

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in order to encourage and aid the construction of said line of telegraph beyond the limits of the United States, the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to detail for the use of the surveys and soundings along that portion of the Pacific coast both of America and Asia, where it is proposed to establish said telegraph, one steam or sailing vessel, in his discretion, to assist in surveys and soundings, laying down submerged cable, and in transporting materials connected therewith, and generally afford such assistance as may be deemed best calculated to secure a successful promotion of the enterprise.

Secretary of Navy may detail vessel to aid in laying telegraph.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the government of the United States shall, at all times, have priority in the use of the line or lines, so far as the same are within its territory, and shall have the right, when authorized by law, to connect said line or lines by telegraph with any military posts of the United States, and to use the same for government purposes. And in order to secure the same from injury by savages or other evil-disposed persons, to the interruption of the public business, the Secretary of War is authorized to direct the commanders of the military districts or stations, and other officers, acting under authority of the United States in the territories traversed by said telegraph, to use any available force at their command to protect the same. Subject to the right of prior use by the government, as aforesaid, said line or lines shall be at all times open to the public and to any other telegraph company upon the payment of the regular charges for transmission of despatches, and all despatches received shall be transmitted over said line and lines in the order of their reception at the telegraphic office; and the answers to said despatches shall be delivered to such parties as may be directed by the sender.

Government to have priority in use of lines.

Security from injury by savages.

Lines to be open to public.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the better to accomplish the object of this act, namely, to promote the public interest and welfare, by facilitating international and commercial intercourse between the eastern and western continents in the construction of said telegraph, and keeping the same in working order, and to secure to the government at all times, but particularly in time of war, the use and benefits of the same for diplomatic, naval, military, postal, commercial, and other purposes, congress may, at any time, add to, alter, amend, or repeal this act.

Act may be altered, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the rate of charges for public or private messages shall not exceed on said line the average usual rates in Europe and America for the same service, or such rates as shall be ascertained and fixed by a convention between the United States, Russia, and Great Britain: *Provided,* That it shall not be lawful for the owners or officers of said telegraph line to make any contract, either directly or through any intervening party or parties, for the transmission of despatches for any newspaper or newspaper association, upon terms different from those open to the enjoyment of all other newspapers or newspaper associations.

Rate of charges for messages.

Despatches for newspapers, &c., to be same for all.

APPROVED, July 1, 1864.

CHAP. CC. — *An Act repealing so much of "An Act to supply Deficiencies in the Appropriations for the Service of the Fiscal Year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and for other Purposes," approved March fourteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as appropriates twenty-five thousand Dollars for erecting a Naval Hospital at Kittery, Maine.*

July 1, 1864.

1864, ch. 30.
Ante, p. 26.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of "An act to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and for other purposes," approved, March fourteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, as appropriates "for erecting naval hospital at Kittery, Maine, twenty-five thousand dollars," be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Repeal of authority to erect a naval hospital at Kittery, Me.

APPROVED, July 1, 1864.