

interdicted persons or absentees, who may have or claim to have, any right, title, interest, claim or demand therein, and of every other person whomsoever, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Applications for indemnity.

XIII. *And be it enacted*, That applications to the said Court, or Justice, or Justices, for indemnity for any damage or injury sustained by reason of the power and authority given under and by this Act, shall be made within Six Months next after the time of such supposed damage sustained, or in case there shall be a continuation of damage, then within Six Months next after the doing or committing such damage shall cease, and not afterwards; and the Defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and may aver that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this Act.

Penalty for obstruction of Telegraph.

XIV. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall by any means, or in any manner or way whatever, wilfully obstruct or interrupt the free use of the said Telegraph, or the other Works incidental or relative thereto, or connected therewith, such person shall for every such offence incur a forfeiture or penalty of not less than Five Pounds, nor exceeding Ten Pounds, Currency—one half of which penalty and forfeiture to be recovered before one or more Justices of the Peace for the County, shall go to the Prosecutor or Informer, and the other half shall belong to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer, and be applied for the public uses of this Province, and the support of the Government thereof.

Wilful damage to Telegraph adjudged Felony.

XV. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall wilfully and maliciously, and to the prejudice of said Telegraph authorized to be made by this Act, break, throw down, damage, or destroy the same, or any part thereof, or any of the Station Houses, Watch Houses, Observatories, Ports, Poles, Wires, or other Apparatus, Works or Devices, incidental or relative thereto, or connected therewith, or do any other wilful hurt or mischief, or shall wilfully and maliciously obstruct and interrupt the free use of the said Telegraph, or any of the appurtenances thereof, or obstruct, hinder, or prevent the carrying on, completing, supporting and maintaining, using, or working of the said intended Telegraph, such person shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and the Court by and before whom such person shall be tried and convicted, shall have power and authority to cause such person to be punished in like manner as felons are directed to be punished by the Laws in force in this Province, or in mitigation thereof, to award such sentence as the Law directs in cases of simple larceny, as to such Court shall seem fit.

Three Commrs. to form a quorum.

Proviso.

XVI. *And be it enacted*, That any meeting of the said Commissioners, at which not less than Three Commissioners shall be present, shall be competent to do and perform all and any of the powers hereby vested in said Commissioners: *Provided always*, that such Board of Commissioners shall from time to time be subject to the examination and control of the Governor in Council, and shall pay due obedience to all such orders and directions, in and about the premises, as they shall from time to time receive from the said Governor in Council—such orders and directions not being contrary to any express directions or provisions in this Act contained.

Appointment of Clerks, Agents, &c.

XVII. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby authorised from time to time to appoint and nominate Clerks or Agents, and all other such servants as they may deem necessary—assign to them respectively such duties as they may think fit, taking such security for the due execution of their respective offices as they may think proper, and at pleasure to revoke such appointments, and dismiss from their employ any of such Clerks, Agents, or other servants.

Rates and Dues to be appointed by Governor in Council.

XVIII. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any Three of them, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to ask, demand, take, and recover, to and for the use of Her Majesty, for all communications