

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1850. Toronto: Stewart Derbishire & George Desbarats, 1850.

13 & 14 Victoria – Chapter 31

An Act to protect from injury Electro-Magnetic Telegraphs in this Province. 10th August, 1850.

Whereas it is necessary to protect from injury Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Lines in this Province: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That if any person shall wilfully or maliciously cut, break, destroy, or injure any instrument, cap, wire, post or other erection, used for or by any Line of Electro-Magnetic Telegraph now or hereafter to be in operation in this Province, under any Act in force therein, or that may be passed by the Legislature thereof, or in any manner by any means impede or obstruct the action and operation of such Line, such person shall be punishable by imprisonment for not less than five days nor more than thirty days, or by fine not exceeding ten pounds, or by both, according to the discretion of the Magistrate before whom the offence shall be charged: That the jurisdiction over all offences against this Act shall be in any Justice of the Peace in any Parish, Village, City, Town or County where the offence was committed, or in which the offender may be found, and the proceedings thereon shall be summary; That the fine imposed may, if not forthwith paid, be levied, with all costs of the prosecution by Warrant of Distress against and by sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, or such offender may, (in the discretion of the Magistrate) whether imprisonment be or be not part of the sentence, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding thirty days, in addition to and after the expiration of any other imprisonment making part of his sentence, unless such fine and all expenses incurred in the prosecution be sooner paid; and all such fines, when collected, shall belong to the party aggrieved by and complaining of the offence, and be paid over to such party.