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No 85.

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5th Session, 8th Parliament, 63 Victoria, 1900

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BILL.

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

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First reading, March 12, 1900.

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Mr. CASEY.

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OTTAWA

Printed by S. E. DAWSON

Printer to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty  
1900

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.