

injure, alter or obstruct, or prevent the action of any meter provided for the purpose of measuring and registering the quantity of gas consumed by or at any burner, orifice or place, or cause or procure any such meter to be injured or altered, or the action thereof to be obstructed or prevented, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court. The existence of any injury or alteration of such meter which obstructs or prevents the action thereof as aforesaid, shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate and of the violation of this section by the person or persons who would receive the direct benefits from the use of gas passing through such injured or altered meter.

*Fraud Upon Electric Companies, and Damaging, Interfering, or Tampering With the Property of Such Companies.*

180-A. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to wilfully connect or disconnect any electrical conductors belonging to any company using or engaged in the manufacture and supply of electric currents for purposes of light, heat and power or either of them, or to make any connection with any such electrical conductors for the purpose of using or wasting the electric current, or to in anywise tamper with any meter used to register current consumed, or to interfere with the operation of any dynamo or other electrical appliance of such company, or to tamper with or interfere with the poles, wires or conduits used by such companies, unless such person or persons shall be duly authorized by or be in the employ of such company; provided, that nothing in this section shall in any way interfere with any lawful supervision and control of electric light and power companies, their electric conductors, appliances, machinery and poles by the municipality within which such companies are doing business, or by the officers of such municipality, nor shall anything in this section interfere with any right now existing in the councils of any municipality to pass ordinances relating to and regulating such electric light and power companies. Any person or persons found guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof, be imprisoned not exceeding six months or fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or both or either, in the discretion of the court. The existence of any connection, wire, conductor, meter alteration, or any device whatsoever which