

ACT NO. III OF 1923.

[PASSED BY THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.]

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 23rd
February, 1923.)

An Act to provide for the restriction and control of the transport of cotton in certain circumstances.

WHEREAS it is expedient for the purpose of maintaining the quality and reputation of the cotton grown in certain areas in British India to enable the restriction and control of the transport by rail and the import of cotton into those areas; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Cotton Short title and extent. Transport Act, 1923.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything Definitions. repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “certified copy,” in relation to a licence, means a copy of the licence certified in the manner described in section 76 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, by the authority by which the licence was granted;

(b) “cotton” means every kind of unmanufactured cotton, that is to say, ginned and unginned cotton, cotton waste and cotton seed;

(c) “cotton waste” means droppings, stripings, fly and other waste products of a cotton-mill other than yarn waste;

(d) “licence” means a licence granted under this Act;

(e) “notified

1 of 1872.

[Price two annas.]

- (e) "notified station" means a railway station specified in a notification under section 3;
- (f) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and
- (g) "protected area" means an area into which the import of cotton or of any kind of cotton has been prohibited by a notification under section 3.

Power to issue notification prohibiting import of cotton into protected area.

3. (1) The Local Government may, for the purpose of maintaining the quality or reputation of the cotton grown in any area in the Province, by notification in the local official Gazette, prohibit the import of cotton or of any specified kind of cotton into that area save under, and in accordance with the conditions of, a licence :

Provided that no such notification shall be deemed to prohibit the import into any protected area of packages containing any kind of cotton and not exceeding ten pounds avoirdupois weight.

(2) Any such notification may prohibit the delivery to, and the taking of delivery by, any person, at any specified railway station situated in the protected area, of any cotton, the import of which into that area is prohibited when such cotton has been consigned from a railway station not situated in that area, unless such person holds a licence for the import of the cotton into that area.

Refusal to carry unlicensed cotton.

4. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Railways Act, 1890, or any other law for the time being in force, the station master of any railway station or any other railway servant responsible for the booking of goods or parcels at that station may refuse to receive for carriage at, or to forward or allow to be carried on the railway from, that station any cotton consigned to a notified station, being cotton of a kind of which the delivery at such notified station has been prohibited unless both stations are in the same protected area, or unless the consignor produces a certified copy of a licence

IX of 1890.

for

for the import of the cotton into the protected area in which such notified station is situated.

(2) Every certified copy of a licence when so produced shall be attached to the invoice or way-bill, as the case may be, and shall accompany the consignment to its destination, and shall there be dealt with in the prescribed manner.

(3) Where by or under any law in force in the territories of any State in India the import into any area, or the delivery at any railway station, of cotton or of any kind of cotton has been prohibited, the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, declare that the provisions of sub-section (1) shall apply in respect of cotton consigned to any such station as if such area and such station were respectively a protected area and a notified station, and as if any licence granted under such law were a licence granted under this Act.

5. (1) Where any cotton, the import of which into any protected area has been prohibited, has been consigned to and arrives at a notified station in any such protected area, the station master or other railway servant responsible for the receipt and delivery to the consignee of goods or parcels, as the case may be, at that station shall, unless both the notified station and the railway station from which the cotton has been consigned are situated in the same protected area, refuse to deliver the cotton until he is satisfied that the consignee holds a licence for the import of the cotton into the protected area in which such notified station is situated; and, if he is not so satisfied, or if within fourteen days the consignee or some person acting on his behalf does not appear in order to take delivery, shall return the cotton to the railway station from which it was consigned, together with an intimation that delivery of the cotton has been refused or has not been taken, as the case may be.

Procedure
where cotton
arrives at
notified sta-
tion.

(2) Any station master or other railway servant receiving any cotton returned under sub-section (1), or returned with a like intimation from a railway station

station specified in a notification under sub-section (3) of section 4, shall cause to be served on the consignor in any manner authorised by section 141 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, a notice stating that the cotton has been so returned and requiring the consignor to pay any rate, terminal or other charges due in respect of the carriage of the cotton to and from the railway station to which it was consigned, and such charges shall be deemed to be due from the consignor for all the purposes of section 55 of that Act. IX of 1890.

Penalties.

6. Any person who, in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of any notification or rule made hereunder, knowingly takes delivery of any cotton from a notified station or imports, or attempts to import, any cotton into a protected area, and any station master or other railway servant who, in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 5, without reasonable excuse, the burden of proving which shall lie upon him, delivers any cotton to a consignee or other person, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, and upon any subsequent conviction to imprisonment which may extend to three months, or to fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or to both.

Power to make rules.

7. (1) The Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, make rules to provide for any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the prevention of the import into a protected area by road, river or sea, save under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence, of cotton the import of which into that area has been prohibited by a notification under section 3;
- (b) the terms and conditions to be contained in licences and the authorities by which they may be granted; and
- (c) the manner in which licences and certified copies thereof shall be dealt with on and after the delivery of the cotton to which they relate.

(2) Any

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(2) Any such rules may provide that any contravention thereof or of the conditions of any licence, not otherwise made punishable by this Act, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

8. No notification under section 3 or rule under section 7 shall be issued by the Local Government of any Governor's Province, unless it has been laid in draft before the Legislative Council of the Province, and has been approved by a Resolution of the Legislative Council, either with or without modification or addition, but upon such approval being given the notification or rule, as the case may be, may be issued in the form in which it has been so approved.

Previous approval of Local Legislature to issue of notifications and rules.

9. No suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted against any person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

Protection for acts done under Act.