

Act No. III of 1865.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 14th February 1865.)

An Act relating to the rights and liabilities of Common Carriers.

WHEREAS it is expedient not only to enable Common Carriers to limit their liability for loss of or damage to property delivered to them to be carried, but also to declare their liability for loss of or damage to such property occasioned by the negligence or criminal acts of themselves, their servants or agents; It is enacted as follows:—

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as "The Carriers' Act, 1865."

Interpretation Clause.

2. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

"Common Carrier" denotes a person, other than the Government, engaged in the business of transporting for hire property from place to place, by land or inland navigation, for all persons indiscriminately.

"Person."

"Person" includes any association or body of persons, whether incorporated or not.

Number.

Words in the singular number include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular.

3. No Common Carrier shall be liable for the loss of or damage to property delivered to him to be carried exceeding in value one hundred Rupees and of the description contained in the Schedule to this Act, unless the person delivering such property to be carried, or some person duly authorized in that behalf, shall have expressly declared to such Carrier or his agent the value and description thereof.

Carriers not to be liable for loss of certain goods above 100 Rupees in value, unless delivered as such.

4. Every such Carrier may require payment for the risk undertaken in carrying property exceeding in value one hundred Rupees and of the description aforesaid, at such rate of charge as he may fix: Provided that, to entitle such Carrier to payment at a rate higher than his ordinary rate of charge, he shall have caused to be exhibited in the place where he carries on the business of receiving property to be carried, notice of the higher rate of charge required,

For carrying such property, payment may be required at rates fixed by Carrier.

Proviso.

required, printed or written in English and in the vernacular language of the country wherein he carries on such business.

5. In case of the loss of or damage to property exceeding in value one hundred Rupees and of the description aforesaid, delivered to such Carrier to be carried, when the value and description thereof shall have been declared and payment shall have been required in manner provided for by this Act, the person entitled to recover in respect of such loss or damage shall also be entitled to recover any money actually paid to such Carrier in consideration of such risk as aforesaid.

The person entitled to recover in respect of property lost or damaged may also recover money paid for its carriage.

6. The liability of any Common Carrier for the loss of or damage to any property delivered to him to be carried, not being of the description contained in the Schedule to this Act, shall not be deemed to be limited or affected by any public notice; but any such Carrier, not being the owner of a railroad or tramroad constructed under the provisions of Act XXII of 1863 (*to provide for taking land for works of public utility to be constructed by private persons or Companies, and for regulating the construction and use of works on land so taken*) may, by special contract, signed by the owner of such property so delivered as last aforesaid or by some person duly authorized in that behalf by such owner, limit his liability in respect of the same.

In respect of what property liability of Carrier not limited or affected by public notice.

Carriers, with certain exceptions, may limit liability by special contract.

7. The liability of the owner of any railroad or tramroad constructed under the provisions of the said Act XXII of 1863, for the loss of or damage to any property delivered to him to be carried, not being of the description contained in the Schedule to this Act, shall not be deemed to be limited or affected by any special contract; but the owner of such railroad or tramroad shall be liable for the loss of or damage to property delivered to him to be carried only when such loss or damage shall have been caused by negligence or a criminal act on his part or on that of his agents or servants.

Liability of owner of railroad or tramroad constructed under Act XXII of 1863, not limited by special contract.

In what case owner of railroad or tramroad answerable for loss or damage.

8. Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, every Common Carrier shall be liable to the owner for loss of or damage to any property delivered to such Carrier to be carried where such loss or damage shall have arisen from the negligence or criminal act of the Carrier or any of his agents or servants.

Common Carrier liable for loss or damage caused by neglect or fraud of himself or his agent.

9. In

9. In any suit brought against a Common Carrier for the loss, damage, or non-delivery of goods entrusted to him for carriage, it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff to prove that such loss, damage, or non-delivery was owing to the negligence or criminal act of the Carrier, his servants or agents.

Plaintiffs, in suits against Common Carriers for loss, damage, or non-delivery, not required to prove negligence or criminal act.

10. Nothing in this Act shall affect the provisions contained in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh Sections of Act No. XVIII of 1854 (*relating to Railways in India*).

Saving of provisions of Sections 9, 10, and 11 of Act XVIII of 1854.

SCHEDULE.

Gold and Silver Coin.

Gold and Silver in a manufactured or unmanufactured state.

Precious Stones and Pearls.

Jewellery.

Time Pieces of any description.

Trinkets.

Bills and Hundis.

Currency Notes of the Government of India, or Notes of any Banks, or Securities for payment of money, English or Foreign.

Stamps and Stamped paper.

Maps, Prints, and Works of Art.

Writings.

Title Deeds.

Gold or Silver Plate or Plated articles.

Glass.

China.

Silk in a manufactured or unmanufactured state, and whether wrought up or not wrought up with other materials.

Shawls and Lace.

Cloths and tissues embroidered with the precious metals or of which such metals form part.

Articles of ivory, ebony, or sandal-wood.