

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Government System of Telegraphs.

WHEREAS the present telegraph rates charged in Canada Preamble.
are unduly high; and whereas the telegraph lines being
owned by private corporations, the same rates, and the same
rights and privileges are not extended to the public generally,
5 by such corporations; and whereas it is advisable that the use
of the telegraph system should be afforded to the public of
Canada at the cheapest rates, and without discrimination:
Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent
of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as
10 follows:—

1. The Government of Canada may establish and maintain Government telegraph system.
throughout Canada, as a branch of the public service, a
telegraph system to be managed in conjunction with the Post-
Office Department of Canada.
- 15 2. So soon as the Government of Canada acquires, by When it shall be established.
construction, purchase or expropriation, any telegraph lines,
whether land lines or sub-marine lines, and by Order in Council
authorizes effect being given to this Act, the Postmaster
General shall take all necessary steps for the establishment
20 and maintenance of such government telegraph system, subject,
always, to all the existing laws and regulations respecting
appointments and removals from office, the expenditure of
public moneys, and the incurring of public liabilities.
- 25 3. The tolls or rates to be charged for messages shall not Rates for messages.
exceed ten cents for a message of ten words or less, and no
charge shall be made for the signature or the address. For
any number of words in excess of ten, the rate shall not exceed
one-half cent per word. The rates for Press despatches for
publication, sent to any newspaper or other regular publication,
30 shall not exceed ten cents per hundred words. The rates shall
be uniform, and there shall be no discrimination. The
Governor in Council may, from time to time, regulate such
rates, provided that they do not exceed the amounts herein
mentioned.
- 35 4. The Postmaster General shall prescribe regulations provid- Weather bulletins.
ing for the transmission, by the Telegraph System, to each
postmaster whose office is connected therewith, of what is
known as weather probabilities; and it shall be the duty of
such postmaster, at all times during office hours, to keep
40 bulletins of such weather probabilities posted up in his post-
office, for the information of the public.