TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANIES.

same may be located, and this whether such division line be a township, borough or county line. (a)

818. Sec. 2. That all acts and parts of acts, whether general, special or local, inconsistent with this act, be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this act shall take effect immediately.

An act to provide for the abolition of poll taxes assessed for county purposes in counties of the first class in this state.

Passed June 4, 1895.

820. Sec. 1. That there shall hereafter be no poll tax or tax upon the person assessed upon any inhabitant of any county of the first class in this state for any county purpose, and that all poll taxes or taxes against the person now authorized to be assessed for such purpose in any such county, whether the same is authorized by general, special or local law of this state, be and the same are hereby abolished.

821. Sec. 2. That in all cases where the statute providing for the imposition of poll taxes or taxes upon the person in any county of the first class in this state for any county purpose provides that such taxes shall be used for any special county purpose, whether the purpose be the redemption of bonds, the payment of interest on the same or otherwise, it shall be lawful to provide the necessary moneys for such special purpose by raising the same by taxation in the same manner and at the same time as other taxes are now raised and assessed in the county for the benefit said poll tax has heretofore been assessed and collected.

822. Sec. 3. That this act shall apply to the taxes to be raised for the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and all subsequent years.

823. Sec. 4. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this act shall take effect immediately.


Telegraph, Telephone and Electric Light Companies.

1. Operators, &c., exempt from militia and jury duty.
2. Telegraph companies, how incorporated.
3. When building may be commenced.
4. Election of officers.
5. Charges.
6. Taxation.
7. Offices to be established.
8. Whirlin' injury to lines punishable.
9. Poles may be put on highways.
10. Stockholders not responsible beyond subscription.
11. Act not to apply to certain subscribers.
12. Companies may consolidate.
13. Dispatches must be kept secret.
15. Common council, &c., may designate in what streets telegraph or telephone poles shall be placed.
17. How telegraph companies may construct lines by means of underground cables.
18. Amended by section 21.
19. Amended by section 23.
20. Designation of route to be made by ordinances.
21. Proceedings for designation of route of telegraph or telephone company.
22. Unlawful to construct lines unless designation obtained.
23. Proceedings in case owner, &c., refuses to give right of way, &c.
25. If wires be attached to buildings, &c., no lapes of time to justify prescription, &c.

An act in relation to operators and others in the employment of telegraph companies in this state.

P. L. 1895, p. 69.

Operators, &c., exempt from militia and jury duty.

1. That the operators and assistant operators, superintendents, managers, linemen and those directly engaged in the business of receiving and forwarding messages by telegraph, shall be exempt from militia duties and serving on juries, and from any fine or penalty for neglect thereof.
An act to incorporate and regulate telegraph companies.

2. SEC. 1. That whenever any number of persons, consisting of two or more, shall have subscribed one-third of the capital stock necessary to be issued for the construction of any line of telegraph in this state, they shall upon depositing with the secretary of state a written or printed description of the line they propose building and constructing, the localities it is intended to traverse, the capital of the company and its title or corporate name, and complying with the provisions of this act, thereby become a body politic and corporate, to sue and be sued, to purchase, hold or convey any personal or real estate as may be necessary for the purposes of this act, with all the powers, and subject to all the provisions of the act concerning corporations; provided, however, the real estate owned at any one point shall not exceed one-fourth of an acre.

3. SEC. 2. That whenever one-third or more of the capital stock necessary to build any proposed line shall have been fully subscribed, the parties making such subscription shall have the power and authority of letting the contract for building the line, to such person or persons as they may select, or choose, or proceed to build it themselves, and are also fully empowered, as commissioners, to receive subscriptions to the capital stock, and give receipts for installments paid on the same.

4. SEC. 3. That whenever the original subscribers to one-third of the amount of the capital stock shall call a meeting of the stockholders generally, by giving ten days' notice, by publication in at least three newspapers published in the state, the stockholders, when convened in accordance with said notice, shall proceed to elect officers of their said company, consisting of a president, treasurer, secretary, and at least three directors, one-third of whom shall be citizens of this state, whose term of office shall continue one year or until their successors are elected, the respective duties and powers of each of the said officers to be indicated and determined by the by-laws and regulations of the company; provided, that such by-laws and regulations do not conflict with this act, and are not repugnant to the constitution or laws of this state or of the United States; and that at every election of officers, and at every special, periodical or general meeting of the stockholders, each and every share of stock represented will entitle its representative to one vote; provided, however, no one person shall be allowed to vote more than one-third of the votes present at any such meeting.

5. SEC. 4. That no line of telegraph or company, organized and working under this act, shall be privileged to charge more than twenty-five cents for any message not exceeding ten words in length, and for messages exceeding ten words in length, twenty-five cents for the first ten words, and ten cents for every ten words over the first ten, and at that rate for less than ten to any point in this state; provided, however, the said messages are intended to be transmitted over but one company's line.

6. SEC. 5. That such companies shall pay one-half of one per centum upon the amount of their capital stock into the state treasury, from the organization thereof respectively.

7. SEC. 6. That any line of telegraph or company, organized and working by virtue of this act, shall establish, maintain and keep open at least one office every forty miles traversed by their line; and whenever any two or more persons shall, by a proper observance of the conditions of this act, thereby become a body corporate, they shall have the privilege of building and maintaining a line as described, for the full term of twenty years; provided, however, that within three years from the date of description filed with the secretary of state, they shall have built and completed the same.

8. SEC. 7. That if any person or persons shall willfully and unlawfully injure, destroy or obstruct the use of any telegraph line constructed by virtue of this act, such person or persons so offending shall, for the first offense, pay to the said company the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered as debts of like amount are by law recoverable, and be liable for
all damages, and shall for the second offense, on conviction thereof, be liable to imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year.

9. Sec. 8. That any telegraph company organized by virtue of this act shall have full power to use the public roads or highways in this state, on the line of their route, for the purpose of erecting posts or poles on the same, to sustain the wires and other fixtures, upon first obtaining consent in writing of the owner of the soil; provided, however, no post or pole shall be erected in any street of any incorporated city or town without first obtaining from the incorporated city or town a designation of the streets in which the same shall be placed and the manner of placing the same, and that the same shall be so located as in no way to interfere with the safety or convenience of persons traveling on or over the said roads and highways; and that the use of the public streets in any of the incorporated cities and towns of this state shall be subject to such regulations and restrictions as may be imposed by the corporate authorities of said cities or towns. (a)

10. Sec. 9. That no subscribers to the capital stock of any company organized by virtue of this act shall in any event be responsible for any amount beyond their subscriptions.

11. Sec. 10. That the foregoing sections of this act shall not apply to any corporations existing or any line or lines in operation on the fifth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

12. Sec. 11. That any telegraph company chartered under the provisions of any act of this state, may connect and consolidate with any other incorporated telegraph company, whether chartered by or existing under a law of this state, or of any other state; and may upon such consolidation, by resolution of its board of directors, change its name, which change of name shall take effect on filing a copy of such resolution, certified under its corporate seal, in the office of the secretary of state of this state; provided, that neither such connection, consolidation or change of name shall affect the obligations or debts of said company, or the process for their enforcement or lien upon its property.

13. Sec. 12. That it shall not be lawful for any person connected with any line of telegraph within this state, whether as superintendent, operator, or in any other capacity whatsoever, to use or cause to be used, or make known or cause to be made known, the contents of any dispatch, of whatsoever nature, which may be sent or received over any line of telegraph in this state, without the consent or direction of either the party sending or receiving the same; and all dispatches which may be filed at any office in this state, for transmission to any point, shall be so transmitted without being made public, or their purport in any manner divulged at any intermediate point, on any pretense whatever; and in all respects the same inviolable secrecy, safe keeping and conveyance shall be maintained by the officers and agents employed on the several telegraph lines in this state, in relation to all dispatches which may be sent or received, as is now enjoined by the laws of the United States, in reference to the ordinary mail service; provided, that nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the publication, at any point, of any dispatch of a public nature which may be sent by any person or persons with a view to general publicity.

14. Sec. 13. That in case any person, superintendent, operator, or who may in any other capacity be connected with any telegraph line in this state, shall use or cause to be used, or make known or cause to be made known, the contents of any dispatch sent from or received at any office in this state, or in anywise unlawfully expose another's business or secrets, such person, being duly convicted thereof, shall, for every such offense, be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, according to the circumstances of aggravation of the offense.
Supplement. Approved March 11, 1880.

15. Sec. 1. That whenever any telegraph or telephone company, organized by virtue of the act to which this is a supplement, or by virtue of any special act, shall apply to the common council or other legislative body of any incorporated city or town, through which it is intended to construct their telegraph line, for a designation of the streets in which the posts or poles of such company may be erected, it shall be the duty of such common council or legislative body to give to such company a writing designating the streets in which the posts or poles shall be placed, and the manner of placing the same, subject to other respects to the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement. (a)

16. Sec. 2. [Amended by Sec. 23, post.]

Supplement. Approved March 11, 1880.

17. Sec. 1. That any telegraph company incorporated under the act to which this is a supplement, desiring to construct its lines by means of underground cables containing the wires, instead of poles and posts sustaining the wires, shall be subject to all the restrictions and provisions concerning the use of roads, highways and streets as are provided in the act to which this is a supplement, and any supplements thereto.

Supplement. Approved April 1, 1887. P. L. 1886, p. 201.

18. Sec. 1. [Amended by Sec. 21, post.]

19. Sec. 2. [Amended by Sec. 22, post.]

20. Sec. 3. That the designation of such route provided for in the first section of this act shall, in all cases, be made by ordinance where the legislative body of any of the municipal corporations hereinbefore designated are authorized by law to enact ordinances for any purpose whatever.

An act to amend an act entitled "A further supplement to an act entitled 'An act to incorporate and regulate telegraph companies, approved April ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five,' which further supplement was approved April first, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven."

21. Sec. 1. That sections one and two of the act of which this is amendatory [see Secs. 18 and 19, ante] be and the same are hereby amended to read as follows:

[1. That whenever any telegraph or telephone company, organized by virtue of the act to which this is a further supplement, or by virtue of any special act, shall apply to the common council, township committee, or other legislative body of any city, town, township, village or borough in this state (the common council, township committee, or other legislative body of which is authorized by law to take and appropriate lands or real estate for the opening, laying out or constructing streets therein, and to make awards for lands or real estate taken therefor, and to levy assessments for benefits or expenses of such improvements, by a board of assessment, or otherwise), through which it is intended to construct or extend any telegraph or telephone line, for a designation of the street, streets or highways in or upon which the posts or poles of said company may be erected, it shall be the duty of such common council, township committee or other legislative body to give to such company a writing, designating the street, streets or highways in which the

(a) Where complainant's right, as an abutting lot-owner, to prevent the defendant from stretching its wires over the land in the street in front of his lot, defendant claiming to act under statutory and municipal authority, is debatable, a preliminary injunction to restrain defendant's proceeding will not be allowed. Rogers v. American Telephone Co. 14 N. J. 33. As to the right to maintain wires over streets, see American Union Telephone Co. v. Town of Harrison, 4 N. J. 427.}
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posts or poles of said company shall be placed, and the manner of placing the same, subject in other respects to the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement; the street, streets or highways to be designated as aforesaid shall be such as form a practicable and suitable continuous route for the line of said company through such municipality, commencing and ending upon a public highway, and shall be designated with due regard to the improvement of facilities for telegraphic or telephonic communications; in case such common council, township committee, or other legislative body shall not, within fifty days from the time of the making of such application, give to such company a writing designating the street, streets or highways in which the posts or poles of such company may be erected and the manner of placing the same, as hereinbefore provided, it shall be lawful for such company to apply to the circuit court of the county in which such city, town, township, village or borough is situate, or to the judge thereof in vacation, and such court or the judge thereof, after a hearing upon twenty days' notice to such common council, township committee or other legislative body, which notice shall be published at least once a week for two weeks in a newspaper in which the ordinances of such city, town, township, village or borough are published according to law, or in case there is no such official newspaper, then in a newspaper published in the county to be designated by said court or judge, shall as speedily as possible hear the matter in question, and may, in the discretion of said court or judge, designate the street, streets, or highways in which the posts or poles of such company may be erected and the manner of placing the same, which designation shall have the same force and effect as if made by the legislative body of said city, town, township, village or borough.

22. That it shall be unlawful for any telegraph or telephone company to construct or extend any telegraph or telephone line, or to erect any posts or poles therefor in any city, town, township, village or borough having the power enumerated in the first section of this act, without first obtaining such designation of their route, and then only upon the street, streets or highways so to be designated.

An act to amend an act entitled "A supplement to an act entitled 'An act to incorporate and regulate telegraph companies,' approved April ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five," which supplemental act was approved March eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and to extend the provisions of said act approved April ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and all supplements to said last-mentioned act, to telephone companies.

Approved June 20, 1890.

23. Sec. 1. That the second section of the act entitled "A supplement to an act entitled 'An act to incorporate and regulate telegraph companies,' approved April ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five," approved March eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and eighty [see Sec. 16, ante], be and the same hereby is amended so as to read as follows:

[That in case any owner or owners of the soil of any road or highway, on or along which any telegraph or telephone company, organized or incorporated under any law of this state, may desire to erect its poles and place its wires or other fixtures, shall refuse to give his, her or their written consent to such use of said road or highway, where consent is required by law, or where, by reason of the legal incapacity or absence of such owner or owners from this state, or because the names or residences of such owner or owners may be unknown, such consent cannot be obtained, it shall be lawful for such company to present its petition to the circuit court of the county in which said road or highways are situate, or to the judge thereof in vacation, setting forth the privilege or right of way desired or sought to be acquired, the names of the owners of the soil if known,
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or if not known or non-resident of the state, that fact shall be stated, and
the names of any number of owners or any number of descriptions of the
premises desired may be mentioned in one petition, whereupon the said
court shall fix the time and place for hearing the matter contained in said
petition, and direct notice thereof to be served upon the person or persons or
corporations interested at least six days prior to such hearing, such service
to be made in the same manner as writs of summons issued out of said
court are served, or, if the owner be unknown or non-resident in this state,
such notice shall be published in a newspaper in said county for the like
period, or for such longer period as the court may direct, and in case the post-
office address of such non-resident owner can be ascertained, a copy of such
notice shall be mailed to him or her (postage prepaid) under the direction
of said court; at the time mentioned for said hearing the said court (unless
good cause to the contrary appear) shall appoint three disinterested free-
holders, residents of said county, commissioners to assess and appraise
the damages which such owner or owners may sustain by reason of the
erection and maintenance of such telegraph or telephone lines; before enter-
ing upon such service said commissioners shall severally be sworn faithfully
and impartially to perform the duties required of them, and shall, on view,
make a just appraisal, in writing, of the damages, if any, sustained by such
owner or owners, and file a report thereof in the office of the clerk of said
court; if any damages are assessed, the said company shall pay or tender
the amount of the same to the party to whom the award is made; if such
owner be unknown or cannot be found, they shall pay the same into the
said court, and thereupon, or if no damages are found to be sustained, the
said company shall have full power to use such road or highway on the line
of their route for the purpose of erecting posts or poles on the same to sus-
tain their wires and other fixtures; said commissioners shall receive
three dollars for each day’s service performed by them, to be paid by
the said company, and any party aggrieved by the assessment of damages
may have the matter determined by a jury; provided, an appeal be made
to the said court within thirty days from the time of filing the report
by the said commissioners, and said court shall thereupon order
a trial by jury, to be conducted as any other case of similar trial; if the
jury increase the damages the same and all costs and charges shall
be paid by the company, otherwise the costs and charges to be paid
by the owner or party interested; and judgment may be entered upon
the verdict of said jury and execution issued thereon as in other cases, unless
said company shall, within ten days after said verdict is rendered, elect to
abandon their proposed route or appropriation of said road or highway by
an instrument in writing to that effect, to be filed with the clerk of the
said court and entered on the minutes thereof, and as to so much as is thus
abandoned the assessment of damages shall be void; provided, that upon
such abandonment the costs of all proceedings to be taxed by the said
court shall be paid by the company to the opposite party; and provided,
also, that all the provisions of this section shall apply to any telegraph
or telephone company specially incorporated; and provided further, that noth-
in in this section contained shall in anywise modify, affect, alter or repeal
any of the provisions or requirements of section one of the said act,
approved March eleventh, eighteen hundred and eighty.] (a)

24. Scc. 2. That the provisions of the said act entitled "An act to in-
corporate and regulate telegraph companies," approved April ninth, one
thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and all supplements thereto, be

(a) This section, authorizing the condemnation of the right of
way, is constitutional. The use contemplated by it is a public
and not a private use. The petition to condemn the right of
way over a turnpike should state that the telegraph company is
to be limited to the right to erect poles in a space of specified
width along the exterior lines of the turnpike, and the order
shall be subject to the conditions. Puget Sound v. New York,
14 N. Y. 241. The petition for the assessment of damages must indicate
the site of the poles to be erected and the position which they will
be placed. Brookville v. Telephone Co., 33 N. Y. 634. It is neither
the petition nor the notice served on the landowner indicates the
interruption of the use of the poles, the number nor the size of the
cross-arm or the number of wires they will sustain, the
petition is too indefinite to be sustained. New York and New
Jersey Telephone Co. v. Brookline, 21 N. Y. 432. The petition
must show that the telegraph company is organized under the laws
of this state, and that the common council of the city within
which the poles are erected has designated, in writing or otherwise,
the streets in which the poles are to be placed. There
must also be a proper description of the poles and the premises
wherein it is to be erected for them, so that the persons to be
informed upon the landowner and the rights to be acquired by the
company, shall be defined and settled. Brookville v. Telephone Co., 22 N. Y. 54.
A map filed with and referred to in a petition to condemn,
may be used to make an description of the site and location of
pieces of land belonging to different
owners may be condemned by one proceeding. 16.
and the same are hereby declared to extend to all telephone companies heretofore organized within this state, in the manner provided in said last-mentioned act for the organization of telegraph companies and the supplements thereto; and telephone companies may be hereafter organized under said act and the supplements thereto and have and exercise all the powers and privileges conferred in and by said last-mentioned act and the supplements thereto upon telegraph companies, and such companies shall be subject and liable to all the provisions of said last-mentioned act and the supplements thereto, in the same manner and to the same extent that telegraph companies are or may be.

An act respecting telegraph, telephone, electric light and other wires and cables for electric purposes. Approved April 21, 1884.

25. Sec. 1. That whenever any wire or cable used for any telegraph, telephone, electric light, or other wire or cable for electric purposes, is or shall be attached to, or does or shall extend upon or over any building or land, no lapse of time whatsoever shall raise a presumption, or justify a prescription of any perpetual right to such attachment or extension.

 Territory and Jurisdiction.

I. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

II. LIMITS AND JURISDICTION OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK.

IV. PRESERVATION OF STATE BOUNDARY MONUMENTS.

27. Governor empowered to cause monuments to be restored.

30. Bipartisan commissioners to cause an inspection of the monuments marking the boundary lines of the state every three years, and make report to the legislature.

V. GRANTS AND Cessions TO THE UNITED STATES.

59. Consent of the state given to the purchase of lands by the United States.

60. When purchased, jurisdiction ceded to the United States.

61. Consent given and jurisdiction ceded on certain conditions.

62. Jurisdiction not to vest until title acquired. Lands exempt from taxation.

63. Proceedings when it is desirable to vacate streets, &c.

64. Proceedings when commissioners unable to agree with incommensurers or claimants.

65. Proceedings at the hearing before the commissioners.

66. After hearing, commissioners to ascertain value of private way, &c., and make award thereof.

67. When funds paid, governor to take possession.

68. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

69. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

70. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

71. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

72. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

73. Certain lands ceded to the United States.

74. Land exempted from taxes.

75. Consent given by state to purchase or condemnation of certain land by the United States.

76. Certain land ceded to United States when purchased or condemned.

77. Certain restrictions attached.

78. Jurisdiction not vested until title is acquired. Exoneration from taxes.

79. Certain lands ceded to United States.

80. Lands ceded, exempt from taxation.

81. State of New Jersey cedes certain lands to the United States for fortifications, &c.

82. Jurisdiction vested when description is filed in office of secretary of state.

83. While property of the United States, not taxable by state.