

1880, No. 47.

ELECTRIC TELE-
GRAPH ACT 1875
AMENDMENT.

AN ACT to amend "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1875."

[1st September, 1880.]

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

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Electric Telegraph Act 1875 Amendment Act, 1880."

Press telegrams may have precedence in case of interruption, between certain hours.

2. The fifteenth section of the said Act shall be amended by adding thereto the following proviso, that is to say: Provided also that in case of interruption or partial interruption to the telegraph lines, all messages or despatches received for transmission for or on account of the public Press may, between such hours as shall be fixed by the Commissioner, be transmitted in precedence of all other private telegrams or messages, without reference to the order in which they were originally received for transmission at the office of origin: But such precedence shall not be permitted except by the authority of the Superintendent or the Secretary of the New Zealand Telegraph, and unless, in his opinion, the actual delivery of such private telegrams or messages would not thereby be delayed.

Communication by telephone.

3. All powers, duties, and authorities contained in or exercisable under the said Act in relation to the construction, establishment, and maintenance of electric-telegraph communication, and for the regulation thereof, are hereby extended and may be applied and exercised in relation to the construction, establishment, and maintenance of electric communication by telephone, and for the regulation thereof; and the said Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be read accordingly for the purposes of this section.

4. It shall not be lawful for any person to erect, construct, establish, or maintain, for hire or profit, any line of electric communication by telephone, except the sanction of the Governor in Council be first obtained for that purpose. Private telephones.

Every person offending against the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds for every day whereon he shall so offend. Penalty.
