

Canada, or by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the Imperial Government.

24. Any operator of the said telegraph line, or person employed by the said telegraph company, divulging the contents of a private
 5 despatch, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both, in the discretion of the court before which the conviction shall be had.

25. Any person who shall wilfully or maliciously injure, molest
 10 or destroy any of the said lines, posts, piers or abutments, or the material or property belonging thereto, or in any way obstruct the working of the said line of telegraph, shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and be liable to be punished in the manner provided by law for such offences.

26. The works of the company shall be commenced within three
 15 years, and completed within six years from the passing of this Act, otherwise this Act shall be null and void.