

[AS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE, 19TH
AUGUST, 1880.]

Hon. Mr. Hall.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH ACT 1875 AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.
1. Short Title.

3. Amending fifteenth section of "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875."

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875."

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Electric Telegraph Act 1875 Amendment Act, 1880."

Short Title.

Struck out.

~~2. The thirteenth section of "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875" (hereinafter called "the said Act"), shall be amended by inserting between the ninth and tenth lines thereof the following paragraph, that is to say: "For contracting with any person or persons or body corporate or unincorporated for the exclusive use of a special wire or wires, and for fixing the terms and conditions, rates and charges, to be paid for the use of such wire or wires."~~

New clause.

2. Besides the powers enumerated in the thirteenth section of "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875," (hereinafter called "the said Act,") the Governor in Council may, subject to the aforesaid section, make regulations for contracting with any persons or association representing the public press, whether they be incorporated or not, for the lease of a special wire or wires, and for fixing the terms and conditions, rates and charges to be paid for the use thereof respectively.

Every contract made under the provisions of this section shall be made subject to the conditions following, that is to say,—

- (1.) No lease shall be for a term exceeding two years; and every lease shall contain a covenant for determination of the same by either party giving six months' notice to that effect:
- (2.) The rental shall be at the rate of two thousand pounds per annum for the use of a wire on all nights, excepting Saturdays and Sundays, between the hours of eight p.m. and twelve midnight during the recess, and between the hours of eight p.m. and ~~one~~ *two* a.m. during the session of Parliament; on all Saturdays between the hours of seven p.m. and ~~nine~~ *ten* p.m., and on all Sundays between the hours of six p.m. and seven p.m.:

- (3.) At the option of the lessees, the aforesaid times shall be extended one hour on all days excepting Saturdays and Sundays, the rental in such case to be at the rate of three thousand pounds per annum :
- (4.) Every lease shall be subject to the condition that any newspapers shall be admitted to the advantages of the lessees on payment, in addition to their *pro rata* share of the apportioned contribution towards the rent of the wire and towards general expenses, of the following entrance-fees :—

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| Daily <i>morning</i> papers in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin— | £ |
| Morning , not exceeding | 150 |
| Evening , not exceeding | 75 |
| In all other places, either daily morning or evening papers not exceeding | 50 |

Papers published at longer intervals than one day to be charged such entrance-fee, not exceeding fifty pounds, as may be agreed on between themselves and the lessees.

Amending fifteenth section of "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875."

3. The fifteenth section of the said Act shall be amended by adding thereto the following proviso, that is to say : " Provided also that in case of interruption or partial interruption to the telegraph lines, all messages or despatches received for transmission for or on account of the public Press may, between such hours as shall be fixed by the Commissioner, be transmitted in precedence of all other private telegrams or messages, without reference to the order in which they were originally received for transmission at the office of origin. But such precedence shall not be permitted except by the authority of the Superintendent or the Secretary of the New Zealand Telegraph, and unless, in his opinion, the actual delivery of such private telegrams or messages would not thereby be delayed."

New clauses.

4. All powers, duties, and authorities contained in or exercisable under the said Act in relation to the construction, establishment, and maintenance of electric-telegraph communication, and for the regulation thereof, are hereby extended and may be applied and exercised in relation to the construction, establishment, and maintenance of electric communication by telephone, and for the regulation thereof; and the said Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be read accordingly for the purposes of this section.

5. It shall not be lawful for any person to erect, construct, establish, or maintain, *for hire or profit*, any line of electric communication by telephone, except the sanction of the Governor in Council be first obtained for that purpose.

Every person offending against the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of *not exceeding twenty* pounds for every whereon he shall so offend.