

CHAPTER 54.

[Published April 5, 1872.]

AN ACT to protect the use of the telegraph.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. Any person connected with any telegraph company transacting business in this state in any capacity whatsoever, who shall divulge or cause to be divulged, or in any way or manner whatsoever aid or assist any person other than the person to whom a telegraph dispatch is directed, or who is entitled to receive the same, to obtain the contents of any telegraph message or the substance of the contents of any telegraph message, shall, on conviction before any court in this state, suffer imprisonment in the state prison of the state of Wisconsin not more than five years, or in the county jail not more than one year, or shall pay a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or shall be punished by such fine and either of said imprisonments in the discretion of the court, and shall be subject to a civil suit by any person or party sustaining damage thereby, and shall be made liable in said civil suit for all of the damages thereby sustained by any person or party.

Punishment for divulging contents of message.

SECTION 2. That from and after the passage and publication of this act, any person in the state of Wisconsin, who shall procure or attempt to procure from any person or employe of any telegraph company doing business in the state of Wisconsin, the contents of any telegraph dispatch, or the substance of the contents of any telegraph dispatch addressed to any person other than himself, or who shall, by any device or means whatsoever, obtain from any person or employe of said company the contents or the purport or the substance of the contents of any telegraph dispatch not addressed to himself, unless he shall be entitled to know the contents thereof, shall upon the conviction of any such offense in any court of this state, suffer imprisonment in the state prison of the state of Wisconsin, not more than five years, or in

For procuring the contents.

the county jail not more than one year, or shall pay a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or shall be punished by both fine and either of said imprisonments, in the discretion of the court, and shall be subject to a civil suit by any person or party sustaining damage thereby, and shall be made liable in said civil suit for all of the damages thereby sustained by any person or party.

For tampering
with or break-
ing lines.

SECTION 3. That from and after the passage and publication of this act, any person not being authorized thereto, who shall tamper with the lines of any telegraph company engaged in business in the state of Wisconsin, or who shall interfere with the said lines, or use without the knowledge and consent of any such company any of the lines of any such telegraph company, or in any way or manner whatsoever intentionally interrupt or disturb any of said lines, or shall send or attempt to send, without the knowledge and consent of any such company, any telegraph message, or shall intentionally break or attempt to break, interrupt or disturb the sending of any telegraph message, by any interference with any part of the lines of any such telegraph company, or who shall send or attempt to send any telegraph message by making connection with the line of any such telegraph company, without the knowledge or consent of such telegraph company, shall on conviction thereof in any court of the state of Wisconsin, be punished for each and every such offense by imprisonment in the state prison of Wisconsin, not more than two years, or the county jail not more than one year, or by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by both fine and one of said imprisonments, in the discretion of the court, and shall be subject to a civil suit by any person or party sustaining damage thereby, and shall be made liable in said civil suit for all of the damages thereby sustained by any person or party.

For doing any
act to break
connection of
lines.

SECTION 4. No person shall take down, remove, repair or alter any building or structure, or fell timber, or do or procure or cause to be done any act, although otherwise lawful, which shall destroy or injure the wires, poles or other property of a telegraph company, or break the electric connection thereof, without first giving at least twenty-four hours' notice of his intention to the company at its nearest office, in order that

the company may remove their property and provide for a new connection. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, or by fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, and shall be liable in a civil action to such company, and to any person or corporation for all damages occasioned by said violation.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 15, 1872.

CHAPTER 55.

[*Published March 19, 1872.*]

AN ACT to amend chapter two hundred and forty of the general laws of 1864, entitled "an act to amend chapter one hundred and eighty-seven of the general laws of 1859, entitled an act to amend section twenty-one of the revised statutes, entitled of the school and university lands."

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one of chapter two hundred and forty of the general laws of 1864 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: "All sales at auction of school, university and swamp lands and all other state lands, shall be made at such time and at such such public places as the commissioners of school and university lands shall designate. and the commissioners shall, previously to any such sale, cause a notice thereof, specifying the time when and the place where the same will be held, to be published once in each week, for at least six successive weeks, in one newspaper, printed in the county where such lands are situated, if any; but if there be no such newspaper, then in the newspaper printed nearest to the place where such lands are located."

Amended.
Shall give notice of time and place of sale.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 15, 1872.