

7. The prices charged for the transmission of messages to and from New Westminster, over the lines herein authorized to be constructed, to any station thereon in Washington Territory or Vancouver Island, shall not exceed, if paid in gold or silver coin, four shillings and two pence for each ten words, and messages to and from this Colony, passing over any lines owned or worked by, or under the control of, the California State Telegraph Company, situate outside of the said Colony, shall not be charged higher rates therefor than the lowest uniform rates of charge on such lines for local business, nor shall messages between New Westminster and San Francisco, if paid in gold and silver coin, ever be charged more than one pound and six-pence for ten words.

Charges to be made for
Telegraph messages.

8. The rights and privileges hereby granted may be assigned by the President of the State Telegraph Company, or his successors, to the California State Telegraph Company, by that name or other their lawful name for the time being, upon their registration and incorporation as a Joint Stock Company, under the law in that behalf in force in this Colony, and thereafter such Company may sue and be sued in the Courts of this Colony, in like manner as Companies duly incorporated therein.

Rights hereby granted,
how assignable.

9. If any person shall wilfully or maliciously cut, break, or throw down any telegraph pole, or any tree or other material used in any telegraph line herein authorized to be constructed, or shall wilfully or maliciously break, displace, or injure any insulator in use in any such telegraph line, or shall wilfully or maliciously cut, break, or remove from its insulators any wire used as a telegraph line, or shall wilfully or maliciously break, molest, or injure any submarine cable used or intended to be used in any such telegraph line, or shall by the attachment of a ground wire, or by any other contrivance, wilfully destroy the insulation of such telegraph line, or interrupt the transmission of the electric current through the same, or shall in any other manner wilfully destroy, injure, or molest any property or materials appertaining to any such telegraph line, or shall wilfully interfere with the use of any such telegraph line, or obstruct or postpone the transmission of any message over the same, or procure or advise any such injury, interference, or obstruction, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable to conviction before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, and shall be punished by fine not to exceed one hundred pounds, or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the said Justice or Justices; and shall moreover be liable to the owners of the said telegraph line for three times the amount of all loss and damage sustained by reason of such wrongful act.

Penalty for damaging or
obstructing Telegraph.

10. The principal office of the California State Telegraph Company within this Colony, shall be situated in the City of New Westminster, and the service of any writ or paper upon the person in charge of the said office shall be deemed a sufficient service upon the said Company.

Principal office in British
Columbia at New West-
minster.

11. The wire, submarine cables and materials necessary for the construction of the said telegraph lines shall be admitted free, at any port of entry in British Columbia, for a period not exceeding two years from the date of this Act.

Plant free of Customs
duty for 2 years.

12. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the "First Telegraph Act, 1864."

Short Title.

Passed the Legislative Council the 8th of March, A.D. 1864,
CHARLES GOOD, Clerk.

Received my assent this tenth day of March, A.D. 1864,
JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.