

general words any particular statute where the words may have their proper operation without it. Having already given its attention to the particular subject and provided for it, the Legislature is reasonably presumed not to intend to alter that special provision by a subsequent general enactment unless that intention is manifested in explicit language." (Maxwell, 3rd ed. 243-4.) "Acts which establish monopolies or confer exceptional exemptions, privileges, correlatively trenching on general rights, are subject to the same principle of strict construction." (Maxwell, 3rd ed. 411.) A case which clearly supports this principle that large general words will frequently be cut down and given a very restricted meaning is found in *Ashbury Railway Co. v. Riche*, 7 H.L. 653. There the term "general contractors" following the term "mechanical engineers" in the memorandum of association was held to have a limited meaning. The words of the articles of association, after enumerating a number of special things the company could do, concluded with the words, "To carry on the business of mechanical engineers and general contractors." Lord Cairns, Lord Chancellor, stated: "It appears to me upon all principles of construction these words must be referred to the part of the sentence which immediately precedes them. The sentence which I have read is divided into four classes of works, first, to make and sell or lend on hire railway carriages and waggons and all kinds of railway plant, fitting, machinery and rolling stock, that is, an object sui generis and complete in the specification which I have read. The second is, to carry on the business of mechanical engineers and general contractors; that again is the specification of an object complete in itself, and according to the principle of construction the term "general contractor" would be referred to that which goes immediately before, and would indicate the making generally of contracts connected with the business of mechanical engineers, such contracts as mechanical engineers are in the habit of making and are in their business required or find it convenient to make for the carrying on of their business."

The conclusion of the matter then is, that the words "plant and appliances" used in sub-s. 4 must be confined to any plant and appliances located upon the streets, roads and highways and other public places in the municipality, such words taking this limited meaning because they must be referred to the words "rolling stock" which immediately precede them in the same sub-section, and because it was manifestly the intention of the Legislature in enacting a new s. 18 of the Assessment Act to deal only with the method of assessing so much of the property of the companies named in sub-s. 2 as was situate upon the public streets of the municipality.