

SEC. 15. Except as provided in Section 27, and except when compelled by legal process, if a carrier delivers part of the goods for which a negotiable bill had been issued, and fails either—

A. To take up and cancel the bill, or

B. To place plainly upon it a statement that a portion of the goods has been delivered, with a description, which may be in general terms, either of the goods or packages that have been delivered or of the goods or packages which still remain in the carrier's possession, he shall be liable for failure to deliver all the goods specified in the bill, to any one who for value and in good faith purchases it, whether such purchaser acquired title to it before or after the delivery of any portion of the goods by the carrier, and notwithstanding such delivery was made to the person entitled thereto.

SEC. 16. Any alteration, addition or erasure in a bill after its issue without authority from the carrier issuing the same, either in writing or noted on the bill, shall be void, whatever be the nature and purpose of the change, and the bill should be enforceable according to its original tenor.

SEC. 17. Where a negotiable bill has been lost or destroyed, a court of competent jurisdiction may order the delivery of the goods upon satisfactory proof of such loss or destruction, and upon the giving of a bond with sufficient surety, to be approved by the court, to protect the carrier or any person injured by such delivery from any liability or loss, incurred by reason of the original bill remaining outstanding. The court may also in its discretion order the payment of the carrier's reasonable costs and counsel fees.

The delivery of the goods under an order of the court, as provided in this section, shall not relieve the carrier from liability to a person to whom the negotiable bill has been or shall be negotiated for value without notice of the proceedings or of the delivery of the goods.

SEC. 18. A bill upon the face of which the word "duplicate" or some other word or words indicating that the document is not an original bill is placed plainly, shall impose upon the carrier issuing the same the liability of one who represents and warrants that such bill is an accurate copy of an original bill, properly issued, but no other liability.

SEC. 19. No title to goods or right to their possession, asserted by a carrier for his own benefit, shall excuse him from liability for refusing to deliver the goods according to the terms of a bill issued for them, unless such title or right is derived, directly or indirectly, from a transfer made by the con-