

## CHAPTER XXII.

*An Act relating to Telegraph Companies.*

February 27 '67

SECTION 1.—Penalty for wilful injury to telegraph line.

2.—Revealing contents of private despatches—how punished.

3.—Ratifies contracts between companies.

4.—Extends time for completion of certain line.

5.—State tax on telegraph line.

6.—State to have lien for taxes.

7.—When act to take effect.

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

SECTION 1. Any person or persons who shall knowingly or willfully injure, molest or destroy any telegraph line, or appurtenances belonging thereto, and any person who shall counsel or advise the injury, molestation or destruction of any of said lines or appurtenances thereunto belonging, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding the term of two years, or both, at the discretion of the court having cognizance thereof.

Penalties

SEC. 2. If any operator, clerk, messenger boy, or other person in the employ of any telegraph company in this state, shall reveal the contents of any private message to any other than the one to whom it is directed, or to his attorney or agent, such revelation shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and such person so offending shall be subject to a fine of one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding the term of two years, or both at the discretion of the proper court.

Further penalties

SEC. 3. All contracts made by and between any telegraph and railroad or other company in this state, for the mutual use of lines constructed, or to be constructed, are ratified and approved so far as the same may not be inconsistent with the constitution, or any existing law of the state.

Ratifies contract

SEC. 4. The time heretofore allowed by an act of

Extention of  
time

the legislature of this state to the north-western telegraph company, to complete a telegraph line from St. Paul to Pembina, as a condition in securing certain benefits and rights to said company, is hereby extended two years, without damage or forfeiture of any rights intended to be secured by said act.

Tax per mile

SEC. 5. The owners of any telegraph line constructed and in operation within the limits of this state, shall pay to the state an annual tax of forty cents per mile for every mile of route occupied in lieu of all other taxes, which shall be paid in January of every year to the state treasurer.

State to have  
lien

SEC. 6. This state shall have a lien upon any line constructed and in use as aforesaid, and all its appurtenances, for all taxes which may accrue to the state by virtue of the foregoing section, and in case the tax in whole or in part, shall not be paid by the first day of February of every year, it shall be the duty of the state treasurer to advertise such line for sale for the amount of such tax remaining unpaid in some newspaper published at the seat of government, by giving three weeks previous notice, and to sell the same accordingly for the amount of tax and interest, and charges of sale: *Provided*, The same shall not be paid before the time of sale, and the surplus money, if any, shall be paid to the owner or owners of said line, after deducting the expenses of advertising and selling the same.

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

Approved February 27, 1867.