



THE  
**NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.**

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1866.

G. GREY, Governor.

**ORDER IN COUNCIL.**

At the Government House, at Wellington, the twenty-third day of November, 1866.

Present :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

**W**HEREAS by an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, intituled "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865," the Governor of New Zealand is empowered to establish lines of electric telegraph, and to purchase any lines of electric telegraph then existing: And whereas by the said Act it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, by Order in Council, to make Regulations for the transmission and delivery of all despatches, messages and communications by means of any such line, and in like manner to fix and determine the fees, rates or dues to be demanded and received for the transmission of any such despatch, message or communication, and for the delivery thereof respectively, and the modes and times of payment, and to regulate the conduct, management, working and maintenance of any such telegraph line, and any such fees, rates, dues or regulations from time to time to increase or lower, repeal, alter or vary respectively, and direct and make such others as may be deemed expedient, and such fees, rates and dues may be legally recovered; and such regulations shall have the force of law when published in the *Government Gazette* of the Colony:

And whereas by an Order in Council duly made and issued, bearing date the first day of April, 1866, the Governor in Council did, in pursuance of the said recited power and authority make regulations for the transmission of any such despatches, messages, or communications by means of any line of telegraph which has been or hereafter shall be established or purchased under the powers conferred by the said Act: And whereas it is expedient to revoke the above cited regulations under which Telegrams are authorized to be transmitted on the Lines of Electric Telegraph belonging to the General Government

of New Zealand, and to substitute other Regulations in lieu thereof:

Now therefore, His Excellency the Governor, in exercise of the powers vested in him by the hereinbefore recited Act, doth, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of New Zealand, revoke the said Regulations, and doth substitute the following Regulations contained in Schedules A. and B. for the Transmission of Telegrams in lieu thereof, and doth declare that such revocation and substitution shall take effect from and after the seventeenth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

FORSTER GORING,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

SCHEDULE A.

*Regulations and Conditions under which Telegrams are authorized to be transmitted on the Lines of Electric Telegraph belonging to the General Government, New Zealand.*

*Form of Telegram.*

1. Printed forms, upon which telegrams should be written, are issued at the various Stations of the department, and may be had on application; but all telegrams, whether written upon the prescribed form, upon any other printed form, or upon plain paper, will be considered as presented for transmission under the several conditions contained in these regulations.

2. All telegrams presented for transmission must be written in ink in a clear and legible manner; they shall contain a proper address, and bear a genuine signature, in the usual handwriting of the sender.

3. In order to prevent errors in the transmission of telegrams all words must be written in full, and no abbreviation will be allowed. It is advisable to write all numbers in words in full; but to insure accuracy, it is better to employ both words and figures.

*Precedence of Telegrams.*

4. Telegrams will be transmitted in accordance with "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865," as follows:

—English Mail Press Telegrams; Messages of the General or Provincial Governments, marked *urgent*; Messages relative to the arrest of criminals or persons accused, to the discovery or prevention of crime, or connected with the administration of justice; and telegrams in cases of pressing emergency, such as accident, sickness or death, may be transmitted in priority to any other telegrams.

5. Subject to the provisions of the last regulation Ordinary Government messages, Press and Ordinary messages shall be transmitted in the order in which they may be received by the officers of the department; but when several telegrams are presented for transmission about the same time, and any of these telegrams shall be of considerable length, then no officer shall be bound to transmit more than two hundred words of any such telegram at one time, in order to prevent telegrams of the same date suffering too great a delay, and to prevent a monopoly of the line by any one company, firm or individual.

6. Telegrams will be received for transmission at each Station at the usual hours of business, published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

*Telegrams in Cypher.*

7. Telegrams may be written in cypher, which will be counted according to the following scale, whether for figures or letters:—

8. Separate cyphers count as one word; groups of five cyphers, or fractional part of five cyphers, count as one word; groups exceeding five cyphers are counted at the rate of five cyphers to the word, and any fractional portion remaining is to be counted as one word.

9. Where cyphers are used, the sender is recommended to pay for the repetition of such telegram in order to insure accuracy.

*Delays in Transmission of Telegrams.*

10. In the event of serious delays occurring through accident to the lines, which may prevent the transmission of a telegram within a reasonable time, or may destroy the value of any telegram, notice will be sent to the senders of such telegrams should their address be known; and the sender may on producing a written application to the officer in charge of the Station at which such telegram was presented, receive the amount paid thereon if so desired, and the telegram will be cancelled.

*Delivery of Telegrams.*

11. Telegrams will be delivered free of charge within one mile of the Station to which they may be addressed and transmitted; but beyond that distance, cab or omnibus fares, or horse hire, will be charged as necessary.

12. All telegrams requiring to be delivered on shipboard, or on the water, or across the water, will bear an extra charge to defray any boat expenses so incurred.

13. Receipts must be signed by the receiver of telegrams.

14. When the sender of a telegram objects or refuses to pay the above charges, the ordinary rates for postage must be charged to prevent the non-delivery or detention of such telegram, and it will be sent by post immediately on its arrival at the Station to which it is destined.

*Telegrams that may be refused transmission.*

15. Telegrams of a seditious, libellous, indecent or injurious nature are to be refused transmission by the officer in charge of any Station.

*Payment for Telegrams.*

16. All telegrams must be prepaid.

17. Special arrangements can be made with the General Manager or General Superintendent alone for the payment of telegrams by deposit, or by

furnishing written authority covering the cost of transmission and other expenses.

18. When the sender of a telegram desires it, the reply to such telegram may be prepaid, and the messenger will be instructed to wait for such prepaid reply for the space of ten minutes, after which time the reply must be forwarded to the Station by the receiver of the original telegram.

19. Should the sender of a telegram desire to have the telegram repeated to insure accuracy, such repetition will be made at a charge of half the rate of the original telegram.

The telegram is usually repeated back from the receiving Station.

20. On special occasions when the Stations are kept open beyond the usual hours of business, a double charge will be made on all telegrams presented for transmission.

*Secrecy of Telegrams.*

21. All telegrams will be held as strictly confidential, and any violation by officers or servants in this respect is punishable by "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865."

22. In the administration of justice, telegrams may be produced in Court on a Judge's order alone.

*Tariff of Rates and Hours of Business.*

23. The tariff rates and hours of business will be published from time to time in the *New Zealand Gazette*, and posted in the various Stations.

*Responsibility.*

24. The Government will not be held responsible for errors, omissions or delays in the transmission of telegrams, nor for the non-transmission of any telegram, nor for delays in the delivery, nor for the non-delivery of any telegram, from whatever causes the same may arise.

*Customs Telegrams.*

25. No message or communication relating to the Customs shall be transmitted by any officer or other person employed in working any telegraph line belonging to the New Zealand Government or be allowed by him to be transmitted by such line during any period which shall be specified in any order from the Honorable the Commissioner of Customs, unless under the written authority of the said Commissioner or of some person authorized under his hand in that behalf.

SCHEDULE B.

*Rules and Regulations for the guidance of Officers and Servants engaged in the Electric Telegraph Department of the General Government of New Zealand.*

*General Duties of Officers, Operators, Assistants, Clerks, Messengers, Workmen and Lanemen.*

1. All persons engaged in the service of the Electric Telegraph Department, whether holding a temporary or permanent appointment, are considered as officers or servants of the department holding situations of trust, and they will, upon accepting their appointments, engage faithfully to comply with the following rules and instructions:—

2. Every Manager or Operator having charge of a Station will be held responsible for the order and efficient performance of the several duties thereof in conformity with the following rules and instructions, and all officers and servants are expected and bound to use all possible celerity in the receipt, transmission, or delivery of telegrams committed to the care of the department.

3. Every station must be open and ready for the transaction of business at the hours appointed, which will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*. And no Station must close until the appointed hour; nor even then, except when the lines are broken down

and the transmission of telegrams is impossible, until the business of the Station is cleared out, and the whole of the telegrams on hand have been transmitted.

In cases of emergency the General Manager or General Superintendent may extend the hours of business at any Station or Stations, and officers and servants will attend to the business of their respective Stations during such extra hours.

4. All officers and servants shall conform to and as far as possible enforce these rules and instructions, whenever they shall be present at the various Stations of the department, or engaged in their respective duties.

5. No stranger or strangers shall, under any pretence whatever, be admitted to the Instrument Room of any Station of this department without a special authority from the General Superintendent.

6. No officer or servant is to enter the Instrument Room of any Station of the department unless for the performance of his duties connected with the service of the department.

7. No officer shall leave his Station during the time he is on duty, nor shall he hold communication or conversation with strangers beyond what is strictly necessary for the transaction of business legitimately connected with the service of the department.

8. No officer or servant shall knowingly and wilfully divulge or communicate to any stranger the contents of any telegram coming to his knowledge in his official capacity, save and except to the sender or receiver of such telegram, under pain of incurring the penalties laid down in "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865;" and no officer or servant shall communicate to any other officer or servant the contents of any telegram coming to his knowledge solely in his official capacity, save and except for the transaction or furtherance of the business of the department.

9. No officer or servant shall read or peruse any telegram confided to the care of the department unless in the discharge or performance of his official duties.

10. No officer or servant shall give any unlawful priority in the receipt, transmission, or delivery of any telegram, nor shall he allow any unlawful priority in the receipt, transmission, or delivery of any telegram, under pain of incurring the penalties laid down in "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865."

11. Officers and servants are bound in discharging their duties to carry out the regulations and conditions under which telegrams are authorized to be transmitted on the lines of the Electric Telegraph belonging to the General Government of New Zealand.

12. Officers and servants are bound to protect to the utmost of their ability the property and interests of the department, and to render immediate information to the General Superintendent and General Manager of any damage done to the lines or property of the department or of any infringement of these rules and regulations which may come to their knowledge; and they shall prosecute and bring to judgment any person or persons whom they shall know wilfully to have violated or offended against "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865."

13. Officers and servants are expected to dedicate their whole time to the service of the department, and no officer or servant of the Electric Telegraph Department is allowed to engage in any private business or commercial transaction, nor shall he engage in commercial speculations of any kind, nor act as agent for any public or private company, nor for any private firm or private individual whatever.

Gambling and betting by officers and servants of the department are strictly prohibited.

14. Any officer entering the Instrument Room of

any Station in a state of intoxication, or being found in a state of intoxication during his hours of duty, will be liable to immediate dismissal from the service, and forfeiture of all pay then due.

15. All officers and servants, whether holding permanent appointments or temporary situations must sign the form of declaration of secrecy used by the department.

16. All persons wishing to obtain appointments in this department will be required to send in an application to the General Manager, written and signed by the applicant himself, accompanied by testimonials, as to character and respectability, from two or three persons of known respectability.

#### *Transmission of Telegrams.*

17. The following codes are to be used in the transmission of telegrams, and are framed in accordance with "The Electric Telegraph Act, 1865," and the regulations and conditions published for the guidance of officers and the public generally:—

#### *List of Codes and order in which they are to be used in the transmission of Telegrams.*

L. T.—Line Telegram: Which takes precedence of all other telegrams, and is only to be used by officers when communicating with the Telegraphic Engineer and Electrician on faults or interruptions occurring on the lines.

U. T.—Urgent Telegram; to be used by Government or police when necessary, and by private individuals only, in cases of fire, accident or death, where medical aid or other assistance is required, or where accident or death may be prevented.

These telegrams come next in order to L. T.'s.

G. T.—Government Telegram, O. T.—Ordinary Telegram, and P. T.—Press Telegram; these telegrams are to be transmitted as near as possible in the order in which they are received at the various Stations, and all precedence or priority in such telegrams must be absolutely avoided.

These telegrams come next in order to U. T.'s.

S. T.—Service Telegram; this telegram is used by officers when corresponding on the business of the department, and should interfere as little as possible with the ordinary business of the line.

If any telegram is presented for transmission as a Government Message which appears to the officer receiving it, not to be *bona fide* on the "Public Service," or if any such Message marked *urgent* is obviously not of an urgent character, the telegram must be sent as directed, but the circumstances must be reported by letter to the General Manager.

When there is a press of business on the lines, or when only one line is in working order, the following precautionary measures are to be adopted in accordance with section No. 5 Schedule A. in the transmission of long Press telegrams.

The forwarding Station is not to keep the line occupied for the transmission of Press telegrams except the English Mail news for a longer period than one hour at a time.

At the expiration of the hour, all O. T. telegrams must be transmitted, bearing date of thirty minutes delay.

Thus, if a Press telegram arrive at 10 a.m. the line may be engaged in its transmission up to 11 a.m., and at 11 a.m. the line must be given up for the transmission of O. T.'s, and all O. T.'s must be transmitted bearing date up to 10:30 a.m.

When these O. T.'s are cleared out the line may be again occupied for the space of one hour in transmitting the Press matter.

On the expiration of the hour, say at 12:30 p.m., the line must be again given up for the transmission of O. T.'s bearing date up to 12 noon, and as soon as these O. T.'s shall have been cleared out, another

hour will be given for the transmission of Press telegrams, and so on throughout the day till all telegrams, whether Press or Ordinary, shall have been cleared out.

18. When two Stations are engaged in the transmission of a telegram, it is strictly prohibited for a third Station to intervene during the transmission of the said telegram; and no officer is allowed at any time to interrupt the working of the line by holding down the key, and thus throwing a current upon the line.

19. Disputes between Stations as to the possession of the line are strictly prohibited, and no officer shall knowingly take charge of the line while he is aware that another Station holds a telegram of prior code, namely: U. T., or L. T., or a telegram of an earlier date than his own, unless he be specially authorized through some extraordinary circumstances to transmit his telegram.

The rule is to leave the line for the prior telegram.

20. In cases of press of business or delay, or when the lines are working badly, or when there is no chance of giving a distant Station communication by translating without causing considerable delay, officers are bound to transmit all telegrams so presented, bearing a delay of 30 minutes.

21. No officer is allowed to disconnect the wires or to change the connections at the testing boards of any of the Stations without a direct order from the Telegraphic Engineer, the Electrician, or their representative, except under the following circumstances.

22. When communication is totally interrupted with the Chief Station the officer in charge during the time of the interruption shall use his utmost endeavours to keep open communication with as many of the Stations as possible consistent with fair working.

23. In the case of an interruption occurring on the line, the officer in charge of a Station shall ascertain whether the fault is on one side of the Station only, and if so, on which side the fault shall have occurred.

24. If the Station be Timaru for example let the officer put earth on the Dunedin side of the line at the testing board and call Ch Ch, for a period of not longer than ten minutes; should no answer be obtained, let him then remove the earth wire, join up the Dunedin wire again to the instrument, and place the earth wire on the Christchurch side of the line, and call D. N. or O. U.

25. Should he be able to communicate with Dunedin, he will ascertain whether that Station is in communication with the Chief Station, and if not he shall immediately forward an L. T. telegram to the Telegraphic Engineer, Electrician, and General Manager, advising them of the interruption, and he shall forward all telegrams for the Northern Stations *via* Dunedin, till the fault on the North portion of the line shall have been removed.

26. When communication is totally interrupted between two Stations, the officers in charge of those Stations shall call each other, at intervals of not longer than one hour during the appointed time for business, so long as the interruption shall continue.

This rule must be strictly adhered to in order to prevent delay, so soon as any repairs on the line may be effected.

27. When a Station has been calling another for more than fifteen minutes without obtaining a reply, the officer in charge shall carry out instructions contained in Rules twenty-four (24) and twenty-five (25) Schedule B. of these rules and regulations.

Should the delay have occurred through the carelessness or negligence of another Station, the circumstances of the case must be immediately entered in the diary, and a report, stating when the delay com-

menced and terminated, shall be forwarded to the General Manager and Electrician.

28. Should any Station interfere with the communication of the line by holding down the instrument key, disconnecting or changing the Station wires, putting on earth, or otherwise interrupt the working of the line, the full circumstances of the case are to be entered in the diary, and a report sent as early as possible to the Electrician and General Manager.

29. In calling a Station the following course must be strictly adhered to:—

First: Give the call signal .—.—.—.—.—.

Secondly: Give the Station call three times.

Thirdly: Give the letter F, meaning from.

Fourthly: Give your own Station call. Let this be continued till an answer is received from the Station called.

Thus, suppose Dunedin be calling Lyttelton, first give the call signal as above, three times. Then send L.N., L.N., L.N., f., D.N., until L.N. answers by replying L.N., "here."

30. Should a Station be engaged when another Station is calling, let the officer in charge embrace the earliest opportunity of answering and giving the signal "Wait" .—.—.—.—.— together with the number of minutes his Station is likely to be engaged.

31. Should a Station continue calling, after having received the signal "Wait," let the officer in charge of the Station called conclude at once that the calling Station has an Urgent Telegram, and let him as speedily as possible give "Wait" to any other Station he may be engaged with, and place himself in communication with the Station continuing to call.

Should this latter Station have continued calling without necessity, after having received the signal "Wait," and so have interfered with the working of another Station unnecessarily, let the full particulars of the case be entered in the diary, and a report be forwarded to the General Manager as early as possible.

32. When a Station has received the signal "Wait," the officers of that Station should not continue calling unless they have telegrams bearing the codes of L. T. or U. T.; and if, having given their code, they still get "Wait," they must remain without further calling till the other Station announces its readiness to take the proffered telegram.

Should any unreasonable delay occur on the part of the other Station, the full particulars of the case must be entered in the diary, and a report forwarded to the General Manager as early as possible.

33. No abbreviations are on any account to be used in the transmission of telegrams, as abbreviations are frequently the cause of errors.

34. Casual cyphers, proper names, and doubtful words occurring in ordinary telegrams, must be repeated back by the receiver when acknowledging the receipt of such telegrams.

Take the following case as an example:—

Nat. Smith, Dunedin—

Buy 2000 bushels oats, 7s., gunnies, wanted.

Rob. Jones.

This telegram should be acknowledged thus:—

No. 19, Nat., 2000, 7s. gunnies, Rob ...—.—.—.

This rule must be rigidly enforced.

Receiving or Counter Clerks should recommend the senders of telegrams to pay for repetition when many figures or cyphers occur in a telegram to insure accuracy.

35. All Government telegrams written in cypher must be repeated back from the Receiving Station to insure accuracy in transmission.

This rule admits of no exception.

36. When several telegrams are presented for transmission about the same time, and any of these telegrams shall be of considerable length, then no

officer shall be bound to send more than two hundred words of any telegram at one time.

In carrying out this rule great judgment must be used by officers in charge whose object will be to cause as little delay as possible to Press telegrams consistently with fairness to the commercial public and others using the telegraph.

(See precautionary measures at end of list of codes, in rule 17 Schedule B.)

Equal justice is to be done to all members of the Press by transmitting fairly and equally the two hundred words prescribed by the regulations and conditions where such restriction is necessary, or an equal number of more than two hundred words as circumstances will permit in accordance with precautionary measures laid down in rule 17 Schedule B.

*Instructions for Receiving Clerks.*

37. Telegrams must be written in a clear and legible manner in ink or some indelible matter but not in lead pencil, they must bear an intelligible and proper address and must be signed by the sender.

No abbreviations must be allowed in writing telegrams.

38. Special instructions as to the delivery of telegrams whether by man and horse, by cab, omnibus, or by post, should be distinctly written on the back of the telegram form together with the amount charged for such delivery, and the whole signed by the person presenting the telegram for transmission.

39. The amount paid for the transmission and delivery of any telegram must be written on the face of each telegram, in the proper place printed for that purpose on each telegram form, and the clerk receiving such money must affix his initials to the sum to show that he was the receiver of such telegram.

40. Any officer or servant receiving a telegram shall give a receipt according to the authorized form for all charges made and shall sign the same in full and give the date on which the moneys specified therein were received.

41. Telegrams of a seditious, libelous, indecent, or injurious nature are to be refused acceptance and transmission by the officer in charge of any Station.

The utmost care, however, must be taken in carrying out this rule, and in the case of a telegram being refused transmission the full circumstances of the case must be at once reported by letter to the General Manager.

42. The sender or receiver of a telegram, when properly identified, may be allowed to see the Station copy of such telegram, or to receive a copy or copies of such telegram on payment of the tariff rates for each copy so required from the officer of the department.

*Payment of Receipts and rendering Accounts.*

43. All officers shall give security for the due performance of their duty in a bond for such amount as shall be required according to the trust reposed in them; such securities must be approved and the bonds executed by the respective parties within three months after the notification of their appointments.

44. When an officer hears of the death or bankruptcy of one of his sureties he is to report the same to the General Manager, and to give in the name of another person to become surety for him, and it will be his imperative duty to transmit annually to the Electric Telegraph Commissioner a report as to his sureties being alive and solvent.

45. All cash received for the transmission and delivery of telegrams shall be entered in a cash book provided for the purpose and the officer in charge of a Station shall balance up his cash receipts with his cash book daily.

Should any excess be found which cannot be accounted for, it must be paid into the bank with the

ordinary receipts, but should any deficiency occur full particulars of the case must be immediately reported to the General Manager, and the officer in charge is bound to use his utmost endeavours to ascertain the cause of the deficiency, and to report thereon to the General Manager.

46. All cash or moneys received on account of the department, whether for the transmission, delivery, portage, or postage of telegrams, together with all moneys received for Press accounts, or from the officers of other lines, shall be paid daily into the nearest bank or most convenient Sub-Treasury, or as otherwise specially directed.

A monthly account-current of all moneys received and expended, supported by vouchers, and prepared in such form as shall be directed by the Electric Telegraph Commissioner, shall be furnished by the officer in charge, and forwarded to the Auditor-General not later than the fourth day of each month.

A monthly statement of receipts and expenditure, in such form as shall be directed by the General Manager, shall be transmitted to the General Manager not later than the fourth day of each month.

No deductions are allowed to be made from the Station cash receipts. Payment for telegrams transmitted on other lines, for special portage and postage of telegrams, must be made out of imprest advances, in accordance with Treasury Regulations 32, 33, 34, and 35.

47. Forwarded and received abstracts must be kept at each Station, and all telegrams must be entered daily therein, according to the special instructions that will be issued as occasion may require.

These abstracts are to be forwarded to the General Manager as near weekly as possible by the regular mails.

48. All telegrams must be sent up to the Chief Station at least weekly, where such is practicable; but where mails do not leave oftener than every ten or fifteen days, the telegrams must be made up with the abstracts, and forwarded to the Chief Station up to the latest possible date by each mail.

49. The General Manager to furnish quarterly returns of stores, showing receipts and expenditure; and officers in charge of Stations or Store Depôts are required to keep an account of the furniture, instruments, materials, tools, and other stores belonging to their Stations or Depôts, and to send in to the General Manager at the termination of each month a return showing what articles have been received, sent away, or used during the month, for what purposes they were used, when sent away, and from whence received, as well as a requisition for any articles required for the following month.

50. Officers in charge of Stations or Store Depôts must keep an account of all stationery received, used, or sent away, and must forward a return to the General Manager at the beginning of each month, showing what articles have been used, sent away, or received during the previous month, together with a requisition for the supply of any articles required for the following month.

Officers will be held responsible for keeping their Stations and Depôts properly supplied with stationery, and none but the monthly requisitions will be attended to.

It will be advisable to keep a month's supply of stationery always on hand, and requisitions must be made accordingly.

*Delivery of Telegrams.*

51. Officers and servants must use their utmost endeavours to have all telegrams delivered to the person or persons to whom they may be addressed as speedily as possible.

52. On the delivery of any telegram, the messenger or person delivering such telegram shall take a receipt

from the person receiving it in or on the form issued for that purpose.

53. Should there be no person at the house, store, or locality to which any telegram may be addressed, the messenger must leave in the letter-box, or other convenient place, a notice stating that a telegram is lying at the Telegraph Station for the person to whom it may be addressed.

The rule is to deliver the telegram if possible.

*Public Complaints.*

54. All complaints made by the public, whether on the conduct of an officer or servant, on the delay or non-delivery of telegrams, on over-charges, or on any other subject, must be made in writing.

55. All written complaints must be forwarded by the first post to the office of the General Manager, accompanied by all telegrams, papers, or documents that may tend to elucidate or explain the case in point.

56. In cases of interruptions happening on the line which may cause serious delay to telegrams, intimation must be forwarded to the senders of all telegrams

on hand in six hours after the occurrence of such accident, and notice of delay shall be given to all persons presenting telegrams for transmission in two hours after the occurrence of accident.

57. Whenever interruptions occur on the lines, and telegrams cannot be transmitted to their destination by telegraph, a copy must be forwarded to their address by the first post.

*Penalty for non-observance of Rules and Regulations.*

58. Officers and servants neglecting or offending against any of the foregoing rules will render themselves liable to the payment of a fine to be fixed by the General Manager or Electric Telegraph Commissioner, or in the case of a serious offence they will be liable to suspension from pay or duty, or dismissal from the service. All such fines must be paid on the first pay-day succeeding their infliction, to officers in charge, and be by them transmitted to the Telegraphic Engineer, at Wellington, to be paid into a fund to be distributed periodically among the most deserving officers and servants of the department.