

or demand against the other co-partners, obligors, promissors or debtors.

Sec. 2. In all such cases a suit may be brought and maintained against all or any of such co-partners, joint obligors, promissors or debtors not so discharged, setting forth in the complaint thereof that the contract was made with the defendants, and the party so discharged, and that such party has been discharged, such discharge shall have no other effect than such as is hereafter mentioned.

Suit may be bro't
against remain-
ing debtors

Sec. 3. Such discharge shall have the same effect for all purposes and as to all persons as a payment by the party so discharged of his equal part of the debt according to the number of debtors aside from surities.

Effect of dis-
charge

Sec. 4. This Act shall not be construed so as to effect or change the liability of such co-partners, joint obligors, promissors or debtors to each other.

Act not to effect
obligation of joint
debtors to each
other

Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

AMOS COGGSWELL,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
IGNATIUS DONNELLY,
President of the Senate.

Approved February eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MINNESOTA, }
February 11th, 1860. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original on file in this office.

J. H. BAKER, Secretary of State.

CHAPTER XII.

An Act for the protection of Telegraph Companies.

- SECTION 1. Company may use public roads.
2. Penalty for injuring poles or wires.
3. Officers not to give publicity to messages.
4. Violation of preceeding section how punished.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. Any Telegraph Company incorporated or organized under the laws of this State, shall have full power and right to use the public roads and highways in this State, on the line of their route, for the purpose of erecting posts or poles on or along the same, to sustain the wires or other fixtures; *Provided, however,* That the same shall be located as in no way to interfere with the safety or convenience of ordinary travel on or over the said roads and highways.

To have use of
public roads

SEC. 2. If any person or persons shall unlawfully and wilfully injure, destroy, or obstruct the use of any telegraph line, constructed by virtue of the law of this State, such person or persons so offending shall for the first offense, on conviction thereof, pay to the said Company the sum of one hundred (100) dollars, to be recovered as debts of a like amount are recoverable by law, or be imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding three months, and shall also be liable for all damages; and shall for the second offense, on conviction thereof, be liable to imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, and be subject to pay to said Company a sum not exceeding two hundred (200) dollars, and shall be liable for all damages.

Penalty for injur-
ing telegraph line

SEC. 3. It shall not be lawful for any person connected with any line of telegraph in this State, whether as superintendent, operator, or in any other capacity whatsoever, to use or cause to be used, or make known or cause to be made known the contents of any dispatch or message of whatsoever nature, which may be sent or received over any line of telegraph in this State, without the consent or direction of either the party sending or receiving the same, and all dispatches which may be filed at any office in this State, for transmission to any point, shall be so transmitted without being made public, or their purport in any manner divulged, at any intermediate point, on any pretense whatever; and in all respects the same inviolable secrecy, safe-keeping, and conveyance, shall be maintained by the officers and agents employed on the several telegraph lines of this State, in relation to all dispatches which may be sent or received, as is now enjoined by the laws of the United States, in reference to the ordinary mail service; *Provided,* That nothing in this Act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the publication, at any point, of any dispatch of a public nature, which may be sent by any person or persons with a view to publicity.

Contents of mes-
sages to be kept
secret

SEC. 4. In case any person, superintendent, operator, or who may in any other capacity be connected with any telegraph line in this State, shall use or cause to be used, or make known or cause to be made known the contents of any dispatch known or received at any office in this State, or in anywise unlawfully expose another's business or secrets, which may

Penalty for mak-
ing known con-
tents of message

come into his possession as such operator, superintendent, or agent, such person being duly convicted thereof, shall for every such offense, be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred (100) dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, according to the aggravation of the offense, and be liable to the party injured for all damages he may sustain, which may be recovered as debts of like amount are by law recoverable.

AMOS COGGSWELL,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
IGNATIUS DONNELLY,
President of the Senate.

Approved February third, one thousand eight hundred and sixty. ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MINNESOTA, }
February 3rd, 1860. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original on file in this office.

J. H. BAKER, Secretary of State.

CHAPTER XIII.

An Act to provide for the Collection and Publication of Statistics.

- SECTION
1. Commissioner of Statistics—term of office.
 2. Commissioner to take official oath.
 3. Duties of Commissioner.
 4. Governor to guarantee copyright to Commissioner.
 5. Commissioner may address inquiries to public officers.
 6. Officers to answer inquiries of Commissioner—fees therefor.
 7. Penalty for refusing to answer.
 8. Officers of incorporated towns or cities to answer.
 9. Duties of corporate authorities of St. Paul and other cities.
 10. Mayor and president of council to furnish statistics.
 11. Officers of corporations to furnish names, &c.
 12. Duty of County Auditors.
 13. Duty of Commissioner.
 14. Statistics to be returned to Commissioner.
 15. Commissioner to have access to State Library.
 16. Act to take effect on passage.