

CHAPTER 207.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR STATE PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING JULY THIRTY-FIRST (31st), ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX (1886) AND JULY THIRTY-FIRST (31st), ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN (1887).

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

Amount of tax to be levied for the year 1886—
at what rate.

SECTION 1. For the purpose of defraying the expenses of the state for the fiscal year ending July thirty-first (31st), one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six (1886), a tax of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000), or as near that amount as practicable, shall be levied on all the taxable property in the state; *Provided*, That the tax hereby levied shall not exceed a rate of one and one-half mill (.001½) on each dollar of taxable property.

Amount of tax to be levied for the year 1887—
at what rate.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of defraying the expenses of the state for the fiscal year ending July thirty-first (31st), one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven (1887), a tax of four hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$430,000), or as near that amount as practicable, shall be levied on all taxable property in the state; *Provided*, That the tax hereby levied shall not exceed a rate of one mill (.001) on each dollar of taxable property.

To be placed to the credit of what fund.

SEC. 3. All taxes levied under the provisions of this act, when collected and paid into the treasury, shall be placed to the credit of the general revenue fund.

When act to take effect.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 7, 1885.

CHAPTER 208.

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE BUSINESS OF OPERATING TELEGRAPH LINES, AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT OF OWNERS AND AGENTS OF SUCH LINES.

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

Deemed to be common carriers.

SECTION 1. Persons, companies and corporations engaged in the business of transmitting messages by telegraph

lines are hereby declared to be common carriers, and as such shall serve the public without discrimination or preference, at reasonable rates of compensation.

SEC. 2. In the transmission and delivery of messages such persons, companies and corporations shall be liable for want of ordinary care, any contract, notice or condition to the contrary notwithstanding; and any notice, condition or contract stipulating for exemption from consequences of lack of ordinary care shall be void.

Liabilities of.

SEC. 3. When the party to whom a message is addressed resides or does business within the corporate limits of any city or village where a telegraph office is located, at the point of destination, the same shall be promptly delivered at his place of residence or business, if known; in other cases he shall be notified by next mail where he can find same.

Messages to be promptly delivered—in what cases.

SEC. 4. Messages delivered to the owner or agent of any telegraph line operated in this state, in whole or in part, shall be transmitted in the order they are received; *Provided, however,* That any messages directing the movement of railroad trains, in case of sickness or death, and those relating to the administration of criminal laws and government dispatches, shall take precedence, if the officer or person sending the same shall so request.

Messages to have precedence—what.

SEC. 5. If any person, persons, company or corporation owning or operating a telegraph line, in whole or in part, within this state, shall fail to transmit any message within a reasonable length of time, or if it is shown due diligence has not been exercised, after reception thereof for that purpose, or shall fail to deliver the same to the party to whom the same is addressed, if known, as provided for in section three (3) of this act, within a reasonable length of time after the same shall have arrived at the point of destination, shall be liable in a civil action, at the suit of the party injured, for all actual damages sustained by reason of such neglect or omission, with the legal costs of suit to be recovered in such action, before any court having competent jurisdiction.

Damages in case of non-delivery of messages in a suitable time.

SEC. 6. Any telegraph company delivering a message shall state plainly upon such message the date and the hour at which such message was received at the original point for transmission.

The date and hour to be given on delivery.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

When act to take effect.

Approved March 7, 1885.