

HAP. 28. or commit trespass upon fixtures of said corporation erected in pursuance of authority hereby given, actually interrupting, or with intent to interrupt the operations of the telegraph, shall be liable for all damages which the said corporation may suffer in repairing the injury and in the interruption of their business, to be recovered in an action of trespass.

To construct
telegraph lines
along roads &c

SEC. 10. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the company hereby incorporated, to construct lines of telegraph along the common roads and streets of this State, and with the permission of the owners thereof, along all turnpikes, rail roads and canals, for the purpose of communicating between any of the towns and villages in this State, or beyond its limits, and the main line of said company, and with each other, subject to all the terms and conditions in this act contained.

Obligation in
case of war,
insurrection,
&c.

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted,* That the said corporation shall be bound, on application of any of the officers of this State or of the United States, acting in the event of any war, insurrection, riot or other civil commotion, or resistance of public authority, or in the prevention or punishment of crime, or the arrest of persons charged or suspected thereof, to give to the communication of such officers immediate despatch, and if any officer, operator or clerk of said company shall refuse or knowingly omit to transmit such communications, or shall designedly alter or falsify the same for any purpose whatever, he shall be subject to fine and imprisonment, in proportion to the aggravation of the offence, upon indictment and conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction: for transmitting such communications the company shall charge no higher price than for private communications of the same length.

Dividends—
when to be de-
clared.

SEC. 12. *Be it further enacted,* That dividends of so much of the profits of the company as shall be deemed expedient be declared semi-annually, in the months of January and July in each year; *provided,* that no dividend shall be declared which shall impair the capital stock of said company.

Proviso.

Additional
corporation.

SEC. 13. *Be it further enacted,* That Henry J. Rodgers, with such persons as are now or may hereafter become interested as owners of Morse's patent-right on the route from Baltimore to the Chesapeake bay, or as subscribers of funds to build an electric telegraph on said route, be and they are hereby constituted a corporation and body politic, under the name and style of the Baltimore and Offing Telegraph Company, with all the rights, powers and privileges, and subject to all the du-