

20. *Protection of telegraph and telephone wires from interference.*—Except where otherwise permitted by the constituted authorities, in the case of aerial conductors carrying alternating currents, the two conductors constituting the lead and return for any circuit shall be run parallel with each other, and at a distance apart not exceeding 18 inches; and the position of such lead and return shall be interchanged by crossing every half mile, or at least once in any shorter length of parallel telegraph or telephone wire, which would be liable to induction.

21. *Conductors not to be placed on telegraph or telephone poles.*—In no case, without special permission from the Postmaster-General, shall any aerial conductor be attached to any pole or support carrying a telegraph or telephone wire.

22. *Owner of conductor responsible for supports.*—The owner of every aerial conductor and support shall be responsible for the efficiency of the same, and every support shall bear a distinctive mark, approved by the constituted authorities, to indicate the ownership.

23. *Maintenance.*—Every aerial conductor, including its supports and all the structural parts and electrical appliances and devices belonging to or connected with such conductor, shall be duly and efficiently supervised and maintained by or on behalf of the owners as regards both electrical and mechanical conditions.

24. *Transformers.*—Where transformers are attached to street poles, they shall be securely fixed thereto, at a height of at least eighteen feet above ground, and shall be provided with switches and fusible cut-outs placed in the lead and return of the high pressure or extra high pressure conductors, in such a manner that the transformer can be completely disconnected from the supply mains, and the whole apparatus shall be enclosed in a watertight covering, which, if of metal, shall be efficiently connected to earth, and necessary precautions shall be taken to render it impossible for the low pressure or secondary conductors to receive current from the high pressure or primary conductors.

25. *Unused conductors to be removed.*—No wire or support or attachment thereto shall remain erected for more than one month after it has ceased to be in use, unless the owner or owners intend within a period not exceeding three months to take it again into use, and of such intention shall give notice to the constituted authorities.

26. Every aerial conductor shall be placed and used with due regard to electric lines and works from time to time used, or intended to be used, for the purpose of telegraphic or telephonic communication, or the currents in such electric lines and works, and every reasonable means shall be employed in the placing and use of aerial conductors, to prevent telegraph and telephone wires being injuriously affected, whether by induction or otherwise, to the entire satisfaction of the Postmaster-General.

27. (a) Upon the proclamation of these Regulations in the *Government Gazette*, every owner of an aerial conductor for the supply of electrical energy shall forthwith furnish the Postmaster-General and the constituted authorities with a description and plan showing the mode and position in which such conductor is erected.

(b) The Postmaster-General and the constituted authorities, upon consideration of such description and plan, may require such alteration in the position or mode of erection or mode of use of such conductor, or compliance with such other conditions as he or they may think fit, having regard to the protection of the electric lines or works of the Postmaster-General; and any failure on the part of the body or person owning or using, or entitled to use, the said conductor to comply with such requirements shall be deemed to be a non-compliance with these Regulations.

(c) Any notice required to be served upon the Postmaster-General and the constituted authorities under these Regulations may be served by being addressed to them and left at, or transmitted through the post to their authorised addresses, and any notice required to be served on the body or person owning or using, or entitled to use, any aerial conductor may be served by being addressed to such body or person, and left at, or transmitted through the post to, their or his office or last known place of address.

28. In no case shall any of the foregoing Regulations be departed from, unless with special permission of the constituted authorities.

NOTE.—All existing electric light or power conductors shall be so altered as to comply with these Regulations, and all future work connected with the erection of electric light and power conductors must be carried out under these Regulations, to the entire satisfaction of the constituted authorities.

UNDERGROUND CONDUCTORS.

Pending the adoption of Regulations, where conductors are laid underground, the system to be employed shall be approved by, and the work carried out to the satisfaction of, the constituted authorities.

ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

It appears that Queensland is the only colony that has taken any legislative action with regard to electric tramways, and appended to this Report will be found a copy of the Act and Regulations approved by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council of that colony.

Mr. R. Henry supplied the following information respecting an electric tramway now being constructed in Hobart:—The company, having obtained parliamentary powers to construct tramways, are now putting down eight miles of electric tramways on what is known as the overhead trolley system, between Hobart and its suburbs. To avoid interference with the telegraph and telephone wires it has been found necessary in some cases to lay the latter underground where they cross the aerial conductor of the tramway.

Until rules and regulations are framed for the control of tramway and power wires, permission should be given by the Government to allow such work to be carried out under proper supervision, the interests of the Postmaster-General and the safety of the public being in every respect conserved.