

THE LAW REFORM (TORT-FEASORS) ACT.

Cap. 214.

[30th December, 1946.]

1. This Act may be cited as the Law Reform (Tort-feasors) Act. Short title.

2. In this Act—
 “parent” and “child” shall have meanings respectively assigned to them by the Fatal Accidents Act;
 the reference to “the judgment first given” shall, in a case where that judgment is reversed on appeal, be construed as a reference to the judgment first given which is not so reversed and, in a case where a judgment is varied on appeal, be construed as a reference to that judgment as so varied.

Interpretation.

3.—(1) Where damage is suffered by any person as a result of a tort (whether or not such tort is also a crime)—

Proceedings against and contribution between joint and several tort-feasors.

- (a) judgment recovered against any tort-feasor liable in respect of such damage shall not be a bar to an action against any other person who would, if sued, have been liable as a joint tort-feasor in respect of the same damage;
- (b) if more than one action is brought in respect of such damage by or on behalf of the person by whom it was suffered, or for the benefit of the estate, or of the wife, husband, parent or child of such person, against tort-feasors liable in respect of the damage (whether as joint tort-feasors or otherwise) the sums recoverable under the judgments given in those actions by way of damages shall not in the aggregate exceed the amount of the damages awarded by the judgment first given; and in any of those actions, other than

that in which judgment is first given, the plaintiff shall not be entitled to costs unless the court is of opinion that there was reasonable ground for bringing the action;

- (c) any tort-feasor liable in respect of such damage may recover contribution from any other tort-feasor who is, or would if sued have been, liable in respect of the same damage, (whether as a joint tort-feasor or otherwise) so, however, that no person shall be entitled to recover contribution under this section from any person entitled to be indemnified by him in respect of the liability in respect of which contribution is sought.

(2) In any proceedings for contribution under this section the amount of the contribution recoverable from any person shall be such as may be found by the court to be just and equitable having regard to the extent of that person's responsibility for the damage; and the court shall have power to exempt any person from liability to make contribution, or to direct that the contribution to be recovered from any person shall amount to a complete indemnity.

Saving.

4. Nothing in this Act shall—

- (a) apply with respect to any tort committed before the 30th December, 1946; or
- (b) affect any criminal proceedings against any person in respect of any wrongful act; or
- (c) render enforceable any agreement for indemnity which would not have been enforceable if this Act had not been passed.