



SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

OF
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1896.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1896.

Regulations for Transmission of Telegrams.

GLASGOW, Governor.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

At the Government Buildings, at Wellington, this twenty-eighth day of May, 1896.

Present:

THE HONOURABLE R. J. SEDDON PRESIDING IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by Order in Council, dated the thirty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, and published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the same date, regulations and charges were made, under the authority of "The Electric Lines Act, 1884" (hereinafter termed "the said Act"), for the transmission of "delayed" telegrams by members of either of the Houses of the Legislature; and by Order in Council, dated the twenty-fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, certain regulations were made, under the authority of the said Act, for the transmission of telegrams by means of electric lines constructed under the said Act, and for the delivery of such telegrams, and for fixing and determining the fees and rates to be demanded and received for the transmission of any such telegrams and for the forward-

ing thereof for delivery respectively, and the mode and times of payment, and by and from whom such fees may be legally recovered; and by Order in Council, dated the eighth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the fourteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, regulations and charges were made under the authority of the said Act for the transmission of delayed telegrams: And whereas it is expedient to revoke such regulations and charges, and to make others in lieu thereof:

Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor of the Colony of New Zealand, in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in him by section fifteen of the said Act, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, and acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of the said colony, doth hereby revoke the said regulations of the thirty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one; the twenty-fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; and the eighth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, aforesaid, and in lieu thereof doth hereby make the regulations set forth in the Schedule hereto for the transmission of telegrams, for fixing the fees and rates to be demanded for such transmission, and for the other purposes hereinbefore recited; and doth hereby further order and declare that these regulations shall have effect on and from the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

SCHEDULE.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH TELEGRAMS ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE TRANSMITTED ON THE TELEGRAPH LINES BELONGING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND.

Non-liability for Errors, &c.

1. Neither Her Majesty the Queen nor the Government of the colony shall be responsible for errors, omissions, or delays in the transmission of any telegram, or for the non-delivery or non-transmission of any telegram.

Charges.

2. The charges for transmission of a telegram within New Zealand are,—

For twelve words or less, including address and signature—

Urgent	...	...	...	...	One shilling.
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	Sixpence.

Extra words, 2d. and 1d. each respectively.

On Sundays these rates are doubled.

When more than one telegram, apparently part of a message previously lodged, is presented by the same sender during any one day, such telegrams may be treated as one continuous telegram, and charged for accordingly, unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Officer in Charge that they have no connection with each other.

3. Postage stamps must be used for payment, and any person sending a telegram is required to affix such stamps to the message forms.

Receipts for Charges.

4. Receipts for the amounts paid for international and intercolonial telegrams may be obtained by the sender free of charge at the Telegraph Office at the time of presenting such telegrams for transmission. A receipt for the amount paid for an inland telegram will be given at the time of presenting such telegram for transmission on payment of a fee of twopence.

How and upon What to be written.

5. Inland telegrams presented for transmission shall be written either in ink, or with pencil, or in manifold, in a clear and legible manner; cable telegrams shall be written in ink or in manifold. All telegrams shall contain a proper address, and bear a genuine signature in the usual handwriting of the sender, or in that of his authorized agent, but when written by the agent the latter shall add his name or initials, not for transmission, but for the information of the Post and Telegraph Department.

6. In order to prevent errors in the transmission of telegrams, all words must be written in full, and no abbreviations will be allowed that are not in general use and in accordance with the usage of the language. All numbers should be written in words in full, and not in figures.

7. Printed forms upon which telegrams should be written may be obtained at all telegraph offices on application; but all telegrams, whether written upon the prescribed form, upon any other printed form, or upon plain paper, shall (subject to the provision hereinafter stated), be considered as presented for transmission under the several conditions contained in these regulations: Provided that telegrams written upon printed forms other than those supplied by the Government shall be first approved of by the Electric Telegraph Commissioner, or the same may be refused when presented for transmission.

How to be signed.

8. When it is not intended or desired that the sender's signature should be telegraphed, it must be written on the back of the message. The message may then be transmitted without a signature, or with any signature known to the receiver, such as "Kate," "Harry," "Mamma," which the sender may insert for transmission; but the receiver may have the full signature telegraphed by paying for the necessary telegrams.

Special Instructions.

9. When the sender desires that special instructions, such as "Private," "Confidential," "To be opened at once," "Per Te Anau," "By first steamer," or the like, shall be written on the envelope of the message, he shall write those instructions immediately after the address of the receiver, and pay for them as part of the message. The words shall also be written in the space for instructions.

Cipher Telegrams.

10. Telegrams may be written in cipher, which will be counted according to the following scale, whether for figures or letters: Separate ciphers count as one word; groups of five ciphers, or fractional part of five ciphers, count as one word; groups exceeding five ciphers are counted at the rate of five ciphers to the word, and any fractional portion remaining is to be counted as one word.

11. The use of a cipher address is prohibited on messages for transmission within the colony.

Telegrams may be dropped into a Letter-box.

12. Persons not wishing to send to a Telegraph Office may post a telegram in an envelope addressed "Telegram Immediate," in a wall- or pillar-box, or at a receiving office or sub-post-office. Telegrams so posted are sent on by the next collection or the next mail to the Telegraph Office to which the letters included in the collection are taken, and are thence transmitted and delivered free of extra charge, provided the proper amounts for transmission and for portage (if any) have been prepaid. The time of arrival at the Telegraph Office is regarded as the time of receipt from the public. Telegrams may also be posted not enclosed in envelopes, and when so posted they will be treated in the same manner.

Order of Priority of Transmission.

13. Telegrams will be transmitted in the following order of priority:—

- (1.) Telegrams of the Government marked *urgent*.
- (2.) Service telegrams.
- (3.) Urgent private telegrams.
- (4.) Non-urgent (ordinary) private telegrams.

Replies may be prepaid.

14. The cost of a reply may be prepaid, and a reply-form will then be delivered to the addressee, who will be at liberty to send another telegram of the value prepaid, from any Telegraph Office, at any time within six weeks. If the form be not used its value will be refunded to the sender of the original telegram on his applying within six weeks to the Accountant, General Post Office, and on the production of the form. A reply-form need not necessarily be used for a reply, but may be used to prepay any single inland message.

Collect Telegrams—Sender responsible or Transmission Charges.

15. Telegrams may be taken from the sender with the word "Collect" written thereon in the space for instructions, and in such case the value of the telegram will be collected from the receiver; but, in the event of the department being unable to collect the amount, the sender will be held responsible for the due payment thereof, and in such case, if the sender fails to pay the charges upon being requested to do so, the Officer in Charge of the Telegraph Office at which the telegram was delivered for despatch may in his own name, in any Court of competent jurisdiction, sue for and recover from the sender of such telegram all charges due for the transmission thereof.

16. The sender of a "Collect" telegram shall, if requested to do so, lodge the cost of it. Any difference between the sum required and that lodged will be settled, or any refund will be made, upon delivery of the telegram.

Repetition at Request of Sender to Insure Accuracy.

17. Telegrams can be repeated, if *the sender* desires it, by being signalled back from office to office. No copy is, in such case, given to the sender. The charge for repetition is one-half the ordinary tariff; a fraction of a penny being reckoned as a penny. Telegrams containing mercantile quotations or figures, and telegrams written in cypher, or according to a preconcerted code, should always be repeated.

Repetition at Request of Addressee to Detect Errors.

18. If *the receiver* of a telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated by paying half the amount paid for its transmission to him, fractions of a penny being reckoned as a penny. Should he require only a portion of the message to be repeated, a payment must be made at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each word embraced in the repetition. For example, if 15 words in a message of 30 words are to be repeated the payment would be eightpence. The minimum charge, however, for repetition (even of a single word) is threepence. The money will be refunded if it should turn out that the telegram has been incorrectly transmitted.

Extent of Free Delivery.

19. Except as notified in the printed list of telegraph offices published from time to time in the Post and Telegraph Guide, all telegrams shall be delivered free of charge within a distance of one mile by the nearest practicable road of the office to which they may be transmitted by wire.

	s.	d.
For any distance not exceeding half a mile beyond the free delivery	0	6
For any distance over half a mile but not exceeding one mile beyond the free delivery	...	1 0
For any distance over one mile but not exceeding two miles beyond the free delivery	...	1 6

The foregoing charges provide for ordinary delivery only. For telegrams to be delivered by special messenger, the cost of such delivery shall be added and paid for. If required to be delivered beyond the distance of three miles, all moneys disbursed in payment of cab-fares, omnibus-fares, horse-hire, portorage, or any other expenses incurred in delivery, shall be charged and paid. All telegrams shall bear any expenses incurred to defray ferriage and tolls. To prevent the non-delivery or detention of telegrams, when the sender of a telegram objects or refuses to pay the above charges, or any of them, the telegram will be posted immediately on its arrival at the office to which it is transmitted by wire.

Sender responsible for Delivery Charges.

20. The sender of a telegram shall be responsible for the payment of all charges incurred in the delivery, and, if the sender fails to pay the charges upon being requested to do so, the Officer in Charge of the Telegraph Office at which the telegram was delivered for despatch may, in his own name, in any Court of competent jurisdiction, sue for and recover from the sender thereof the charges due on such telegram.

Redirected Telegrams.

21. Telegrams redirected to a corrected address are liable to an additional charge of 6d. if delivery can be effected from the original receiving office, but if the corrected address requires the message to be re-telegraphed from the receiving office, a charge will be made equal to the original amount paid.

Fee for Search.

22. On the application of the sender or the addressee of any telegram, search will be made by the department for the copies thereof in its possession. A fee of five shillings shall accompany each application for search, or for search with copies, so as to cover cost of the search and the copy or copies required. Any excess or insufficiency in this amount, determined by the length of time occupied in the search, will be adjusted before copies are handed to applicants. The rate of payment for search is two shillings and sixpence per hour or fraction thereof. For copies of inland telegrams a charge of sixpence each will be made, and for copies of cable telegrams fivepence for every hundred words or fraction thereof. No application is entertained unless at the request of the sender or of the person to whom any telegram is addressed.

23. In the case of allegation of error on the part of the department in the transmission of any telegram, no inquiry will be made unless the telegram was a repetition-paid telegram, or unless a fee equal to half the cost of the original message is paid.

Accidents to Lines.

24. 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, the acceptance of telegrams may be refused for the time being; and, in the case of a telegram already accepted, the sender may, on an application to the General Post Office through the Officer in Charge of the Station at which such telegram was presented and paid for, receive back the amount paid thereon, and the telegram will be cancelled.

In the event of partial interruption of the lines by accident or stress of weather, the department may refuse to accept all telegrams except urgent telegrams.

Monopoly of Line forbidden.

25. The transmission of telegrams presented in quantity, or of telegrams of great length, may be delayed when their transmission would give an undue monopoly of the line to the sender or addressee.

Prohibitions.

26. Telegrams which are indecently or obscenely worded, or which appear to contain matter of a treasonable, seditious, libellous, or grossly offensive character, shall not be transmitted.

URGENT TELEGRAMS.

27. Telegrams marked *Urgent* are received at any Telegraph Office and transmitted in the order of their priority with other messages of the like code.

Urgent telegrams take precedence of all ordinary messages.

The fee for an urgent telegram is double of that for an ordinary telegram.

All ordinary telegrams accepted for transmission at any Telegraph Station after 8 p.m. are treated as *Urgent*, and charged for accordingly.

Urgent telegrams lodged on Sunday are charged four rates.

When the sender of an urgent telegram desires to pay for an urgent reply, the words "*Urgent, reply paid urgent*" must be inserted in the instructions. When the reply required is not to be urgent the instruction should be "*Urgent, reply paid.*"

CHARGES FOR MESSAGES RELATING TO SICKNESS OR DEATH.

28. Telegraphic messages relating to sickness or death or other urgent matters may be accepted and transmitted from any to any telegraph office after ordinary hours (provided the attention of the terminal office can be obtained), on payment of double rates, and the following fees:—

For calling upon a postmaster or operator in charge to transmit a message after his ordinary hours of duty, and when the office is closed, 2s. 6d., to be paid even if the telegram fails to reach its destination, but in the latter case the tariff rates collected will be refunded.

In addition to the foregoing charges a further fee of 2s. must be paid for delivery within a mile from the office.

29. Charges for ferries, tolls, or for any extra cost incurred for delivery beyond the ordinary limits must also be paid by the sender at time of presenting the telegram. The sender will also be liable for short charges, should it be subsequently found that the amount collected for carriage was insufficient.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS FOR SHIPPING.

30. Masters of vessels are permitted to forward messages at one uniform rate of sixpence for each message (including reply) to the Harbourmasters of the several ports seeking information as to the state of the weather, &c., at the port to which they are bound, or from any port which may lie in their route. These telegrams must be concise, and should be filled in in accordance with the directions to be seen at telegraph-offices.

In no case will a larger number of words in the body of the telegram than twelve be allowed.

TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS BY TELEPHONE.

31. (1.) Subscribers to telephone exchanges may, by application to the telegraph-office, have telegraphic messages which are addressed to them forwarded by telephone from the office of destination to their business or private address. Such messages will, after transmission, be posted for delivery to such address, and be marked on the front "*Transmitted by telephone.*"

(2.) This system may be availed of during the ordinary hours for attendance of officers at the telegraph-office, except in the case of offices where officers are on duty until 10 p.m., when the telegrams may be telephoned up to that hour.

(3.) The charges for transmitting telegrams as above shall be as follows:—

	s.	d.
A fee of £5 5s. per annum, paid in advance; or, in other cases, for each separate transmission, provided the telephone conversation does not exceed three minutes	...	0 6
For each additional three minutes or fraction thereof	...	0 6

When the fee is paid by time, one conversation may include two or more messages, including any referred to in the next-succeeding section. The fee to be affixed in stamps to a docket which will be provided, and presented to the telegraph-office immediately after the message has been telephoned.

(4.) Telephone exchange subscribers may also telephone to any telegraph-office connected with a telephone exchange, during the ordinary hours of telegraph attendance, if the exchange is open, any messages, not exceeding fifty words in length, to be further transmitted from the telegraph-office to the respective destinations of such messages as telegrams, provided the usual cost of such telegrams is paid in addition to the above rates.

(5.) Prior to telephoning any such message the sender shall have reduced such message to writing, and, immediately after transmission, if telephoned before 5 p.m., deliver the written message to the telegraph-office, with the charges affixed in stamps. Messages telephoned after 5 p.m. and before 8 p.m. must be handed in to the telegraph office not later than 10 o'clock the following morning.

(6.) The department reserves the right to exclude any person from the privilege of sending or receiving telegrams by telephone under this system until any arrears of fees which may be due are fully paid, and to demand a deposit before registering any application.

(7.) The transcribed copies of messages telephoned by subscribers will, so far as the department is concerned, become the original telegrams, and the department will not assume or be subject to any liability by reason or on account of any failure, delay, or mistake in or about the transmission, receipt, or delivery of any telegram under this system, from whatever cause the same may arise.

(8.) On payment of a fee of 6d. and the charge for the transmitting—at the prescribed rates for urgent or ordinary telegrams, as the case may be—of such words as may be required to convey the direction hereafter mentioned, the sender of a telegram may insert in the place for instructions thereon the direction "To be telephoned," and thereupon such telegram, upon arrival at the telegraph-office of destination, shall be forthwith telephoned through the Telephone Exchange to the addressee, if such addressee be a subscriber to such Exchange; and in other respects the provisions made for the transmission of telegrams to addressees through Telephone Exchanges at their own request shall, as far as applicable, apply to such telegram.

TARIFF RATES

IN NEW ZEALAND.

ORDINARY TELEGRAMS.

From any Station to any Station:—

For the first 12 words or less, including address and signature... **Sixpence.**

For every additional word **One penny.**

On Sundays, double the above rates.

URGENT TELEGRAMS.

For the first 12 words or less, including address and signature... **One shilling.**

For every additional word **Twopence.**

On Sundays, double the above rates.

PRESS TELEGRAMS.

DAY RATES.

From any Station to any Station:—

Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (week days),—

For the first 12 words or fraction of 12 words ... **Os. 6d.**

For every additional word **Os. ½d.**

No charge shall be made for address and signature, up to six words, on any Press telegram.

SPECIAL DAY RATE FOR MORNING PAPERS.

From or to stations *not* reopening in the evening, telegrams not exceeding 300 words and lodged not later than 4.30 p.m.:—

For each 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **1s. 0d.**

Every such telegram must have the words "Special Day Rate" in the instructions. Not more than one telegram for any one paper will be accepted on any one day at the above rates.

EVENING RATES.

Between the hours of 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. (week days), exclusive of Saturdays when offices close at 8 p.m. (except during the sitting of Parliament when the closing hour is 10 p.m.),—

For every 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **Os. 6d.**

Between the hours of 11 p.m. and midnight,—

For every 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **Os. 8d.**

After midnight, *if kept open by special arrangement*,—

For every 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **1s. 0d.**

ON SUNDAYS.

From 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.,—

For every 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **Os. 8d.**

After 5.30 p.m., if kept open by special arrangement of Press Association,—

For every 100 words or fraction of 100 words ... **1s. 0d.**

Postage stamps are to be used for payment, and when the rates are prepaid the senders should affix the stamps on the message form in the space provided for the purpose.

Telegram forms and envelopes, having the words (printed in red) "Telegram for transmission to the Officer in charge Telegraph Station," can be procured at Post Offices in towns where there is no Telegraph Station.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE SCALE OF CHARGES.

Evening newspapers publishing before 5 p.m. are allowed to receive at any period of the day of publication telegrams amounting in the aggregate to 1,000 words during the recess of Parliament and 1,500 words during the session at evening rates. 500 additional words are also allowed on the day the San Francisco mail reaches Auckland for telegrams containing news received by the mail steamer. When the San Francisco mail arrives at Auckland on Sunday, the 500 additional words are allowed on the day following.

During the session of Parliament Press parliamentary reports are accepted until 1 a.m. at the 6d. rate, and between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. at the 8d. rate, for all offices open during these hours for Press messages from Wellington.

CABLE NEWS.

Press messages lodged at Wellington between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. repeating news received by cable from beyond the colony, and bearing the words "Cable news" in the instructions, are chargeable with the evening rates for Press messages. Every such message must be charged separately.

CHARGES WHEN OFFICE RE-OPENED BY SPECIAL REQUEST.

Press messages lodged at and forwarded from any telegraph office, when specially re-opened after the usual closing hour, are forwarded as under:—

At the rate of 2s. per 100 words up to 1,000 words, the minimum charge to be 7s. 6d.

For every additional 100 after the first 1,000 words, at the rate of 6d. per 100 words or fraction thereof.

Messages lodged and forwarded on behalf of the United Press Association are liable to the following charges:—

At the rate of 6d. per 100 words or fraction thereof, together with a fee of 7s. 6d. for re-opening the office, and all charges in respect of overtime at offices other than the original forwarding office.

The additional payment to be made in all cases by the applicant.

At least six hours' notice should be given the General Post Office, Wellington, of the desire to have an office specially reopened for Press news.

CHARGES FOR PRESS TELEGRAMS RELATING TO EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS, ETC.

Press telegrams containing intelligence of extraordinary events, such as collisions, wrecks, large fires, explosions, &c., may be accepted for transmission between offices open for the midnight cable service, after those offices are closed for the receipt of other Press messages, on the following conditions:—

No message must exceed 100 words.

The rate of 1s. to be charged for each message.

The Officer in Charge may refuse to accept any such message which in his opinion does not contain news of an urgent nature.

These messages will not be permitted to interfere with or delay the transmission of the midnight cable news.

Telegrams forwarded by Members of General Assembly.

During the session of Parliament members of the General Assembly may send telegrams at the following rates, viz.:—

	s.	d.
For the first twenty-four words or any fraction thereof	0	6
For every two words or fraction of two words after the first twenty-four words	0	1

During the recess members of the General Assembly may also send telegrams to Ministers of the Crown at the foregoing rates.

Such telegrams shall be restricted either to domestic, public, or parliamentary business. Any disregard of this condition will render the telegram presented liable to be treated and charged for as an ordinary telegram.

"Collect" telegrams addressed to a Minister by any member of Parliament shall not be accepted for transmission at any telegraph office unless the Minister has by telegram requested such member to send him a reply "free," and proof thereof be given to the transmitting officer.

ALEX. WILLIS,
Clerk of the Executive Council.