

CHAP. 39. Penalty of neglect.

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 arrests of persons charged or suspected thereof, to give to the communications of such officers immediate despatch; and, if any officer, clerk or operator of said company shall refuse or willingly omit to transmit such communications, or shall designedly alter or falsify the same for any purpose whatsoever, he shall be subject to fine and imprisonment in proportion to the aggravation of the offence, upon 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.

In case of sale funds to be distributed, &c

SEC. 12. *Be it further enacted,* That should the owners of Morse's patents, or their assignees, acting in pursuance of any agreement which has been, or may be entered into between them and the subscribers, of funds to construct said telegraph, dispose of the said patent to the Government of the United States, or should the holders of five-sixths of the stock in said corporation agree to sell all their property in said telegraph and the fixtures thereof to the said United States, then, upon payment of the stipulated consideration to the president and directors of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, they shall forthwith distribute the same among the stockholders, and by resolution proceed to dissolve said corporation, which resolution shall be certified by the president and secretary thereof to the Secretary of State.

Body politic.

SEC. 13. *Be it further enacted,* That Samuel F. B. Morse, 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 Western limits of this State, or as subscribers of funds to build Morse's Electro Magnetic Telegraph on said route be, and the same are hereby constituted a corporation and body politic, under the name and style of the Western Telegraph Company, with all the rights, powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties and responsibilities hereinbefore granted and prescribed to the Magnetic Telegraph Company; and such corporation may be organized and put into operation at such time and in all respects in such way and manner as to a majority of the above named corporation may seem proper, and not be inconsistent with the pro-

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