

[Act No. 2384, February 28, 1914]

AN ACT GRANTING TO THE MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF AMERICA A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS A STATION FOR THE RECEPTION AND TRANSMISSION OF WIRELESS LONG DISTANCE MESSAGES.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:

SECTION 1. There is hereby granted and conceded to the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey in the United States of America, its successors or assigns, the right and privilege of constructing, maintaining, and operating in the Philippine Islands at such places as the said company may select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and Police, a station for the reception and the transmission of wireless long distance messages, which station may consist of two plants comprising a receiving station and a sending station.

SEC. 2. The Governor-General of the Philippine Islands shall have power and authority to permit the location of said stations or of either of them on the public domain upon such terms as he may prescribe, but no lands greater in extent than one hundred and fifty hectares shall be assigned or appropriated for the use of either of said stations.

SEC. 3. This grant and concession shall continue for a period of fifty years and is made upon the express condition that the same shall be void unless the construction of said stations is begun within two years from the date of approval of this Act and is completed within four years from said date.

SEC. 4. The said company shall not engage in domestic business in the Philippine Islands without further special assent of the Philippine Legislature, it being understood that the purpose of this franchise is to secure to the said company the right to conduct the business of long distance wireless communication with Singapore, Hongkong, Shanghai, the islands of Japan and Hawaii, and such other distant points without the Philippine Islands as the interests of the company and of trade and commerce may justify.

SEC. 5. A special right is reserved to the Government of the United States in time of war, insurrection, or domestic trouble to take over and operate the said stations upon the order and direction of the Secretary of War of the United States, the United States Government paying and compensating the said company for the use of said stations during the period that they shall be so operated by the Government.

A similar right is hereby reserved to the Government of the Philippine Islands under similar circumstances and upon similar conditions upon the order and direction of the Governor-General.

SEC. 6. The right is hereby reserved to the Government Rates, of the Philippine Islands, through the Board of Public Utility Commissioners or such other board, commission or officer as may be thereunto duly authorized, to fix the maximum