudged guilty of Misdemeanor and punished by Imprisonment for a period not exceeding One Year, and by a Fine not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds.

Offender wil-  
fully damaging  
works guilty of  
misdemeanor.

Upon completion  
of line to Cape  
Ray, Crown grants  
of land to be made  
to Company, sub-  
ject to certain  
conditions and re-  
servations.

X.—So soon as the said Line of Telegraph shall be completed from St. John's to Cape Ray, or any other Point on the West Coast of Newfoundland, the Governor shall, on the application of the Company, from time to time, issue Grants, under the Great Seal of this Island, to the said Company, of any Ungranted and Unoccupied Wilderness Land in Newfoundland, in Blocks or Parcels the contents of which shall not be less than Three Square Miles, and in all not exceeding Fifty Square Miles, subject, nevertheless, to such per Centage upon the produce of Mines, and to such conditions as to the working thereof, within a limited period, not less than Ten Years, and to such conditions as to the Permanent Settlement, in Fee Simple, of such Land, by One Settler to every Five Hundred Acres so granted, within Five Years from the date of any such Grant, and to the right of the Public to construct any Roads or Bridges in and over the said Land, as now are or may hereafter be specified and defined by the Laws of Newfoundland or Great Britain; and the said Company shall have power to Alien or Dispose of the said Lands, or any part or parts thereof, or to Occupy, Work, or Use the same, or any part thereof, in any manner it may deem proper, subject to the like conditions and reservations as aforesaid. And for the purpose of preventing new claims to the prejudice of the said Company, it shall be lawful for it, at any time after this Act goes into operation, to signify, in writing, to the Governor, the selection of the said Lands, or any part thereof, which it desires to have granted to it as afore-