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(Mr. Harrison.)

Telegraphic Messages Copyright.

ANALYSIS.

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Preamble.
1. Short Title.
2. No person other than original receiver shall publish any telegraphic message within forty-eight hours of time of first publication, without consent in writing.
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to secure in certain cases the right of Private Property in Telegraphic Messages. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to secure in certain cases the right of private property in telegraphic messages : Preamble.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Telegraphic Messages Copyright Act, 1875.” Short Title.

2. When any person, in the manner hereinafter mentioned, publishes in any newspaper any message sent by electric telegraph from any place outside the Colony of New Zealand, no other person shall, without the consent in writing of such first-mentioned person or his agent thereto lawfully authorized, print and publish, or cause to be printed or published, during a period of forty-eight hours from the time of such first-mentioned publication, the whole or any part of any such message, or (excepting the publication of any similar message in like manner sent) of the intelligence therein contained, or any comment upon or any reference to such intelligence, which will in effect be a publication of the same. No person other than original receiver shall publish any telegraphic message within forty-eight hours of time of first publication, without consent in writing.

3. Any person who shall be convicted of unlawfully publishing any telegraphic message in contravention of the last preceding clause shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable for the first offence to a penalty of not less than ten pounds and not exceeding one hundred pounds, and for the second offence to a penalty of not less than fifty pounds and not exceeding two hundred pounds, which penalties shall be recoverable in the manner directed by any Act for the time being in force for the regulation of summary proceedings before Justices of the Peace. Penalty for illegal publication.

How telegraphic messages protected by this Act to be headed.

4. Every telegraphic message protected by this Act must, when published, be headed "Under Protection of Telegraphic Messages Copyright Act, 1875," and must state the day and hour of receipt and publication.

What to be deemed *prima facie* evidence of publication of protected messages.

5. In any prosecution under this Act, the production of any document which purports to be a telegraphic message from some place outside the Colony of New Zealand, and which contains the intelligence published in the newspaper as aforesaid, and which has been delivered to some person entitled to receive the same by the proper officer of the Telegraph Department, shall be *prima facie* evidence that the message published as hereinbefore described in such newspaper is a message within the meaning of this Act; and proof that any person is, or is acting or appears to be acting as, editor sub-editor or manager of any newspaper in which there has been any publication contrary to the provisions of this Act, shall be *prima facie* evidence that such person has wilfully caused such unlawful publication.

Act not to extend to documents published by authority of Government, or to Parliamentary reports.

6. Nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed to extend to any documents published by the Government Printer, or by authority of the Government, or to the reports of proceedings in Parliament.

Act to come into operation, and to continue in force.

7. This Act shall come into force from the passing thereof, and shall continue in force until the day of