

CHAP. 371.—An Act To expedite the delivery of imported parcels and packages not exceeding five hundred dollars in value.

June 8, 1896.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That articles, not merchandise intended for sale, not exceeding five hundred dollars in value, imported in packages not exceeding one hundred pounds in weight, in vessels of the United States, may be specially delivered to and appraised at the public stores, and the entry thereof liquidated by the collector under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, and after such appraisement and liquidation may be delivered, upon payment of the liquidated duties under the bond provided for in this Act, to express companies or other duly incorporated inland carriers bonded for the transportation of appraised or unappraised merchandise between the several ports in the United States: *Provided*, That not more than one such consignment to one ultimate consignee from the same consignor shall be imported in any one vessel: *And provided*, That the original appraisement of and liquidation of duties on such importations shall be final against the owner, importer, agent, or consignee, except in the case of manifest clerical errors, as provided for in section twenty-four of the Act of June tenth, eighteen hundred and ninety: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this Act shall apply to explosives, or any article the importation of which is prohibited by law.

SEC. 2. That such express companies or other inland carriers shall be responsible to the United States under bond for the safe delivery of such articles to the ultimate consignee: *Provided*, That if any package shall not be delivered to the ultimate consignee by the express company or other inland carrier, and shall be returned to the collector of the port where such articles are entered under the provisions of this Act within ninety days from the date of importation intact, the collector shall take charge of such package and dispose of it as unclaimed merchandise, and the duties, including additional duties, if any, under section seven of the Act of June tenth, eighteen hundred and ninety, paid shall be refunded by the Secretary of the Treasury out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the express company or other inland carriers shall be relieved of any liability therefor under its bond; and before any express company or other inland carrier shall be permitted to receive and transport any such articles they shall become bound to the United States in such bonds, in such form and amount, and with such conditions not inconsistent with law as the Secretary of the Treasury may require.

SEC. 3. That articles transported under the provisions of this Act shall be corded and sealed in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury; and the collector of the port of first arrival shall retain in his office a permanent record of such merchandise so forwarded.

SEC. 4. That such packages may be consigned to and entered by the agents of the express company or other inland carrier or steamship company, who shall at the time of entry state the ultimate consignee, and in all cases where a certified or other invoice is now required by law such invoice may be attached to or inclosed in the package, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe; and the delivery of such articles to the express company or other inland carrier shall not be delayed because of the nonarrival of the triplicate invoice, but the ultimate consignee shall be liable for any increased duty found due on reliquidation, if any, after receipt of said merchandise from the express company or other inland carrier or steamship company making entry under this Act; and the provisions of section twenty-eight hundred and fifty-seven, Revised Statutes, shall not apply to importations under this Act.

Approved, June 8, 1896.

Customs.
Special delivery of
imported articles not
exceeding \$500 in
value.

Provisos.
Single consignments.

Appraisement final.

Errors.
Vol. 26, p. 140.

Prohibited articles
not affected.

Responsibility of
carriers.

Proviso.
Disposal of unclaimed
packages.

Vol. 26, p. 134.

Liability of carriers.

Transportation
bond.

Sealing, etc.

Record.

Consignment to car-
rier.

Invoices.

Delivery.

Increased duty, etc.

R. S., sec. 2857, p. 553.