

## CHAPTER 71.

### Of the Protection of Electric Telegraphs and Telephones.

#### SECTION

1.—Malicious injuries to telegraph a misdemeanor; penalty, etc.

#### SECTION

2.—Attempts to commit offences in section one.  
3.—Arrest without warrant.

1. Whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously cut, break, throw down, destroy, injure, or remove any battery, machinery, wire-cable, post, or other matter or thing whatsoever, being part of, or being used or employed in or about any electric or magnetic telegraph or telephone, or in the working thereof, or shall unlawfully or maliciously prevent or obstruct in any manner whatsoever the sending, conveyance or delivery of any communication by any such telegraph or telephone shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Supreme Court, to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years: provided that if it shall appear to any Justice, on the examination of any person charged with any offence against this section, that it is not

expedient to the ends of justice that the same should be prosecuted by indictment, the Justice may proceed summarily to hear and determine the same, and the offender shall on conviction thereof, at the discretion of the Justice, either be committed to gaol for any term not exceeding three months, or forfeit and pay such sum of money not exceeding fifty dollars, as to the Justice shall seem meet.

2. Whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously, by any overt act, attempt to commit any of the offences in the preceding section of this chapter mentioned, shall on conviction thereof before a Justice of the Peace, at the discretion of the Justice, either be committed to gaol for a period not exceeding three months, or else forfeit and pay such sum of money, not exceeding fifty dollars, as to the Justice shall seem meet.

3. Any person found committing any offence against the first or second section of this chapter may be immediately apprehended without a warrant by any person, and forthwith taken before a Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to law.