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Hon. Mr. Coates.

POST AND TELEGRAPH AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	5. Private telephone lines erected before passing of Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919, not to be used for profit without consent of Governor-General.
1. Short Title.	6. Extension of provisions as to issue of licenses for installation of wireless telegraphic apparatus.
2. Increase of maximum amounts of interest-bearing deposits in Post Office Savings-bank. Repeal. Consequential amendment of form of declaration by depositor.	7. Post Office Savings-bank accounts to be kept for year ending 31st March instead of for calendar year.
3. Declarations required to be made by Post officers and Telegraph officers may be made before authorized Post officers or Telegraph officers.	8. Post Office Savings-bank Reserve Account. Repeal.
4. Section 20 of principal Act (relating to exclusive authority of Post Office to carry letters for hire) amended.	9. Penalties for minor breaches of duty by officers of Department. Repeal.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1920, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. (1.) Section seventy-seven of the principal Act as amended by section four of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, is hereby further amended by omitting the words "three hundred pounds" wherever they occur, and substituting the words "five hundred pounds"; and by omitting the words "one thousand pounds" wherever they occur, and substituting the words "five thousand pounds."

(2.) Section four of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, is hereby repealed.

(3.) The Schedule to the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, is hereby amended by substituting "£5,000" for "£1,000" in paragraph 3 of the forms numbered (1) and (2) respectively.

(1.) Section nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the words "Post officer" in subsection two, the words "or Telegraph officer."

(2.) Section twenty-one of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919, is hereby amended by inserting, after the words "Post officer" in subsection one, the words "or Telegraph officer."

Title.

Short Title.

Increase of maximum amounts of interest-bearing deposits in Post Office Savings-bank.

Repeal.

Consequential amendment of form of declaration by depositor.

Declarations required to be made by Post officers and Telegraph officers may be made before authorized Post officers or Telegraph officers.

Section 20 of principal Act (relating to exclusive authority of Post Office to carry letters for hire) amended.

4. Section twenty of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following subsection :—

“(4.) For the purposes of this section the term ‘letter’ includes any letter, post-card, letter-card, commercial paper, pattern or sample packet, and any other postal packet of a class declared by the Governor-General in Council to be letters for the purposes of this section.”

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Private telephone lines erected before passing of Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919, not to be used for profit without consent of Governor-General.

5. (1.) Every person who without the consent of the Governor-General uses or maintains for hire or profit any electric line of communication by telephone or telegraph, erected before the passing of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919, commits an offence and is liable to a fine of *twenty* pounds for every day during which such offence continues.

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(2.) This section is in addition to, and not in substitution for any of the provisions of, section twenty-nine of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919.

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Extension of provisions as to issue of licenses for installation of wireless telegraphic apparatus.

6. (1.) Section three of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1911, is hereby amended by repealing subsection one, and substituting the following subsection :—

“(1.) The Minister of Telegraphs may, in accordance with regulations to be made in that behalf by the Governor-General in Council, grant licenses to any person, association, or corporation for the installation and working within New Zealand, or on board any ship registered in New Zealand, of apparatus for wireless telegraphy, within the meaning of Part X of the principal Act.”

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(2.) Section one hundred and sixty-four of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “without having first obtained the consent of the Governor in Council,” and substituting the words “otherwise than in accordance with a license granted to him in that behalf by the Minister of Telegraphs.”

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Post Office Savings-bank accounts to be kept for year ending 31st March instead of for calendar year.

7. (1.) Section seventy-eight of the principal Act is hereby amended as on and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, by omitting from subsection two the word “December,” and substituting the word “March.”

(2.) Section eighty-two of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the word “December,” and substituting the word “March”; and by omitting the words “thirty-first day of March,” and substituting the words “thirtieth day of June.”

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(3.) Section one hundred and sixteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection seven the word “calendar,” and by inserting after the word “year” the words “ending on the thirty-first day of March”; and by omitting from the same subsection the words “on or before the end of the then financial year,” and substituting the word “forthwith.”

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(4.) The accounts to be prepared first after the passing of this Act pursuant to section eighty-two and subsection seven of section one hundred and sixteen respectively of the principal Act shall be in respect of the period of fifteen months ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and *twenty-one*.

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Post Office Savings-bank Reserve Account.

8. (1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section one hundred and sixteen of the principal Act, requiring the profits

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accruing to the Post Office Account to be transferred from that account to the Consolidated Fund, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General to retain in that account profits which have heretofore accrued or may hereafter accrue to that account; and a special account, to be known as the Post Office Savings-bank Reserve Account, and forming part of the Post Office Account, shall be kept of all moneys so retained.

5 (2.) This section is in substitution for section thirty-six of the Finance Act, 1918 (No. 2), and that section is hereby accordingly
10 repealed. Repeal.

9. (1.) In addition to the powers conferred on him by paragraph (g) of section eleven of the Post and Telegraph Department Act, 1918, the Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations authorizing the imposition of fines, not exceeding *five* shillings in any case, in respect of any breach or neglect of duty by officers of the Department. Penalties for minor breaches of duty by officers of Department.

15 (2.) Fines may be imposed in accordance with such regulations without an inquiry as provided for in regulations under paragraph (f) of the said section eleven.

20 (3.) Section one hundred and thirty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (e) of subsection one thereof. Repeal.