

# TELEGRAPH PROTECTION ACT, 1863.

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IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN VICTORIA.

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SESSION XV., No. 10, 1863.

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[16th April, 1863.]

*AN ACT to provide Penalties for Persons wilfully injuring or Title.  
destroying Telegraphs in the Province of Auckland.*

WHEREAS it is intended to erect and construct Electrical Preamble.  
Telegraphs in certain parts of the Province of Auckland:  
And Whereas other such Telegraphs may from time to time  
be constructed and erected in the said Province: And  
whereas it is expedient to protect such Telegraphs from  
wilful injury or destruction:

Be it therefore enacted by the Superintendent of the  
Province of Auckland with the advice and consent of  
the Provincial Council thereof as follows:—

1. Every person who shall wilfully injure damage or Penalty for injur-  
destroy any Electrical Telegraph or any works connected ing Telegraphs.  
therewith in the Province of Auckland shall be liable to a  
penalty not exceeding twenty pounds or to be imprisoned  
for a period not exceeding six calendar months with or  
without hard labour.

**Penalty for injuring materials.**

2. Every person who shall wilfully injure damage or destroy any post wire material or other works used in the construction of any such Telegraph shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour.

**Penalty for obstructing persons employed in working Tele- graphs.**

3. Every person who shall wilfully obstruct any person employed in erecting any such Telegraph in the due execution of his duty or who shall so obstruct any such person employed in working any such Telegraph shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour.

**Penalty for im- peding the use of Telegraph.**

4. Every person who shall without lawful authority do any act by reason whereof the use of any Electrical Telegraph may be impeded or the transmission of any message along the same may be interrupted shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds or to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour.

**Damage to be added to Penalty by way of further penalty.**

5. Provided always that in addition to any penalty inflicted under the foregoing provisions of this Act it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices by whom any such penalty may be inflicted to add to such penalty the amount of any damage that may be done to any such Telegraph or works. Provided that no such penalty shall in the whole exceed £100.

**Penalty for di- vulging messages.**

6. Every person employed in working any such Telegraph who shall divulge the contents or substance of any despatch message or other communication transmitted thereby except to the person or persons to whom the same shall be addressed shall be liable to a penalty for each such offence not exceeding £100 or to be imprisoned not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour.

**Interpretation.**

7. In the interpretation of this Act the word "works" shall include any station post insulator wire cord galvanic apparatus excavations and other things in any way connected with the Electrical Telegraph or line of communication thereto.

**Penalties to be recovered in a summary way.**

8. All penalties inflicted under this Act shall be recoverable in a summary way.

9. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Telegraph Short Title Protection Act, 1863."