

Hon. Mr. Coates.

POST AND TELEGRAPH AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Authority to charge Customs clearance fee on postal packets containing dutiable goods.</p> <p>3. Authority to lay pneumatic tubes under streets.</p> <p>4. Section 83 of principal Act amended.</p> <p>5. Extension of definition of postal packet for certain purposes.</p> <p>6. Offence to personate officer of Department.</p>	<p>7. Penalty for offences by telegraph officers.</p> <p>8. Protection of submarine cables.</p> <p>9. Extension of powers as to regulation of wireless telegraphy.</p> <p>10. Section 8 of Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, amended.</p> <p>11. Correction of clerical error.</p> <p>12. General power to make regulations for purposes of principal Act.</p>
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A BILL INTITLED

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

Title.

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, 1922, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. (1.) There may be charged in respect of postal packets arriving in New Zealand from parts beyond the seas and containing any goods liable to Customs duty a special fee (herein referred to as a Customs clearance fee) of such amount as may from time to time be prescribed, not exceeding sixpence in respect of any such postal packet.

Authority to charge Customs clearance fee on postal packets containing dutiable goods.

(2.) The Postmaster-General may, in his discretion, retain possession of any postal packet subject to a clearance fee under this section until such fee has been paid.

(3.) All moneys received by the Postmaster-General as Customs clearance fees shall be deemed to be postal revenue, and shall be paid accordingly into the Post Office Account.

3. For the purpose of laying any pneumatic tubes that may be required for the carriage of postal-matter or otherwise for the convenience of the Post and Telegraph Department, and for the maintenance or removal of any such pneumatic tubes, the Minister of

Authority to lay pneumatic tubes under streets.

Public Works shall have the same powers as he has under section one hundred and twenty-six of the principal Act in respect of the construction and maintenance of electric lines.

Section 83 of principal Act amended.

4. Section eighty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (d) the words "or pillar box," and substituting the words "pillar box or telephone-cabinet." 5

Extension of definition of postal packet for certain purposes.

5. For the purposes of sections eighty-seven, ninety-one, ninety-two, and ninety-nine of the principal Act the expression "postal packet" includes a telegram, whether transmitted by post or by electric line, or otherwise howsoever. 10

Offence to personate officer of Department.

6. Every person is liable on indictment to imprisonment for one year or to a fine of one hundred pounds, or to both such imprisonment and fine, who personates or falsely represents himself to be an officer of the Post and Telegraph Department.

Penalty for offences by telegraph officers.

7. Every officer or other person employed in or about the working of any telegraph who offends against or wilfully neglects or omits to comply with any of the provisions of Division II of the principal Act, in respect of which no penalty is provided elsewhere than in this section, is liable to a fine of one hundred pounds. 15

Protection of submarine cables.

8. Section one hundred and seventy-six of the principal Act is hereby amended— 20

(a.) By inserting, after the words "endanger human life, or" in subsection one, the words "injuriously affects or is likely injuriously to affect"; and

(b.) By inserting, after the words "management of the Minister" in the same subsection, the words "or forming part of any submarine telegraph-cable system operating in New Zealand." 25

Extension of powers as to regulation of wireless telegraphy.

9. The authority conferred on the Governor-General in Council by subsection three of section three of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1911, to make regulations with respect to licenses for the installation and working of apparatus for wireless telegraphy shall be deemed to include power to make regulations with respect to any or all of the matters following, namely:— 30

(a.) The revocation or suspension of any such license by the Minister of Telegraphs, and the grounds of such revocation or suspension: 35

(b.) The dismantling or confiscation of any such apparatus by or by direction of the Minister, and the grounds on which the powers of dismantling or confiscation may be exercised: 40

(c.) The making by licensees or applicants for licenses of declarations of secrecy designed to prevent the unauthorized divulgence of wireless communications that may be intercepted in the course of the exercise of the privileges conferred by the license: 45

(d.) The imposition of penalties for any breach of the regulations or of the conditions of a license, or of any declaration of secrecy:

(e.) The prohibition or regulation of the use of apparatus which may generate electric waves likely to interfere with the conduct of public wireless communications. 50

10. Section eight of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (a) of subsection two, and substituting the following paragraph:—

Section 8 of Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1913, amended.

5 “(a.) Wilfully makes any false statement when using a telephone under the control or management of the Minister with intent that some other person should act on such false statement to his substantial detriment.”

10 11. Section twenty-three of the Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1919 (amending section one hundred and forty-one of the principal Act), is hereby amended as from the passing of the first-mentioned Act by substituting the words “or duplicate” for the words “in duplicate” in paragraph (b) thereof.

Correction of clerical error.

15 12. In addition to the purposes specified therein the Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations generally for the purpose of giving full effect to the provisions of the principal Act.

General power to make regulations for purposes of principal Act.