

XVIII. It shall be the duty of the Company to transmit all despatches in the order in which they are received, under a penalty of not less than five nor exceeding twenty-five pounds, to be recovered with costs of suit, by the person or persons whose despatch is postponed out of its order; except that any message in relation to the administration of justice, 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 persons connected with the administration of justice, or any person thereunto authorized by the Provincial Secretary; the said 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 of the Company.

Order of transmission of messages.

XIX. Any Operator of the said Telegraph Line, or person employed by the said Telegraph Company, divulging the contents of a private despatch, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or both, in the discretion of the Court before which the conviction shall be had.

Penalty for divulging private despatches.

XX. Any person who shall wilfully and maliciously injure, molest or destroy any of the said lines, posts, piers or abutments, or the material or property belonging thereto, or in any way disturb the working of the said line of Telegraph, shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and be punished by a fine not exceeding ten pounds, or imprisonment not exceeding one month, or both, at the discretion of the Court before which the conviction shall be had.

Penalty for injury, &c, to line.