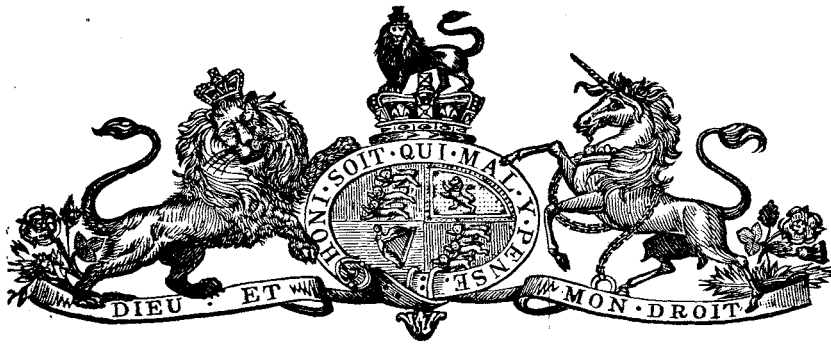


T A S M A N I A.



1895.

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO-NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

AN ACT to authorise "The *Hobart Town* A.D. 1895.
Gas Company" to light the City of *Hobart*
and its Suburbs by Electricity.
[24 October, 1895.]

WHEREAS "The *Hobart Town* Gas Company" has applied to Parliament for authority to light the City of *Hobart* and its suburbs by Electricity, and to supply Electric Light to the inhabitants of the said City and its suburbs : PREAMBLE.

And whereas it is expedient that such authority should be granted to the said Company upon the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned :

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows :—

1 This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The *Hobart Town* Short title.
Gas Company's Electric Light Act."

2 This Act shall be divided into Ten Parts, as follows :— Division of Act.

- Part I.—Interpretation.
- Part II.—Inclusion of the Company's Act.
- Part III.—Increase of Capital.
- Part IV.—Power to construct Electric Works.
- Part V.—Protection of Telegraphic and Telephonic Lines.
- Part VI.—Supply of Electricity.
- Part VII.—Power to purchase by Corporation.
- Part VIII.—Distribution of Profits.
- Part IX.—By-laws.
- Part X.—Offences.
- Part XI.—Miscellaneous.

[Private.]

Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.

A.D. 1895.

PART I.

INTERPRETATION.

Interpretation.

3 In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "Company" means the present proprietors of "The *Hobart Town Gas Company*," and all and every such other person or persons as shall or may from time to time become a proprietor or proprietors of shares in the said Company:"

The expression "Company's Act" means "The *Hobart Town Gas Company's Act*" and all subsequent amendments thereof:

The expression "area of operations" means the areas within which the said Company are now empowered to supply gas:

The expression "the local authority" means, as respects each area of operation, the Municipal Council of the said City of *Hobart* or of any municipality, and the Town Board of any town which the said Company are now empowered to supply with gas. In the event of any portion of the area of operations being by law under the control or management of any authority or person other than any such Municipal Council or Town Board, the expression "local authority" shall apply to and mean such authority or person:

The expression "electricity" means electricity, electric current, or any like agency:

The expression "electric line" means a wire or wires, conductor, or other means used for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity, with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity or electric currents:

The expression "public purposes" means the lighting any public place, road, street, way, lane, passage, or building within the limits of the City of *Hobart*, or of any town, municipality, district, or other place which the Company are now supplying with gas, or are empowered so to do:

The expression "private purposes" means any other purposes whatever not being "public purposes" to which electricity may for the time being be applicable, excepting the transmission of any telegram or telephonic message:

The expression "street" includes any square, court, or alley, highway, lane, road, thoroughfare, or public passage, or place within the area of operations:

The expression "works" means and includes electric lines, also any buildings, machinery, engines, works, matters, or things of whatever description required to supply electricity, and to carry into effect the object of the Company under this Act:

The expression "post" means a post, pole, standard, stay, or strut, or other above-ground contrivance for carrying, suspending, or supporting electric lines or lamps connected therewith:

The expression "the said Corporation" shall mean the Municipal Council of the City of *Hobart*:

The expression "person" shall include bodies corporate.

*Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.***PART II.**

A.D. 1895.

INCLUSION OF THE COMPANY'S ACT.

4 All and every the powers and authorities conferred upon the Company by the Company's Act, for the manufacture and supply of gas, for the acquisition of lands and erection of works, and other powers and authorities relative and incidental thereto, shall *mutatis mutandis* be extended and applied to the generating, manufacturing, procuring, and supplying electricity. And the Company are hereby authorised and empowered, in addition to the powers conferred upon them by the Company's Act, to generate, manufacture, procure, and supply electricity for public purposes and private purposes, within the area of operations, and for such purpose to acquire such lands, construct such works, acquire such licenses for the use of any patented or protected processes, inventions, machinery, apparatus, methods, materials, or other things, and generally to do all such acts and things as may be necessary and incidental to such supply. But all the consents, restrictions, and provisions affecting the exercise of the powers and authorities as contained in the Company's Act shall be applicable to the powers and authorities hereby conferred.

Company may supply electricity.

PART III.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

5 The Company may raise and contribute among themselves, or otherwise, as the said Company shall determine, a further sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole Fifty thousand Pounds, and thereby increasing the capital of the Company for the purposes of the Company's Act and of this Act by the issue of new shares, in like manner as directed by the Company's Act.

Increase of Capital.

6 The Directors for the time being of the Company may (pursuant to any order or resolution of any general meeting or special general meeting), from time to time borrow, and take up by way of loan at interest, any sum or sums of money not exceeding at any time the amount of the capital paid up. And the money so borrowed shall be a charge upon the said Company, its undertaking, property, and effects, and the Directors may, if they shall think fit, issue debentures for the amount thereof, such debentures to be under the hands of any Two of the Directors, and the Secretary for the time being of the said Company. All moneys so borrowed and debentures issued may be secured upon the undertaking and property of the Company; and if the Directors determine that the same shall be so secured the Secretary for the time being of the said Company shall execute such mortgage, deed, or security as any Three or more of the Directors for the time being of the said Company shall, from time to time, under their hands or seals direct or appoint.

Borrowing power.

7 The Company may apply any uncalled portion of its present capital for the purposes of this Act.

Uncalled capital.

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PART IV.

POWER TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRIC WORKS.

Power to
construct lines
with consent of
local authority.

8 It shall be lawful for the said Company, under the supervision of the local authority, from time to time, to place and maintain electric lines, leads, wires, cables or conductors necessary for conveying the electricity to be supplied by them under, over, along, or across any street or open public reserve within the area of operations, and may place and maintain posts in, upon, or over any such street or open public reserve, and may at any time alter or remove the same.

Notice of laying
electric mains, &c.
to be given to
local authority.

9 Before proceeding to construct any electric line or works, under the powers contained in this Act, the Company shall give notice in writing, signed by the Secretary of the Company, to the local authority, or to their clerk, or surveyor, within the area of operations, of the Company's intention to do so : Provided always that in cases of emergency arising from defects in the electric lines or works, the Company shall be at liberty to begin to repair the same without giving such notice. And in all such cases like notice in writing shall be given by the Company to such local authority, or their clerk, or surveyor, as soon as may be convenient after the beginning of such repair.

Provision for
cases of
emergency.

Consent of local
authorities
sufficient.

10 Whenever it is necessary under the Company's Act to obtain the consent of any Town Surveyor, Commissioners, Surveyors, Trustees, or other persons to the doing of any acts therein specified, it shall be sufficient for the purposes of this Act to obtain the consent of the local authority within the area of operations ; and in like manner, whenever by the said Acts any duty is imposed upon, or any act is authorised to be done by any Town Surveyor, Commissioner, Surveyor, Trustee, or other persons, such duty or act shall, for the purposes of this Act, be carried out and enforced by the local authority within the area of operations.

Compensation
for damage.

11 In the exercise of the powers in relation to the execution of works given them under this Act, the Company shall cause as little detriment and inconvenience, and do as little damage as may be, and shall make full compensation to all bodies and persons interested, for all damage sustained by them by reason or in consequence of the exercise of such powers, the amount and application of such compensation in case of difference to be determined by arbitration.

Laying of
electric lines, &c.
near gas or water-
pipes, or other
electric lines.

12—(1.) Where the Company requires to dig or sink any trench for laying down or constructing any new electric lines (other than service lines) or other works near to which any pipe laid down by any local authority for the purpose of supplying water or any main-pipe, siphon, electric line, or other work belonging to any gas or electric supply company has been lawfully placed, or where any local authority or any gas or electric supply company require to dig or sink any trench for laying down or constructing any new mains or pipes (other than service pipes) or other works near to which any lines or works of the Company have been lawfully placed, the Company or local authority or such gas or electric supply company (as the case may be) in this Section referred to as the "operators," shall, unless otherwise agreed between the parties interested or in case of sudden emergency, give to the local

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authority, to such gas or electric supply company, or to the Company (as the case may be) in this Section referred to as "owners," not less than Three days' notice before commencing to dig or sink such trench as aforesaid, and such owners shall be entitled by their officer to superintend the work, and the operators shall conform with such reasonable requirements as may be made by the owners or such officer for protecting from injury every such main-pipe, siphon, electric line, or work, and for securing access thereto, and they shall also, if required to do so by the owner thereof, repair any damage that may be done thereto. A.D. 1895.

(2.) Where the operators find it necessary to undermine, but not alter the position of any pipe, electric line, or work, they shall temporarily support the same in position during the execution of their works, and before completion provide a suitable and proper foundation for the same where so undermined.

(3.) Where the operators (being the Company) lay an electric line crossing or liable to touch any mains, pipes, lines, or services under the control of any local authority or belonging to any gas or electric supply company, the conducting portion of such electric line shall be effectively insulated in a manner approved by the Postmaster-General, and the Company shall not, except with the consent of the gas or electric supply company (as the case may be), and of the Postmaster-General, lay their electric lines so as to come into contact with any such mains, pipes, lines, or services, or, except with the like consent, employ any such mains, pipes, lines, or services as conductors for the purposes of their supply of energy.

(4.) Any question or difference which may arise under this Section shall be determined by arbitration.

(5.) If the operators make default in complying with any of the requirements or restrictions of this Section they shall make full compensation to all owners affected thereby for any loss, damage, penalty, or costs which they may incur by reason thereof, and in addition thereto they shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds for every such default, and to a daily penalty not exceeding Five Pounds. Provided that the operators shall not be subject to any such penalty if the Court having cognizance of the case shall be of opinion that the case was one of emergency, and that the operators complied with the requirements and restrictions of this Section so far as was reasonable under the circumstances, or that the default in question was due to the fact that the operators were ignorant of the position of the main-pipe, siphon, electric line, or work affected thereby, and that such ignorance was not owing to any negligence on the part of the operators.

13 The Company shall cause any settlement of the trenches which may appear from time to time within Twelve months of the execution of the works in any street to be made good with sound and suitable material at least of equal quality to that displaced, and shall remove any ridges left therein so as to permanently leave the level of the street the same as before the commencement of the work: Provided, that the local authority may execute any such re-instatement or repairs as mentioned in this Section, and recover the cost thereof from the Company if the Company has neglected, after receiving Seven days' notice from such local authority, to effect the same.

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PART V.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEPHONIC LINES.

Company not to injure any Government line of telegraphic or telephonic communication.

14 The Company shall not in the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Act lay down any electric line or do any other work for the supply of electricity whereby any telegraphic or telephonic line belonging to or under the control of the Government is or may be injuriously affected.

Consent of Postmaster-General to be obtained.

15 The Company shall not proceed to erect or lay down any wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other electric apparatus without the approval of the Postmaster-General having been previously obtained as hereinafter provided; and if the said Postmaster-General is at any time of opinion that any telegraph or telephone wire is or may be injuriously affected by such wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other apparatus, or that the same is likely to become dangerous to the public safety or a public nuisance, the said Postmaster-General may, by notice in writing, require the Company to remove such wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other apparatus or any portion thereof; and if the Company do not within Ten days after service on them of such written notice remove the same, the said Postmaster-General may remove the same, and recover the expense of such removal from the Corporation in a summary manner.

Notice to be given to Postmaster-General of intention to execute works.

16 One month before commencing the execution of any works under the authority of this Act (not being the repairs, renewals, or amendments of existing works of which the character and position are not altered), the Company shall serve a notice upon the Postmaster-General describing the proposed works, together with a plan of the works showing the mode and position in which such works are intended to be executed, and shall, upon being required to do so by the Postmaster-General, give him any such further information in relation thereto as he may desire.

Postmaster-General may approve.

17 The Postmaster-General may in his discretion approve of any such works or plan, subject to such amendments or conditions as may seem fit, or may disapprove of the same, and may give notice of such approval or disapproval to the Company.

If Postmaster-General does not disapprove within One month works may be executed.

18 If the Postmaster-General fail to give any such notice of approval or disapproval to the Company within One month after the service of the notice upon him he shall be deemed to have approved such works and plan.

Works to be in accordance with plans.

19 Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, the Company shall not be entitled to execute any such works as above specified, except so far as the same may be of a description and in accordance with a plan which has been approved or is deemed to have been approved by the Postmaster-General as above mentioned; but where any such works, description, and plan are so approved or to be deemed to be approved, the Company may cause such works to be executed in accordance with such description and plan, subject in all respects to the provisions of this Act.

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20 If the Company make default in complying with any of the requirements or restrictions of this Act, they shall make full compensation to the Postmaster-General for any loss or damage which he may incur by reason thereof.

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Company liable in damages.

21 The Postmaster-General may require the Company to erect their wires, conductors, communicators, distributors, electric lines, or other apparatus in accordance with the rules and regulations applying to electric light and power wires as issued by the *London* Board of Trade, or such modification thereof as may be approved and sanctioned by the Governor in Council.

Wires, &c. to be erected in accordance with Rules of Board of Trade.

22 In the event of any contravention of or wilful non-compliance by the Company or their agents with any of the provisions of this Part of this Act, the Company shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds for every day during which such contravention or non-compliance continues, or, if the telegraphic communication is wilfully interrupted, not exceeding Fifty Pounds for every day on which such interruption continues.

Penalty.

23 Nothing in this Part of this Act shall subject the Company or their agents to a penalty if they satisfy the Court having cognizance of the case that an immediate execution of the work was required to avoid an accident or otherwise was a work of emergency, and that they forthwith served on the postmaster or officer in charge of the post or telegraph office nearest to the place where the work was done a notice of the execution thereof, stating the reason for executing the same without previous notice.

Penalty not to be incurred in certain cases.

24 For the purposes of this Act, a telegraphic or telephonic line belonging to or under the control of the Government shall be deemed to be injuriously affected by a work if telegraphic or telephonic communication by means of such line is, whether through induction or otherwise, in any manner affected by such work or by any use made of such work.

When line to be deemed to be injuriously affected.

25 If at any time the Company is dissatisfied with anything done by the Postmaster-General under the alleged authority of this Act, the Company may appeal to a Judge of the Supreme Court, who shall determine whether the particular power claimed by the Postmaster-General is conferred upon him by this Act, and whether the manner in which the same has been exercised is reasonable and proper for the purpose for which it is conferred, and such Judge may make such order as he shall deem necessary to secure a proper exercise of such power.

Company may appeal to Judge of the Supreme Court.

PART VI.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY.

26 It shall be lawful for the said Company from time to time to make charges for the supply of electricity, and to enter into any contract with the local authority of the area of operations for such

Power for the Company to contract for lighting streets and houses,

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and for supplying
electricity for
private purposes.

Company may
provide special
form of lamp
or burner.

Restriction on
use by consumers.

supply for public purposes, upon such terms and for such price as may be mutually agreed upon, and also to contract with any person or persons for the supply of electricity for private purposes, upon such terms and for such price as may be mutually agreed upon.

27 The Company shall be entitled to prescribe a special form of lamp or burner to be used by any local authority or person, but shall not otherwise control or interfere with the manner in which electricity supplied by them under this Act is used: Provided always that no local authority or person shall be at liberty to cut, connect, tap, or fix any wires, cables, lamps, or fittings used by any local authority or person in connection with the supply of electricity unless authorised in writing by the Company. And provided also that no local authority or person shall be at liberty to use the electricity supplied to them for any purposes, or to deal with it in any manner so as to unduly or improperly interfere with the supply of electricity to any other local authority or person by the Company, and if any dispute or difference arise between the Company and any local authority or person entitled to be supplied with electricity by virtue of this Act such dispute or difference shall be determined by arbitration.

Power to cut off
supply in case of
non-payment.

28 If any local authority or person neglect to pay any charge for electricity or any other sum due from them to the Company in respect to the supply of electricity to such authority or person, the Company may cut off such supply, and for that purpose may cut or disconnect any electric line or other works through which electricity may be supplied; and may discontinue the supply of electricity to such local authority or person.

Recovery of
charges.

29 If any local authority or person supplied with electricity or with any works by the Company neglects to pay to the Company the charges due for such electricity, or the rent or money due to the Company for the hire or fixing of such works, or any expense lawfully incurred by the Company in cutting off the supply of electricity from the premises of such local authority or person, or any other sum due, the Company may recover the sum so due as a civil debt.

Power to enter
premises.

30 Any officer appointed by the Company may at all reasonable times enter any premises to which electricity is or has been supplied by the Company in order to inspect the works, lamps, or burners used in connection therewith; and where the Company are authorised to cut off the supply of electricity from any premises they may remove any works belonging to the Company.

Works of
Company exempt
from distress.

31 Where any works belonging to the Company are placed in or upon any premises not being in the possession of the Company for the purpose of supplying electricity under this Act, such works shall not be subject to distress for rates or to the landlord's remedy for rent of the premises where the same may be, nor shall they be liable to be taken in execution under any process of a court of law or equity or any proceedings in bankruptcy against the Company or person in whose possession the same may be.

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PART VII.

POWER TO PURCHASE BY CORPORATION.

32 It shall be lawful for the Corporation of *Hobart* at any time after the passing of this Act to give the Company notice of their intention to take and acquire the whole of the property and works of the said Company used in connection with the supply of gas and electricity, together with all the rights and privileges conferred upon the Company by this Act and by the Company's Act for the manufacture and supply of gas, and to compensate the Company as hereinafter provided.

Corporation may purchase Company's works.

The amount of compensation to be paid the Company shall be a sum to be agreed upon between the Company and the Corporation, and in the event of their not agreeing shall be determined by arbitration in the mode prescribed by the *The Lands Clauses Act* in cases of disputed compensation. Provided always the said Corporation shall not exercise the powers herein conferred upon them until and after the Citizens of *Hobart* have, by a majority of two-thirds of the votes at a poll to be taken for that purpose as hereinafter provided, consented to the taking and acquiring the whole of the property and works of the said Company as aforesaid.

33 When the Council shall decide to take a poll of the citizens as aforesaid, they shall cause a notice of such poll to be inserted not less than Twelve times in the newspapers published daily in the City of *Hobart*, and in two consecutive numbers of the *Gazette*; and such notice shall contain the following particulars:—

Notice to be published.

- i. The time and place of such election :
- ii. The property and rights to be acquired.

34 Subject to the foregoing provisions, all proceedings upon the taking of any such poll as aforesaid shall be had and taken as nearly as may be as upon an election of Aldermen, as the case may require.

Procedure.

PART VIII.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

35—(1.) If the Company shall in any period of Six months make a profit of more than Six per cent. upon the amount of capital invested by the Company under the provisions and for the purposes of this Act, the Company shall pay One-half of all profits made by the Company in excess of Six per cent. upon the amount of such capital as aforesaid to the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of *Hobart*, to be applied by the said Corporation in and towards the payments of the expenses incurred in the performance of any of the functions imposed or vested by any law on or in the said Corporation or in the Municipal Council of the said City.

One-half of all profits in excess of Six per cent. to be paid to Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of *Hobart*.

(2.) As often as any profit made by the said Company upon the capital invested under the provisions and for the purposes of this Act shall be

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distributed or declared to be distributable or divisible among or payable to the shareholders of the said Company, the said Corporation shall be entitled to demand and recover by process of law One-half of whatever portion of the profit made by the Company upon such capital as aforesaid during the period for which any portion of such profit may be distributed or declared to be distributable or divisible among such shareholders shall be in excess of Six per cent. upon such capital as aforesaid.

(3.) The word "profit" as used in this part of this Act shall include profit of all kinds, whether it is distributed or declared to be divisible as dividends or as bonuses, or is carried to the credit of the capital account of the Company, or is otherwise appropriated or retained by the Company.

PART IX.**BY-LAWS.**

By-laws.

36 It shall be lawful for the Company from time to time to make, alter, and rescind, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, By-laws for the protection and preservation of any electric lines or other works constructed or erected by the Company for the purposes of this Act, and for preventing the waste or misuse of any electricity generated by the Company.

By-laws to be subject to approval of Governor in Council, and to be published in *Gazette*.

37 Every By-law made by the Company shall be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, and shall be published in two successive numbers of the *Gazette*; and *prima facie* evidence of any such By-law may be given in all Courts of Justice and in all legal proceedings whatsoever by the production of a copy of the *Gazette* purporting to contain it.

PART X.**OFFENCES.**

Penalty for damage caused to works.

38 Any person who shall wilfully, carelessly, or accidentally throw down, break, or damage any post, pillar, lamp, or works belonging to the Company, or under their control, shall be liable to pay to the said Company all damages occasioned thereby, and all costs and expenses incurred by the said Company in repairing or reinstating the same, to be recoverable in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

Stealing electricity.

39 Any person who maliciously or fraudulently abstracts, causes to be wasted or diverted, consumes or uses any electricity, shall be guilty of larceny, and punishable accordingly.

Injuring works with intent to cut off supply.

40 Any person who unlawfully and maliciously cuts or injures any electric line or works, with intent to cut off any supply of electricity, shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to be kept in penal servitude

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for any term not exceeding Five years, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding Two years. Nothing in this Section shall exempt any person from any proceeding for any offence which is punishable under any other provision of this Act, or under any other Act, or at common law, but no person shall be punished twice for the same offence. A.D. 1895.

41 Any person who shall be guilty of a breach of any By-law duly made by the Company under the provisions of this Act shall upon conviction be subject to a penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds. Penalty for breach of By-laws.

42 All offences against any By-law made in pursuance of this Act shall be heard and determined, and all penalties and sums of money imposed or made payable by this Act for the breach of any such By-law, shall be recovered in a summary way in the mode prescribed by *The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act*, and all penalties received by virtue of any such By-law shall be paid to the Company. Offences to be dealt with summarily. 19 Vict. No. 8.

43 If the Company, or any local authority, or person commit a breach of any of the provisions of this Act, for which no fine or forfeiture is otherwise provided, they or he shall be liable, upon summary conviction thereof before any Two Justices of the Peace in accordance with *The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act*, to a forfeiture not exceeding Ten Pounds for every such breach. Fine for breach of conditions not otherwise provided for.

44 Any person who thinks himself aggrieved by the imposition of any penalty which is recoverable under the authority of this Act in a summary manner may appeal against the same in the mode prescribed by *The Appeals Regulation Act*. Appeal from penalties. 19 Vict. No. 10.

PART XI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

45 Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the privileges conferred by law upon the Postmaster-General or the Superintendent of Telegraphs, or authorise or enable the said Company to transmit any telegram, or to perform any of the incidental services of receiving, collecting, or delivering telegrams, or give to the said Company any power, authority, or facility in connection with the transmission of telegrams, or the performance of any of the incidental services of receiving, collecting, or delivering telegrams. Saving privileges of Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

46 Where by this Act any fine or forfeiture is imposed, or expenses or compensation made payable, such fine, forfeiture, expenses, or compensation may be recovered as simple debts. Recovery of fines, &c.

47 Any arbitration, except as mentioned in Part VII. of this Act, herein directed shall be to some engineer or other person agreed upon by the parties as single arbitrator, and this Act shall be deemed to be the document authorising the reference within the meaning of Arbitration.

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“The Arbitration Act, 1892,” and the reference shall be subject and pursuant to that Act. The arbitrator shall in every case have power to direct how and by whom the costs of the reference and award shall be paid.

Provisions as to
general Acts
applicable hereto.

48 Nothing in this Act contained shall exempt the Company from the provisions of any Public Act which may be passed by the Parliament of *Tasmania*, applying generally to Companies engaged in the manufacture or generating of electricity, or in the sale or supply of the same, nor entitle the said Company to compensation from the Public Revenue by reason of the provisions of such general Act being made applicable to and binding on the said Company.

Local authority
may supply
electricity.

49 Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prevent any local authority from constructing at any time works for the supply of electricity for public purposes or for private purposes within the limits of such local authority.

Operation of Act.

50 If the Company does not commence operations in a *bonâ fide* manner under the powers conferred upon it by this Act within a period of Three years from the First of *January*, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, this Act shall cease and determine.