TITLE 11.—BANKRUPTCY

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Chapter 1.—DEFINITIONS

Sec.
1. Meaning of words and phrases.

Section 1. Meaning of words and phrases. The words and phrases used in this title and in proceedings pursuant hereto shall, unless the same be inconsistent with the context, be construed as follows: (1) "A person against whom a petition has been filed" shall include a person who has filed a voluntary petition; (2) "adjudication" shall mean the date of the entry of a decree that the defendant, in a bankruptcy proceeding, is a bankrupt, or if such decree is appealed from, then the date when such decree is finally confirmed; (3) "appellate courts" shall include the circuit courts of appeals of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the supreme courts of the Territories, and the Supreme Court of the United States; (4) "bankrupt" shall include a person against whom an involuntary petition or an application to set a composition aside or to revoke a discharge has been filed, or who has filed a voluntary petition, or who has been adjudged a bankrupt; (5) "clerk" shall mean the clerk of a court of bankruptcy; (6) "corporations" shall mean all bodies having any of the powers and privileges of private corporations not possessed by individuals or partnerships and shall include limited or other partnership associations organized under laws making the capital subscribed alone responsible for the debts of the association joint stock companies, unincorporated companies, and associations, and any business conducted by a trustee, or trustees, wherein beneficial interest or ownership is evidenced by certificate or other written instrument; (7) "court" shall mean the court of bankruptcy in which the proceedings are pending, and may include the referee; (8) "courts of bankruptcy" shall include the district courts of the United States and of the Territories and possessions to which this title is or may after July 1, 1898, be applicable, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States Court of Alaska; (9) "creditor" shall include anyone who owns a demand or claim provable in bankruptcy, and may include his duly authorized agent, attorney, or proxy; (10) "date of bankruptcy", or "time of bankruptcy", or "commencement of proceedings", or "bankruptcy", with reference to time, shall mean the date when the petition was filed; (11) "debt" shall include any debt, demand, or claim provable in bankruptcy; (12) "discharge" shall mean the release of a bankrupt from all of his debts which are provable in bankruptcy, except such as are excepted by this title; (13) "document" shall include any book, deed, or instrument in writing; (14) "holiday" shall include Christmas, the Fourth of July, the twenty-second of February, and any day appointed by the President of the United States or the Congress of the United States as a holiday or as a day of public fasting or thanksgiving; (15) a person shall be deemed insolvent within the provisions of this title whenever the aggregate of his property, exclusive of any property which he may have conveyed, transferred, concealed, or removed, or permitted to be concealed or removed, with intent to defraud, hinder, or delay his creditors, shall not, at a fair valuation, be sufficient in amount to pay his debts; (16) "judge" shall mean a judge of a court of bankruptcy, not including the referee; (17) "oath" shall include affirmation; (18) "officer" shall include clerk, marshal, receiver, referee, and trustee, and the imposing of a duty upon or the forbidding of an act by any officer shall include his successor and any person authorized by law to perform the duties of such officer; (19) "persons" shall include corporations, except where otherwise specified, and officers, partnerships, and women, and when used with reference to the commission of acts which are herein forbidden shall include persons who are participants in the forbidden acts, and the agents, officers, and members of the board of directors or trustees, or other similar controlling bodies of corporations; (20) "petition" shall mean a paper filed in a court of bankruptcy or with a clerk or deputy clerk by a debtor praying for the benefits of this title, or by creditors, alleging the commission of an act of bankruptcy by a debtor therein named; (21) "referee" shall mean the referee who has jurisdiction of the case or to whom the case has been referred, or anyone acting in his stead; (22) "conceal" shall include secrete, falsify, and mutilate; (23) "secured creditor" shall include a creditor who has security for his debt upon the property of the bankrupt of a nature to be assignable under this title, or who owns such a debt for which some indorser, surety, or other persons secondarily liable for the bankrupt has such security upon the bankrupt's assets; (24) States shall include the Territories and possessions to which this title is, or may after July 1, 1898, be applicable, Alaska, and the District of Columbia; (25) "transfer" shall include the sale and every other and different mode of disposing of or parting with property, or the possession of property, absolutely or conditionally, as a payment, pledge, mortgage, gift, or security; (26) "trustee" shall include all of the trustees of an estate; (27). "wage earner" shall mean an individual who works for wages, salary, or hire, at a rate of compensation not exceeding $1,500 per year; (28) words importing the masculine gender may be applied to and include corporations, partnerships, and women; (29) words importing the plural number may be applied to and mean only a single person or thing; (30) words importing the singular number may be applied to and mean several persons or things. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 1, 30 Stat. 544; Apr. 12, 1900, c. 191, § 34, 31 Stat. 84; Mar. 3, 1909, c. 269, § 1, 35 Stat. 838; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 1, 44 Stat. 662; June 7, 1934, c. 426, 48 Stat. 926.)

Chapter 2.—CREATION OF COURTS OF BANKRUPTCY AND THEIR JURISDICTION

Sec.
11. Courts; jurisdiction and powers.

Section 11. Courts; jurisdiction and powers. The courts of bankruptcy as defined in the previous chapter, namely, the district courts of the United States in the several States, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, the district courts of the several Territories and possessions to which this title is, or may after July 1, 1898, be, applicable, and the United States Court in the District of Alaska, are hereby made courts of bankruptcy, and are hereby invested, within their respective territorial limits as established on July 1, 1898, or as they may be thereafter changed, with such jurisdiction at law and in equity as will enable them to exercise original jurisdiction in bankruptcy proceedings, in vacation in chambers and during their respective terms, as they were on July 1, 1898, or may be thereafter held, to (1) adjudge persons bankrupt who have had their principal place of

business, resided, or had their domicile within their respective territorial jurisdictions for the preceding six months, or the greater portion thereof, or who do not have their principal place of business, reside, or have their domicile within the United States, but have property within their jurisdictions, or who have been adjudged bankrupts by courts of competent jurisdictlon without the United States and have property within their jurisdictions; (2) allow claims, disallow claims, reconsider allowed or disallowed claims, and allow or disallow them against bankrupt estates; (3) appoint receivers or the marshals, upon application of parties in interest, in case the courts shall find it absolutely necessary for the preservation of estates, to take charge of the property of bankrupts after the filing of the petition and until it is dismissed or the trustee is qualified; (4) arraign, try, and punish bankrupts, officers, and other persons, and the agents, officers, members of the board of directors or trustees, or other similar controlling bodies, of corporations for violations of the provisions contained in this title, in accordance with the laws of procedure of the United States in force on July 1, 1898, or such as may be thereafter enacted, regulating trials for the alleged violation of laws of the United States; (5) authorize the business of bankrupts to be conducted for limited periods by receivers, the marshals, or trustees, if necessary in the best interests of the estates, and allow such officers additional compensation for such services, as provided in section 76 of this title; (6) bring in and substitute additional persons or parties in proceedings in bankruptcy when necessary for the complete determination of a matter in controversy; (7) cause the estates of bankrupts to be collected, reduced to money and distributed, and determine controversies in relation thereto, except as herein otherwise provided; (8) close estates, whenever it appears that they have been fully administered, by approving the final accounts and discharging the trustees, and reopen them whenever it appears they were closed before being fully administered; (9) confirm or reject compositions between debtors and their creditors, and set aside compositions and reinstate the cases; (10) consider and confirm, modify or overrule, or return, with instructions for further proceedings, records and findings certified to them by referees; (11) determine all claims of bankrupts to their exemptions; (12) discharge or refuse to discharge bankrupts and set aside discharges and reinstate the cases; (13) enforce obedience by bankrupts, officers, and other persons to all lawful orders, by fine or imprisonment or fine and imprisonment; (14) extradite bankrupts from their respective districts to other districts; (15) make such orders, issue such process, and enter such judgments in addition to those specifically provided for as may be uecessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this title; (16) punish persons for contempts committed before referees; (17) pursuant to the recommendation of creditors, or when they neglect to recommend the appointment of trustees, appoint trustees, and upon complaints of creditors, remove trustees for cause upon hearings and after notices to them; (18) tax costs, whenever they are allowed by law, and render judgments therefor against the unsuccessful party, or the successful party for cause, or in part against each of the parties, and against estates, in proceedings in bankruptcy; (19) transfer cases to other courts of bankruptcy; and (20) exercise ancillary jurisdiction over persons or property within their respective territorial limits in aid of a receiver or trustee appointed in any bankruptcy proceedings pending in any other court of bankruptcy.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to deprive a court of baukruptcy of any power it would possess were certain specific powers not herein enumerated. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 2, 30 Stat. 545; Apr. 12, 1900, c. 191, § 34, 31 Stat. 84; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 1, 32 Stat. 797; Mar. 3, 1909, c. 269, § 1, 35 Stat. 838; June 25 1910 c. 412, §§ 1, 2, 36 Stat. 838, 839; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 2, 44 Stat. 662.)

See sections 201, 202, 203, and 205 of this title.

Chapter 3.—BANKRUPT

Sec.
21. Acts of bankruptcy.
22. Bankrupts; who may become.
23. Same; partners .
24. Same; exemptions.
25. Same; duties.
26. Same; death or insanity.
27. Same; protection and detention.
28. Same; extradition.
29. Same; suits by and against.
30. Compositions; when confirmed.
31. Same; when set aside.
32. Discharges; when granted.
33. Same; when revoked.
34. Co-debtors of bankrupts.
35. Debts not affected by a discharge.

Section 21. Acts of bankruptcy. (a) Acts of bankruptcy by a person shall consist of his having (1) conveyed, transferred, concealed, or removed, or permitted to be concealed or removed, any part of his property with intent to hinder, delay, or defraud his creditors, or any of them; or (2) transferred, while insolvent, any portion of his property to one or more of his creditors with intent to prefer such creditors over his other creditors; or (3) suffered or permitted, while insolvent, any creditor to obtain a preference through legal proceedings, and not having at least five days before a sale or other disposition of any property affected by such preference vacated or discharged such preference; or (4) suffered or permitted, while lnsolvent, any creditor to obtain through legal proceedings any levy, attachment, judgment, or other lien, and not having vacated or discharged the same within thirty days from the date such levy, attachment, judgment, or other lien was obtained; or (5) made a general assignment for the benefit of his creditors; or, while insolvent, a receiver or a trustee has been appointed, or put in charge of his property; or (6) admitted in writing his inability to pay his debts and his willingness to be adjudged a bankrupt on that ground.

(b) A petition may be filed against a person who is insolvent and who has committed an act of bankruptcy within four months after the commission of such act. Such time shall not expire until four months after (1) the date of the recording or registering of the transfer or assignment when the act consists in having made a transfer of any of his property with intent to hinder, delay, or defraud his creditors or for the purpose of giving a preference as hereinbefore provided, or a general assignment for the benefit of his creditors, if by law such recording or registering is required or permitted, or, if it is not, from the date when the beneficiary takes notorious, exclusive, or continuous possession of the property unless the petitioning creditors have received actual notice of such transfer or assignment.

(c) It shall be a complete defense to any proceedings in bankruptcy instituted under the first subdivision of this section to allege and prove that the party proceeded against was not insolvent as defined in this title at the time of the filing the petition against him, and if solvency at such date is proved by the alleged bankrupt the proceedings shall be dismissed, and under said snbdivision one the burden of proving solvency shall be on the alleged bankrupt.

(d) Whenever a person against whom a petition has been filed as hereinbefore provided under the second and third subdivisions of this section takes issue with and denies the allegation of his insolvency, it shall be his duty to appear in court on the hearing, with his books, papers, and accounts, and submit to an examination, and give testimony as to all matters tending to establish solvency or insolvency, and in case of his failure to so attend and submit to examination the burden of proving his solvency shall rest upon him.

(e) Whenever a petition is filed by any person for the purpose of having another adjudged a bankrupt, and an application is made to take charge of and hold the property of the alleged bankrupt, or any part of the same, prior to the adjudication and pending a hearing on the petition, the petitioner or applicant shall file in the same court a bond with at least two good and sufficient sureties who shall reside within

the jurisdiction of said court, to be approved by the court or a judge thereof, in such sum as the court shall direct, conditioned for the payment, in case such petition is dismissed, to the respondent, his or her personal representatives, all costs, expenses, and damages occasioned by such seizure, taking, and detention of the property of the alleged bankrupt.

If such petition be dismissed by the court or withdrawn by the petitioner, the respondent or respondents shall be allowed all costs, counsel fees, expenses, and damages occasioned by such seizure, taking, or detention of such property. Counsel fees, costs, expenses, and damages shall be fixed and allowed by the court, and paid by the obligors in such bond. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 3, 30 Stat. 546; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 2, 32 Stat. 797; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 3, 44 Stat. 662.)

§ 22. Bankrupts; who may become. (a) Any person, except a municipal, railroad, insurance, banking corporation, or a building and loan association, shall be entitled to the benefits of this title as a voluntary bankrupt.

(b) Any natural person, except a wage earner or a person engaged chiefly in farming or the tillage of the soil, any unincorporated company, and any moneyed, business, or commercial corporation (except a municipal, railroad, insurance, or banking corporation, or a building and loan association) owing debts to the amount of $1,000 or over, may be adjudged an involuntary bankrupt upon default or an impartial trial, and shall be subject to the provisions and entitled to the benefits of this title.

The bankruptcy of a corporation or association shall not release its officers, directors, or stockholders, as such, from any liability under the laws of a State or Territory or of the United States. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 4, 30 Stat. 547; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 3, 32 Stat. 797; June 25, 1910, c. 412, §§ 3, 4, 36 Stat. 839; Feb. 11, 1932, c. 38, 47 Stat. 47.)

§ 23. Same; partners. (a) A partnership, during the continuation of the partnership business, or after its dissolution and before the final settlement thereof, may be adjudged a bankrupt.

(b) The creditors of the partnership shall appoint the trustee; in other respects so far as possible the estate shall be administered as herein provided for other estates.

(c) The court of bankruptcy which has jurisdiction of one of the partners may have jurisdiction of all the partners and of the administration of the partnership and individual property.

(d) The trustee shall keep separate accounts of the partnership property and of the property belonging to the individual partners.

(e) The expenses shall be paid from the partnership property and the individual property in such proportions as the court shall determine.

(f) The net proceeds of the partnership property shall be appropriated to the payment of the partnership debts, and the net proceeds of the individual estate of each partner to the payment of his individual debts. Should any surplus remain of the property of any partner after paying his individual debts, such surplus shall be added to the partnership assets and be applied to the payment of the partnership debts. Should any surplus of the partnership property remain after paying the partnership debts, such surplus shall be added to the assets of the individual partners in the proportion of their respective interests in the partnership.

(g) The court may permit the proof of the claim of the partnership estate against the individual estates, and vice versa, and may marshal the assets of the partnership estate and individual estates so as to prevent preferences and secure the equitable distribution of the property of the several estates.

(h) In the event of one or more but not all of the members of a partnership being adjudged bankrupt, the partnership property shall not be administered in bankruptcy, unless by consent of the partner or partners not adjudged bankrupt; but such partner or partners not adjudged bankrupt shall settle the partnership business as expeditiously as its nature will permit, and account for the interest of the partner or partners adjudged bankrupt. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 5, 30 Stat. 547.)

§ 24. Same; exemptions. The provisions of this title shall not affect the allowance to bankrupts of the exemptions which are prescribed by the State laws in force at the time of the filing of the petition in the State wherein they have had their domicile for the six months or the greater portion thereof immediately preceding the filing of the petition. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 6, 30 Stat. 548.)

§ 25. Same; duties. The bankrupt shall (1) attend the first meeting of his creditors, if directed by the court or a judge thereof to do so, and the hearing upon his application for a discharge, if filed; (2) comply with all lawful orders of the court; (3) examine the correctness of all proofs of claims filed against his estate; (4) execute and deliver such papers as shall be ordered by the court; (5) execute to his trustee transfers of all his property in foreign countries; (6) immediately inform his trustee of any attempt, by his creditors or other persons, to evade the provisions of this title, coming to his knowledge; (7) in case of any person having to his knowledge proved a false claim against his estate, disclose that fact immediately to his trustee; (8) prepare, make oath to, and file in court within ten days after adjudication, if an involuntary bankrupt, and within ten days after the filing of a petition, if a voluntary bankrupt (unless in either case further time is granted), a schedule of his property showing the amount and kind of property, the location thereof, its money value in detail, and a list of his creditors showing their residence, if known; if unknown, that fact to be stated, the amounts due each of them, the consideration thereof, the security held by them, if any, and a claim for such exemptions, as he may be entitled to, all in triplicate, one copy of each for the clerk, one for the referee, and one for the trustee; and (9) when present at the first meeting of his creditors, and at such other times as the court shall order, submit to an examination concerning the conducting of his business, the cause of his bankruptcy, his dealings with his creditors and other persons, the amount, kind, and whereabouts of his property, and, in addition, all matters which may affect the administration and settlement of his estate; but no testimony given by him shall be offered in evidence against him in any criminal proceeding.

He shall not be required to attend a meeting of his creditors, or at or for an examination at a place more than one hundred and fifty miles distant from his home or principal place of business, or to examine claims except when presented to him, unless ordered by the court, or a judge thereof, for cause shown, and the bankrupt shall be paid his actual expenses from the estate when examined or required to attend at any place other than the city, town, or village of his residence. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 7, 30 Stat. 548; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 4, 44 Stat. 663.)

§ 26. Same; death or insanity. The death or insanity of a bankrupt shall not abate the proceedings, but the same shall be conducted and concluded in the same manner, so far as possible, as though he had not died or become insane. In case of death the widow and children shall be entitled to all rights of dower and allowance fixed by the laws of the State of the bankrupt's residence. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 8, 30 Stat. 549.)

§ 27. Same; protection and detention. (a) A bankrupt shall be exempt from arrest upon civil process except in the following cases: (1) When issued from a court of bankruptcy for contempt or disobedience of its lawful orders; (2) when issued from a State court having jurisdiction, and served within such State, upon a debt or claim from which his discharge in bankruptcy would not be a release, and in such case he shall be exempt from such arrest when in attendance upon a court of bankruptcy or engaged in the

performance of a duty imposed by the provisions of this title.

(b) The judge may, at any time after the filing of a petition by or against a person, and before the expiration of one month after the qualification of the trustee, upon satisfactory proof by the affidavits of at least two persons that such bankrupt is about to leave the district in which he resides or has his principal place of business to avoid examination, and that his departure will defeat the proceedings in bankruptcy, issue a warrant to the marshal, directing him to bring such bankrupt forthwith before the court for examination. If upon hearing the evidence of the parties it shall appear to the court or a judge thereof that the allegations are true and that it is necessary, he shall order such marshal to keep such bankrupt in custody not exceeding ten days, but not imprison him, until he shall be examined and released or give bail conditioned for his appearance for examination, from time to time, not exceeding in all ten days, as required by the court, and for his obedience to all lawful orders made in reference thereto. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 9, 30 Stat. 549.)

§ 28. Same; extradition. Whenever a warrant for the apprehension of a bankrupt shall have been issued, and he shall have been found within the jurisdiction of a court other than the one issuing the warrant, he may be extradited in the same manner in which persons under indictment were extradited on July 1, 1898, from one district within which a district court has jurisdiction to another. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 10, 30 Stat. 549.)

§ 29. Same; suits by and against. (a) A suit which is founded upon a claim from which a discharge would be a release, and which is pending against a person at the time of the filing of a petition against him, shall be stayed until after an adjudication or the dismissal of the petition; if such person is adjudged a bankrupt, such action may be further stayed until twelve months after the date of such adjudication, or if within that time such person applies for a discharge, then until the question of such discharge is determined.

(b) The court may order the trustee to enter his appearance and defend any pending suit against the bankrupt.

(c) A trustee may, with the approval of the court, be permitted to prosecute as trustee any suit commenced by the bankrupt prior to the adjudication, with like force and effect as though it had been commenced by him.

(d) Suits shall not be brought by or against a trustee of a bankrupt estate subsequent to two years after the estate has been closed. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 11, 30 Stat. 549.)

See section 203, subsection (n) of this title.

§ 30. Compositions; when confirmed. (a) A bankrupt may offer, either before or after adjudication, terms of composition to his creditors, after, but not before, he has been examined in open court, or at a meeting of his creditors, and has filed in court the schedule of his property and the list of his creditors required to be filed by bankrupts. In compositions before adjudication the bankrupt shall file the required schedules, and thereupon the court shall call a meeting of creditors for the allowance of claims, examination of the bankrupt, and preservation or conduct of the estate, at which meeting the judge or referee shall preside; but action upon the petition for adjudication shall not be delayed, except that the court, for good cause shown, may in its discretion delay such action upon such terms and conditions for the protection of and indemnity against loss by the bankrupt estate as may be proper.

(b) An application for the confirmation of a composition may be filed in the court of bankruptcy after, but not before, it has been accepted in writing by a majority in number of all creditors whose claims have been allowed, which number must represent a majority in amount of such claims, and the consideration to be paid by the bankrupt to his creditors, and the money necessary to pay all debts which have priority and the cost of the proceedings, have been deposited in such place as shall be designated by and subject to the order of the judge.

(c) A date and place, with reference to the convenience of the parties in interest, shall be fixed for the hearing upon each application for the confirmation of a composition, and such objections as may be made to its confirmation.

(d) The judge shall confirm a composition if satisfied that (1) it is for the best interests of the creditors; (2) the bankrupt has not been guilty of any of the acts or failed to perform any of the duties which would be a bar to his discharge; and (3) the offer and its acceptance are in good faith and have not been made or procured except as herein provided, or by any means, promises, or acts herein forbidden.

(e) Upon the confirmation of a composition, the consideration shall be distributed as the judge shall direct, and the case dismissed. Whenever a composition is not confirmed, the estate shall be administered in bankruptcy as herein provided. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 12, 30 Stat. 549; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 5, 36 Stat. 839; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 5, 44 Stat. 663.)

See chapter 8 of this title.

§ 31. Same; when set aside. The judge may, upon the application of parties in interest filed at any time within six months after a composition has been confirmed, set the same aside and reinstate the case if it shall be made to appear upon a trial that fraud was practiced in the procuring of such composition, and that the knowledge thereof has come to the petitioners since the confirmation of such composition. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 13, 30 Stat. 550.)

§ 32. Discharges; when granted. (a) Any person may, after the expiration of one month and within twelve months, subsequent to being adjudged a bankrupt, file an application for a discharge in the court of bankruptcy in which the proceedings are pending, if it shall be made to appear to the judge that the bankrupt was unavoidably prevented from filing it within such time, it may be filed within but not after the expiration of the next six months.

(b) The judge shall hear the application for a discharge and such proofs and pleas as may be made in opposition thereto by the trustee or other parties in interest, at such time as will give the trustee or parties in interest a reasonable opportunity to be fully heard; and investigate the merits of the application and discharge the applicant, unless he has (1) committed an offense punishable by imprisonment as herein provided; or (2) destroyed, mutilated, falsified, concealed, or failed to keep books of account, or records, from which his financial condition and business transactions might be ascertained; unless the court deem such failure or acts to have been justified, under all the circumstances of the case; or (3) obtained money or property on credit, or obtained an extension or renewal of credit, by making or publishing, or causing to be made or published, in any manner whatsoever, a materially false statement in writing respecting his financial condition; or (4) at any time subsequent to the first day of the twelve months immediately preceding the filing of the petition, transferred, removed, destroyed, or concealed, or permitted to be removed, destroyed, or concealed any of his property, with intent to hinder, delay, or defraud his creditors; or (5) has been granted a discharge in bankruptcy within six years; or (6) in the course of proceedings in bankruptcy, refused to obey any lawful order of or to answer any material question approved by the court; or (7) has failed to explain satisfactorily any losses of assets or deficiency of assets to meet his liabilities: *Provided*, That if, upon the hearing of an objection to a discharge, the objector shall show to the satisfaction of the court that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the bankrupt has committed any of the acts which, under this paragraph (b), would prevent his discharge in bankruptcy, then the burden of proving that he has not committed any of such acts shall be upon the bankrupt: *And provided further*, That the trustee shall not interpose objections to a bankrupt's discharge until he shall be authorized so to do by the

creditors at a meeting of creditors called for that purpose on the application of any creditor.

(c) The confirmation of a composition shall discharge the bankrupt from his debts, other than those agreed to be paid by the terms of the composition and those not affected by a discharge. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 14, 30 Stat. 550; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 4, 32 Stat. 797; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 6, 36 Stat. 839; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 6, 44 Stat. 663.)

§ 33. Same; when revoked. The judge may, upon the application of parties in interest who have not been guilty of undue laches, filed at any time within one year after a discharge shall have been granted, revoke it upon a trial if it shall be made to appear that it was obtained through the fraud of the bankrupt, and that the knowledge of the fraud has come to the petitioners since the granting of the discharge, and that the actual facts did not warrant the discharge. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 15, 30 Stat. 550.)

§ 34. Co-debtors of bankrupts. The liability of a person who is a co-debtor with, or guarantor or in any manner a surety for, a bankrupt shall not be altered by the discharge of such bankrupt. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 16, 30 Stat. 550.)

§ 35. Debts not affected by a discharge. A discharge in bankruptcy shall release a bankrupt from all of his provable debts, except such as (first) are due as a tax levied by the United States, the State, county, district, or municipality in which he resides; (second) are liabilities for obtaining property by false pretenses or false representations, or for willful and malicious injuries to the person or property of another, or for alimony due or to become due, or for maintenance or support of wife or child, or for seduction of an unmarried female, or for breach of promise of marriage accompanied by seduction, or for criminal conversation; (third) have not been duly scheduled in time for proof and allowance, with the name of the creditor, if known to the bankrupt, unless such creditor had notice or actual knowledge of the proceedings in bankruptcy; or (fourth) were created by his fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation, or defalcation while acting as an officer or in any fiduciary capacity; or (fifth) are for wages due to workmen, clerks, traveling or city salesmen, or servants, which have been earned within three months before the date of commencement of the proceedings in bankruptcy; or (sixth) are due for moneys of an employee received or retained by his employer to secure the faithful performance by such employee of the terms of a contract of employment. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 17, 30 Stat. 550; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 5, 32 Stat. 798; Mar. 2, 1917, c. 153, 39 Stat. 999; Jan. 7, 1922, c. 22, 42 Stat. 354.)

Chapter 4.—COURTS AND PROCEDURE THEREIN

Sec.

41. Process, pleadings, and adjudications.
42. Jury trials.
43. Oaths, affirmations.
44. Evidence.
45. Reference after adjudication.
46. Jurisdiction; United States and State courts.
47. Same; appellate jurisdiction.
48. Appeals.
49. Arbitration.
50. Compromises.
51. Designation of newspapers.
52. Offenses.
53. Rules, forms, and orders.
54. Computation of time.
55. Transfer of cases.

Section 41. Process, pleadings, and adjudications. (a) Upon the filing of a petition for involuntary bankruptcy, service thereof, with a writ of subpœna, shall be made upon the person therein named as defendant in the same manner that service of such process was had on July 1, 1898, upon the commencement of a suit in equity in the courts of the United States, except that it shall be returnable within fifteen days, unless the judge shall for cause fix a longer time; but in case personal service cannot be made, then notice shall be given by publication in the same manner and for the same time as provided by law for notice by publication in suits to enforce a legal or equitable lien in courts of the United States, except that, unless the judge shall otherwise direct, the order shall be published not more than once a week for two consecutive weeks, and the return day shall be ten days after the last publication unless the judge shall for cause fix a longer time.

(b) The bankrupt, or any creditor, may appear and plead to the petition within five days after the return day, or within such further time as the court may allow.

(c) All pleadings setting up matters of fact shall be verified under oath.

(d) If the bankrupt, or any of his creditors, shall appear, within the time limited, and controvert the facts alleged in the petition, the judge shall determine, as soon as may be, the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, except in cases where a jury trial is given by the provisions of this title, and make the adjudication or dismiss the petition.

(e) If on the last day within which pleadings may be filed none are filed by the bankrupt or any of his creditors, the judge shall on the next day, if present, or as soon thereafter as practicable, make the adjudication or dismiss the petition.

(f) If the judge is absent from the district, or the division of the district in which the petition is pending, on the next day after the last day on which pleadings may be filed, and none have been filed by the bankrupt or any of his creditors, the clerk shall forthwith refer the case to the referee.

(g) Upon the filing of a voluntary petition the judge shall hear the petition and make the adjudication or dismiss the petition. If the judge is absent from the district, or the division of the district in which the petition is filed at the time of the filing, the clerk shall forthwith refer the case to the referee. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 18, 30 Stat. 551; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 6, 32 Stat. 798.)

§ 42. Jury trials. (a) A person against whom an involuntary petition has been filed shall be entitled to have a trial by jury, in respect to the question of his insolvency, except as herein otherwise provided, and any act of bankruptcy alleged in such petition to have been committed, upon filing a written application therefor at or before the time within which an answer may be filed. If such application is not filed within such time, a trial by jury shall be deemed to have been waived.

(b) If a jury is not in attendance upon the court, one may be specially summoned for the trial, or the case may be postponed.

(c) The right to submit matters in controversy, or an alleged offense under the provisions of this title, to a jury shall be determined and enjoyed, except as provided in this title, according to the United States laws in force in relation to trials by jury. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 19, 30 Stat. 551; Mar. 3, 1911, c. 231, § 289, 36 Stat. 1167.)

§ 43. Oaths, affirmations. (a) Oaths required by this title, except upon hearings in court, may be administered by (1) referees; (2) officers authorized to administer oaths in proceedings before the courts of the United States, or under the laws of the State where the same are to be taken; and (3) diplomatic or consular officers of the United States in any foreign country.

(b) Any person conscientiously opposed to taking an oath may, in lieu thereof, affirm. Any person who shall affirm falsely shall be punished as for the making of a false oath. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 20, 30 Stat. 551.)

§ 44. Evidence. (a) A court of bankruptcy may, upon application of any officer, bankrupt, or creditor, by order require any designated person, including the bankrupt and his wife, to appear in court or before a referee or the judge of any State court, to be examined concerning the acts, conduct, or property of a bankrupt whose estate is in process of administration under the provisions of this title: *Provided*, That the wife may be examined only touching business transacted by her or to which she is a party, and to de-

termine the fact whether she has transacted or been a party to any business of the bankrupt.

(b) The right to take depositions in proceedings under this title shall be determined and enjoyed according to the United States laws in force relating to the taking of depositions except as herein provided.

(c) Notice of the taking of depositions shall be filed with the referee in every case. When depositions are to be taken in opposition to the allowance of a claim notice shall also be served upon the claimant, and when in opposition to a discharge notice shall also be served upon the bankrupt.

(d) Certified copies of proceedings before a referee, or of papers, when issued by the clerk or referee, shall be admitted as evidence with like force and effect as certified copies of the records of district courts of the United States are admitted as evidence.

(e) A certified copy of the order approving the bond of a trustee shall constitute conclusive evidence of the vesting in him of the title to the property of the bankrupt, and if recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed from the bankrupt to the trustee if recorded would have imparted had not bankruptcy proceedings intervened.

(f) A certified copy of an order confirming or setting aside a composition, or granting or setting aside a discharge, not revoked, shall be evidence of the jurisdiction of the court, the regularity of the proceedings, and of the fact that the order was made.

(g) A certified copy of an order confirming a composition shall constitute evidence of the revesting of the title of his property in the bankrupt, and if recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed from the trustee to the bankrupt if recorded would impart.

(h) A communication by a creditor, receiver, or trustee of one by or against whom a bankruptcy petition is filed, or who has been adjudicated a bankrupt, to another creditor, uttered in good faith and with reasonable grounds for belief in its truth, concerning the conduct, acts, or property of such bankrupt, shall be privileged, and the creditor, receiver, or trustee so uttering the same shall not be held liable therefor. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 21, 30 Stat. 552; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 7, 32 Stat. 798; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 7, 44 Stat. 664.)

§ 45. Reference after adjudication. (a) After a person has been adjudged a bankrupt the judge may cause the trustee to proceed with the administration of the estate, or refer it (1) generally to the referee or specially with only limited authority to act in the premises or to consider and report upon specified issues; or (2) to any referee within the territorial jurisdiction of the court, if the convenience of parties in interest will be served thereby, or for cause, or if the bankrupt does not do business, reside, or have his domicile in the district.

(b) The judge may, at any time, for the convenience of parties or for cause, transfer a case from one referee to another. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 22, 30 Stat. 552.)

§ 46. Jurisdiction; United States and State courts. (a) The United States district courts shall have jurisdiction of all controversies at law and in equity, as distinguished from proceedings in bankruptcy, between trustees as such and adverse claimants concerning the property acquired or claimed by the trustees, in the same manner and to the same extent only as though bankruptcy proceedings had not been instituted and such controversies had been between the bankrupts and such adverse claimants.

(b) Suits by the trustee shall be brought or prosecuted only in the courts where the bankrupt, whose estate is being administered by such trustee, might have brought or prosecuted them if proceedings in bankruptcy had not been instituted, unless by consent of the proposed defendant, except suits for the recovery of property under section 96, subdivision b, of this title; section 107, subdivision e, of this title; and section 110, subdivision c, of this title. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 23, 30 Stat. 552; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 8, 32 Stat. 798; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 7, 36 Stat. 840; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 8, 44 Stat. 664.)

§ 47. Same; appellate jurisdiction. (a) The Supreme Court of the United States, the circuit courts of appeal of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the supreme courts of the Territories, in vacation, in chambers, and during their respective terms, are invested with appellate jurisdiction of controversies arising in bankruptcy proceedings from the courts of bankruptcy from which they have appellate jurisdiction in other cases.

(b) The several circuit courts of appeal and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction in equity, either interlocutory or final, to superintend and revise in matter of law (and in matter of law and fact the matters specified in section 48 of this title) the proceedings of the several inferior courts of bankruptcy within their jurisdiction. Such power shall be exercised by appeal and in the form and manner of an appeal, except in the cases mentioned in said section 48 of this title to be allowed in the discretion of the appellate court.

(c) All appeals under this section shall be taken within thirty days after the judgment, or order, or other matter complained of, has been rendered or entered. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 24, 30 Stat. 553; Feb. 13, 1925, c. 229, §§ 1, 5, 13, 43 Stat. 936, 939, 941; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 9, 44 Stat. 664; June 7, 1934 c. 426, 48 Stat. 926.)

§ 48. Appeals. (a) Appeals, as in equity cases, may be taken in bankruptcy proceedings from the courts of bankruptcy to the circuit courts of appeal of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and to the supreme courts of the Territories in the following cases, to wit: (1) From a judgment adjudging or refusing to adjudge the defendant a bankrupt; (2) from a judgment granting or denying a discharge; and (3) from a judgment allowing or rejecting a debt or claim of $500 or over. Such appeal shall be taken within thirty days after the judgment appealed from has been rendered, and may be heard and determined by the appellate court in term or vacation, as the case may be.

(b) Trustees shall not be required to give bond when they take appeals.

(c) Controversies may be certified to the Supreme Court of the United States from other courts of the United States, and the former court may exercise jurisdiction thereof and issue writs of certiorari pursuant to the provisions of the United States laws in force on July 1, 1898, or such as may be thereafter enacted. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 25, 30 Stat. 553; Feb. 13, 1925, c. 229, §§ 1, 13, 43 Stat. 936, 941; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 10, 44 Stat. 665; Jan. 31, 1928, c. 14, § 1, 45 Stat. 54; June 7, 1934, c. 426, 48 Stat. 926.)

§ 49. Arbitration. (a) The trustee may, pursuant to the direction of the court, submit to arbitration any controversy arising in the settlement of the estate.

(b) Three arbitrators shall be chosen by mutual consent, or one by the trustee, one by the other party to the controversy, and the third by the two so chosen, or if they fail to agree in five days after their appointment the court shall appoint the third arbitrator.

(c) The written finding of the arbitrators, or a majority of them, as to the issues presented, may be filed in court and shall have like force and effect as the verdict of a jury. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 26, 30 Stat. 553.)

§ 50. Compromises. The trustee may, with the approval of the court, compromise any controversy arising in the administration of the estate upon such terms as he may deem for the best interests of the estate. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 27, 30 Stat. 553.)

§ 51. Designation of newspapers. Courts of bankruptcy shall by order designate a newspaper published within their respective territorial districts, and in the county in which the bankrupt resides or the major part of his property is situated, in which notices required to be published by this title and orders which the court may direct to be published shall be inserted. Any court may in a particular case,

for the convenience of parties in interest, designate some additional newspaper in which notices and orders in such case shall be published. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 28, 30 Stat. 554.)

§ 52. Offenses. (a) A person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not to exceed five years upon conviction of the offense of having knowingly and fraudulently appropriated to his own use, embezzled, spent, or unlawfully transferred any property or secreted or destroyed any document belonging to a bankrupt estate which came into his charge as trustee, receiver, custodian, or other officer of the court.

(b) A person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not to exceed five years upon conviction of the offense of having knowingly and fraudulently (1) concealed from the receiver, trustee, United States marshal, or other officer of the court charged with the control or custody of property, or from creditors in composition cases, any property belonging to the estate of a bankrupt; or (2) made a false oath or account in, or in relation to any proceeding in bankruptcy; or (3) presented under oath any false claim for proof against the estate of a bankrupt, or used any such claim in composition, personally, or by agent, proxy, or attorney, or as agent, proxy, or attorney; or (4) received any material amount of property from a bankrupt after the filing of the petition with intent to defeat this title; or (5) received or attempted to obtain any money or property, remuneration, compensation, reward, advantage, or promise thereof from any person, for acting or forbearing to act in bankruptcy proceediugs; or (6) having been an officer or agent of any person or corporation, and in contemplation of the bankruptcy of such person or corporation, or with intent to defeat the operation of this title, concealed or transferred any of the property of the debtor; or (7) after the filing of the petition, or, in contemplation of bankruptcy, concealed, destroyed, mutilated, or falsified any book, document, or record affecting or relating to the property or affairs of a bankrupt; or (8) after the filing of the petition, withheld from the receiver or trustee any book, document, or paper affecting or relating to the property or affairs of a bankrupt, to the possession of which he is entitled.

(c) A person shall be punished by fine, not to exceed $500, and forfeit his office, and the same shall thereupon become vacant, upon conviction of the offense of having knowingly (1) acted as a referee in a case in which he is directly or indirectly interested; or (2) purchased, while a referee, directly or indirectly, any property of the estate in bankruptcy of which he is referee; or (3) refused, while a referee or trustee, to permit a reasonable opportunity for the inspection of the accounts relating to the affairs of, and the papers and records of, estates in his charge by parties in interest when directed by the court so to do.

(d) A person shall not be prosecuted for any offense arising under this title unless the indictment is found or the information is filed in court within three years after the commission of the offense.

(e) (1) Whenever any referee, receiver, or trustee shall have grounds for believing that any offense under this title has been committed, or from facts or circumstances brought out in the course of administration or otherwise brought to his attention, that there is reasonable grouud to believe that such an offense has been committed, or for special reason, an investigation should be had In connection therewith, it shall be the duty of such referee, receiver, or trustee to report such matter to the United States attorney for the district in which it is believed such an offense has been committed, including in such report a statement of all the facts and circumstances of the case within his knowledge, with the names of the witnesses, and a statement as to the offense or offenses believed to have been committed.

(2) It shall be the duty of every United States attorney immediately to inquire into the fact so reported to him by any referee, receiver, or trustee, and the law applicable thereto, and if it appears probable that any offense under this title has been committed, in a proper case and without delay, to present the matter to the grand jury, unless upon inquiry and examination such district attorney decides that the ends of public justice do not require that the alleged offense should be investigated or prosecuted, in which case he shall report the facts to the Attorney General for his direction in the premises. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 29, 30 Stat. 554; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 11, 44 Stat. 665.)

§ 53. Rules, forms, and orders. All necessary rules, forms, and orders as to procedure and for carrying the provisions of this title into force and effect shall be prescribed, and may be amended from time to time, by the Supreme Court of the United States. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 30, 30 Stat. 554.)

§ 54. Computation of time. Whenever time is enumerated by days in this title, or in any proceeding in bankruptcy, the number of days shall be computed by excluding the first and including the last, unless the last fall on a Sunday or holiday, in which event the day last included shall be the next day thereafter which is not a Sunday or a legal holiday. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 31, 30 Stat. 554.)

§ 55. Transfer of cases. In the event petitions are filed against the same person, or against different members of a partnership, in different courts of bankruptcy each of which has jurisdiction, the cases shall be transferred, by order of the courts relinquishing jurisdiction, to and be consolidated by the one of such courts which can proceed with the same for the greatest convenience of parties in interest. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 32, 30 Stat. 554.)

Chapter 5.—OFFICERS, THEIR DUTIES AND COMPENSATION

Sec.

61. Creation of two offices.
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81. Duties of Attorney General.
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Section 61. Creation of two offices. The offices of referee and trustee are created. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 33, 30 Stat. 555.)

§ 62. Referees; appointment, removal, and districts of. Courts of bankruptcy shall, within the territorial limits of which they respectively have jurisdiction, (1) appoint referees, each for a term of two years, and may, in their discretion, remove them because their services are not needed or for other cause; and (2) designate, and from time to time change, the limits of the districts of referees, so that each county, where the services of a referee are needed, may constitute at least one district. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 34, 30 Stat. 555.)

§ 63. Same; qualifications. Individuals shall not be eligible to appointment as referees unless they are, respectively, (1) competent to perform the duties of that office; (2) not holding any office of profit or emolument under the laws of the United States or of any State other than commissioners of deeds, justices of the peace, masters in chancery, or notaries public; (3) not related by consanguinity or affinity, within the third degree as determined by the common law, to any of the judges of the courts of bankruptcy, or of the justices or judges of the appellate courts of the districts wherein they may be appointed; and (4)

residents of, or have their offices in, the territorial districts for which they are to be appointed. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 35, 30 Stat. 555; Mar. 3, 1911, c. 231, § 291, 36 Stat. 1167.)

§ 64. Same; oaths. Referees shall take the same oath of office as that prescribed for judges of United States courts. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 36, 30 Stat. 555.)

§ 65. Same; numher. Such number of referees shall be appointed as may be necessary to assist in expeditiously transacting the hankruptcy business pending in the various courts of bankruptcy. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 37, 30 Stat. 555.)

§ 66. Same; jurisdiction. Referees respectively are invested, subject always to a review by tbe judge, within the limits of their districts as established from time to time, wlth jurisdiction to (1) consider all petitions referred to them by the clerks and make the adjudications or dismiss the petitions; (2) exercise the powers vested in courts of bankruptcy for the administering of oaths to and the examination of persons as witnesses and for requiring the production of documents in proceedings before them, except the power of commitment; (3) exercise the powers of the judge for the taking possession and releasing of the property of the bankrupt in the event of the issuance by the clerk of a certificate showing the absence of a judge from the judicial district, or the division of the district, or his sickness, or inability to act; (4) perform such part of the duties, except as to questions arising out of the applications of bankrupts for compositions or discharges, as are by this title conferred on courts of bankruptcy and as shall be prescribed by rules or orders of the courts of bankruptcy of their respective districts, except as herein otherwise provided; and (5) during the examination of the bankrupt, or other proceedings, authorize the employment of stenographers for reporting and transcribing the proceedings at such reasonable expense to the estate as the court may fix. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 38, 30 Stat. 555; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 12, 44 Stat. 666.)

§ 67. Same; duties. (a) Referees sball (1) declare dividends and prepare and deliver to trustees dividend sheets showing the dividends declared and to whom payable; (2) examine all schedules of property and lists of creditors filed by bankrupts and cause such as are incomplete or defective to be amended; (3) furnish such information concerning the estates in process of administration before them as may be requested by the parties in interest; (4) give notices to creditors as herein provided; (5) make up records embodying the evidence, or the substance thereof, as agreed upon by the parties in all contested matters arising before them, whenever requested to do so by either of the parties thereto, together with their findings therein, and transmit them to the judges; (6) prepare and file the schedules of property and lists of creditors required to be filed by the bankrupts, or cause the same to be done, when the bankrupts fail, refuse, or neglect to do so; (7) safely keep, perfect, and transmit to the clerks the records, herein required to be kept by them, when the cases are concluded; (8) transmit to the clerks such papers as may be on file before them whenever the same are needed in any proceedings in courts, and in like manner secure the return of such papers after they have been used, or, if it be impracticable to transmit the original papers, transmit certified copies thereof by mail; (9) upon application of any party in interest, preserve the evidence taken or the substance thereof as agreed upon by the parties before them wben a stenographer is not in attendance; and (10) whenever their respective offices are in the same cities or towns where the courts of bankruptcy convene, call upon and receive from the clerks all papers filed in courts of bankruptcy which have been referred to them.

(b) Referees shall not (1) act in cases in which they are directly or indirectly interested; (2) practice as attorneys and counselors at law in any bankruptcy proceedings; or (3) purchase, directly or indirectly, any property of an estate in bankruptcy. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 39, 30 Stat. 555.)

§ 68. Same; compensation. (a) Referees shall receive as full compensation for their services, payable after they are rendered, a fee of $15 deposited with the clerk at the time the petition is filed in each case, except when a fee is not required from a voluntary bankrupt, and 25 cents for every proof of claim filed for allowance, to be paid from the estate, if any, as a part of the cost of administration, and from estates which have been administered before them 1 per centum commissions on all moneys disbursed to creditors by the trustee, or one-half of 1 per centum on the amount to be paid to creditors upon the confirmation of a composition.

(h) Whenever a case is transferred from one referee to another the judge sball determine the proportion in which the fee and commissions therefor shall be divided between the referees.

(c) In the event of the reference of a case being revoked before it is concluded, and when the case is specially referred, the judge shall determine what part of the fee and commissions shall be paid to the referee. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 40, 30 Stat. 556; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 9, 32 Stat. 799.)

§ 69. Same; contempts before. (a) A person shall not, in proceedings before a referee, (1) disobey or resist any lawful order, process, or writ; (2) misbehave during a hearing or so near the place thereof as to obstruct the same; (3) neglect to produce, after having heen ordered to do so, any pertinent document; or (4) refuse to appear after having been subpœnaed, or, upon appearing, refuse to take the oath as a witness, or, after having taken the oath, refuse to be examined according to law. No person shall be required to attend as a witness before a referee at a place outside of the State of his residence, and more than one hundred miles from such place of residence, and only in case his lawful mileage and fee for one day's attendance, shall be first paid or tendered to him.

(b) The referee shall certify the facts to the judge, if any person shall do any of the things forbidden in this section. The judge shall thereupon, in a summary manner, hear the evidence as to the acts complained of, and, if it is such as to warrant him in so doing, punish such person in the same manner and to the same extent as for a contempt committed before the court of bankruptcy, or commit such person upon the same conditions as if the doing of the forbidden act had occurred with reference to the process of, or in the presence of, the court. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 41, 30 Stat. 556.)

§ 70. Same; records. (a) The records of all proceedings in each case before a referee shall be kept as nearly as may be in the same manner as records were kept on July 1, 1898, in equity cases in district courts of the United States.

(b) A record of the proceedings in each case shall be kept in a separate book or books, and shall, together with the papers on file, constitute the records of the case.

(c) The book or books containing a record of the proceedings shall, when the case is concluded before the referee, be certified to by him, and, together with such papers as are on file before him, be transmitted to the court of bankruptcy and shall there remain as a part of the records of the court. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 42, 30 Stat. 556.)

§ 71. Same; ahsence or disahility. Whenever the office of a referee is vacant, or its occupant is absent or disqualified to act, the judge may act, or may appoint another referee, or another referee holding an appointment under the same court may, by order of the judge, temporarily fill the vacancy. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 43, 30 Stat. 557.)

§ 72. Trustees; appointment. The creditors of a hankrupt estate shall, at their first meeting after the adjudication or after a vacancy has occurred in the office of trustee, or after an estate has been reopened, or after a composition has been set aside or a discharge revoked, or if there is a vacancy in the office of trustee, appoint one trustee or three trustees of such estate. If the creditors do not appoint a trustee

or trustees as herein provided, the court shall do so. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 44, 30 Stat. 557.)

§ 73. Same; qualifications. Trustees may be (1) individuals who are respectively competent to perform the duties of that office, and reside or have an office in the judicial district within wbich they are appointed, or (2) corporations authorized by their charters or by law to act in such capacity and having an office in the judicial district within which they are appointed. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 45, 30 Stat. 557.)

§ 74. Same; death or removal. The death or removal of a trustee shall not abate any suit or proceeding which he is prosecuting or defending at the time of his death or removal, hut the same may be proceeded with or defended by his joint trustee or successor in the same manner as though the same had been commenced or was being defended by such joint trustee alone or by such successor. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 46, 30 Stat. 557.)

§ 75. Same; duties. (a) Trustees shall respectively (1) account for and pay over to the estates under their control all interest received by them on property of such estates; (2) collect and reduce to money the property of the estates for which they are trustees, under the direction of the court, and close up the estate as expeditiously as is compatible with the best interests of the parties in interest; and such trustees, as to all property in the custody or coming into the custody of the bankruptcy court, shall be deemed vested with all the rights, remedies, and powers of a creditor holding a lien by legal or equitable proceedings thereon; and also, as to all property not in the custody of the bankruptcy court, shall be deemed vested with ali the rights, remedies, and powers of a judgment creditor holding an execution duly returned unsatisfied; (3) deposit all money received by them in one of the designated depositories; (4) disburse money only by check or draft on the depositories in which it has been deposited; (5) furnish such information concerning the estates of which they are trustees and their administration as may be requested by parties in interest; (6) keep regular accounts showing all amounts received and from what sources and all amounts expended and on what accounts; (7) lay before the final meeting of the creditors detailed statements of the administration of the estates; (8) make final reports and file final accounts with the courts fifteen days before the days fixed for the final meetings of the creditors; (9) pay dividends within ten days after they are declared by the referees; (10) report to the courts, in writing, the condition of the estates and the amounts of money on hand, and such other details as may be required by the courts, within the first month after their appointment and every two months thereafter, unless otherwise ordered by the courts; and (11) set apart the bankrupt's exemptions and report the items and estimated value thereof to the court as soon as practicable after their appointment.

(b) Whenever three trustees have been appointed for an estate, the concurrence of at least two of them shall be necessary to the validity of their every act concerning the administration of the estate.

(c) The trustee shall, within thirty days after the adjudication, file a certified copy of the decree of adjudication in the office where conveyances of real estate are recorded in every county where the bankrupt owns real estate not exempt from execution, and pay the fee for such filing, and he shall receive a compensation of 50 cents for each copy so filed, which, together with the filing fee, shall be paid out of the estate of the bankrupt as a part of the cost and disbursements of the proceedings. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 47, 30 Stat. 557; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 10, 32 Stat. 799; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 8, 36 Stat. 840.)

§ 76. Compensation of trustees, receivers, and marshals. (a) Trustees shall receive for their services, payable after they are rendered, a fee of $5 deposited with the clerk at the time the petition is filed in each case, except when a fee is not required from a voluntary bankrupt, and such commissions on all moneys disbursed or turned over to any person, including lien holders, by them, as may be allowed by the courts, not to exceed 6 per centum on the first $500 or less, 4 percentum on moneys in excess of $500 and less than $1,500, 2 per centum on moneys in excess of $1,500 and less than $10,000, and 1 per centum on moneys in excess of $10,000. And in case of the confirmation of a composition after the trustee has qualified the court may allow him, as compensation, not to exceed one-half of 1 per centum of the amount to be paid the creditors on such composition.

(b) In the event of an estate being administered by three trustees instead of one trustee or by successive trustees, the court shall apportion the fees and commissions between them according to the services actually rendered, so that there shall not be paid to trustees for the administering of any estate a greater amount than one trustee would be entitled to.

(c) The court may, in its discretion, withhold all compensation from any trustee who has been removed for cause.

(d) Receivers or marshals appointed pursuant to section 11, subdivision 3, of this title shall receive for their services, payable after they are rendered, compensation by way of commissions upon the moneys disbursed or turned over to any person, including lien holders, by them, and also upon the moneys turned over by them or afterwards realized by the trustees from property turned over in kind by them to the trustees, as the court may allow, not to exceed 6 per centum on the first $500 or less, 4 per centum on moneys in excess of $500 and less than $1,500, 2 per centum on moneys in excess of $1,500 and less than $10,000, and 1 per centum on moneys in excess of $10,000. In case of the confirmation of a composition such commissions shall not exceed one-half of 1 per centum of the amount to be paid creditors on such compositions. When the receiver or marshal acts as a mere custodian and does not carry on the business of the bankrupt as provided in clause 5 of section 11, of this title, he shall not receive nor be allowed in any form or guise more than 2 per centum on tbe first $1,000 or less, and one-half of 1 per centum on all above $1,000 on moneys disbursed by him or turned over hy him to the trustee and on moneys subsequently realized from property turned over by him in kind to the trustee. Before the allowance of compensation notice of application therefor, specifying the amount asked, shall be given to creditors in the manner indicated in section 94 of this title.

(e) Where the business is conducted by trustees, marshals, or receivers, as provided in clause 5 of section 11, the court may allow such officers additional compensation for such services by way of commissions upon the moneys disbursed or turned over to any person, including lien holders, by them, and, in cases of receivers or marshals, also upon the moneys turned over by them or afterwards realized by the trustees from property turned over in kind by them to the trustees; such commissions not to exceed 6 per centum on the first $500 or less, 4 per centum on moneys in excess of $500 and less than $1,500, 2 per centum on moneys in excess of $1,500 and less than $10,000, and 1 per centum on moneys in excess of $10,000. In case of the confirmation of a composition such commissions shall not exceed one-half of 1 per centum of the amount to be paid creditors on such composition. Before the allowance of compensation notice of application therefor, specifying the amount asked, shall be given to creditors in the manner indicated in section 94. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 48, 30 Stat. 557; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 11, 32 Stat. 799; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 9, 36 Stat. 840.)

§ 76a. Receivers and trustees; apportionment of appointments; disqualification; compensation. In the administration of this title the district court or any judge thereof shall, in its or his discretion, so apportion appointments of receivers and trustees among persons, firms, or corporations, or attorneys therefor, within the district, eligible thereto, as to prevent any person, firm, or corporation from having a monopoly of such appointments within such district. No person shall be appointed as a receiver or trustee

who is a near relative of the judge of the court making such appointment. The compensation allowed a receiver or trustee or an attorney for a receiver or trustee shall in no case be excessive or exorbitant, and the court in fixing such compensation shall have in mind the conservation and preservation of the estate of the bankrupt and the interests of the creditors therein. (June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 3, 48 Stat. 923.)

§ 77. Accounts and papers of trustees. The accounts and papers of trustees shall be open to the inspection of officers and all parties in interest. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 49, 30 Stat. 558.)

§ 78. Bonds of referees and trustees. (a) Referees, before assuming the duties of their offices, and within such time as the district courts of the United States having jurisdiction shall prescribe, shall respectively qualify by entering into bond to the United States in such sum as shall be fixed by such courts, not to exceed $5,000, with such sureties as shall be approved by such courts, conditioned for the faithful performance of their official duties.

(b) Trustees, before entering upon the performance of their official duties, and within ten days after their appointment, or within such further time, not to exceed five days, as the court may permit, shall respectively qualify by entering into bond to the United States, with such sureties as shall be approved by the courts, conditioned for the faithful performance of their official duties.

(c) The creditors of a bankrupt estate, at their first meeting after the adjudication, or after a vacancy has occurred in the office of trustee, or after an estate has been reopened, or after a composition has been set aside or a discharge revoked, if there is a vacancy in the office of trustee, shall fix the amount of the bond of the trustee; they may at any time increase the amount of the bond. If the creditors do not fix the amount of the bond of the trustee as herein provided, the court shall do so.

(d) The court shall require evidence as to the actual value of the property of sureties.

(e) There shall be at least two sureties upon each bond.

(f) The actual value of the property of the sureties, over and above their liabilities and exemptions, on each bond shall equal at least the amount of such bond.

(g) Corporations organized for the purpose of becoming sureties upon bonds, or authorized by law to do so, may be accepted as sureties upon the bonds of referees and trustees whenever the courts are satisfied that the rights of all parties in interest will be thereby amply protected.

(h) Bonds of referees, trustees, and designated depositories shall be filed of record in the office of the clerk of the court and may be sued upon in the name of the United States for the use of any person injured by a breach of their conditions.

(i) Trustees shall not be liable, personally or on their bonds, to the United States for any penalties or forfeitures incurred by the bankrupts under this title, of whose estates they are respectively trustees.

(j) Joint trustees may give joint or several bonds.

(k) If any referee or trustee shall fail to give bond, as herein provided and within the time limited, he shall be deemed to have declined his appointment, and such failure shall create a vacancy in his office.

(l) Suits upon referees' bonds shall not be brought subsequent to two years after the alleged breach of the bond.

(m) Suits upon trustees' bonds shall not be brought subsequent to two years after the estate has been closed. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 50, 30 Stat. 558.)

§ 79. Duties of clerks. Clerks shall respectively (1) account for, as for other fees received by them, the clerk's fee paid in each case and such other fees as may be received for certified copies of records which may be prepared for persons other than officers; (2) collect the fees of the clerk, referee, and trustee in each case instituted before filing the petition, except the petition of a proposed voluntary bankrupt which is accompanied by an affidavit stating that the petitioner is without, and cannot obtain, the money with which to pay such fees; (3) deliver to the referees upon application all papers which may be referred to them, or, if the offices of such referees are not in the same cities or towns as the offices of such clerks, transmit such papers by mail, and in like manner return papers which were received from such referees after they have been used; (4) and within ten days after each case has been closed pay to the referee, if the case was referred, the fee collected for him, and to the trustee the fee collected for him at the time of filing the petition. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 51, 30 Stat. 558.)

§ 80. Fees of clerks and marshals. (a) Clerks shall respectively charge and collect for their service to each estate a filing fee of $10 except when a fee is not required from a voluntary bankrupt, which said fee shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States in the manner provided by law.

(b) Marshals shall respectively charge the estate where an adjudication in bankruptcy is made, except as herein otherwise provided, for the performance of their services in proceedings in bankruptcy, the same fees, and account for them in the same way, as they are entitled to charge for the performance of the same or similar services in other cases in accordance with laws in force on July 1, 1898, or such as may be thereafter enacted, fixing the compensation of marshals. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 52, 30 Stat. 559; Feb. 26, 1919, c. 49, § 1, 40 Stat. 1182; Feb. 11, 1921, c. 46, 41 Stat. 1099.)

See section 76 of this title and section 548 of Title 28.

§ 81. Duties of Attorney General. The Attorney General shall annually lay before Congress statistical tables showing for the whole country, and by States, the number of cases during the year of voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy; the amount of the property of the estates; the dividends paid and the expenses of administering such estates; and such other like information as he may deem important. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 53, 30 Stat. 559.)

§ 82. Statistics of bankruptcy proceedings. Officers shall furnish in writing and transmit by mail such information as is within their knowledge, and as may be shown by the records and papers in their possession, to the Attorney General, for statistical purposes, within ten days after being requested by him to do so. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 54, 30 Stat. 559.)

Chapter 6.—CREDITORS

Sec.

91. Creditors' meetings.
92. Same; voters at.
93. Proof and allowance of claims.
94. Creditors; notices to.
95. Bankruptcy petitions; filing and dismissal.
96. Preferred creditors.

Section 91. Creditors' meetings. (a) The court shall cause the first meeting of the creditors of a bankrupt to be held, not less than ten nor more than thirty days after the adjudication, at the county seat of the county in which the bankrupt has had his principal place of business, resided, or had his domicile; or if that place would be manifestly inconvenient as a place of meeting for the parties in interest, or if the bankrupt is one who does not do business, reside, or have his domicile within the United States, the court shall fix a place for the meeting which is the most convenient for parties in interest. If such meeting should by any mischance not be held within such time, the court shall fix the date, as soon as may be thereafter, when it shall be held.

(b) At the first meeting of creditors the judge or referee shall preside, and, before proceeding with the other business, may allow or disallow the claims of creditors there presented, and may publicly examine the bankrupt or cause him to be examined at the instance of any creditor.

(c) The creditors shall at each meeting take such steps as may be pertinent and necessary for the promotion of the best interests of the estate and the enforcement of the provisions of this title.

(d) A meeting of creditors, subsequent to the first one, may be held at any time and place when all of the creditors who have secured the allowance of their claims sign a written consent to hold a meeting at such time and place.

(e) The court shall call a meeting of creditors whenever one-fourth or more in number of those who have proven their claims shall file a written request to that effect; if such request is signed by a majority of such creditors, which number represents a majority in amount of such claims, and contains a request for such meeting to be held at a designated place, the court shall call such meeting at such place within thirty days after the date of the filing of the request.

(f) Whenever the affairs of the estate are ready to be closed a final meeting of creditors shall be ordered. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 55, 30 Stat. 559.)

§ 92. Same; voters at. (a) Creditors shall pass upon matters submitted to them at their meetings by a majority vote in number and amount of claims of all creditors whose claims have been allowed and are present, except as otherwise provided in this title.

(b) Creditors holding claims which are secured or have priority shall not, in respect to such claims, be entitled to vote at creditors' meetings nor shall such claims be counted in computing either the number of creditors or the amount of their claims, unless the amounts of such claims exceed the values of such securities or priorities, and then only for such excess. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 56, 30 Stat. 560.)

§ 93. Proof and allowance of claims. (a) Proof of claims shall consist of a statement under oath, in writing, signed by a creditor setting forth the claim, the consideration therefor, and whether any, and, if so, what, securities are held therefor, and whether any, and, if so, what, payments have been made thereon, and that the sum claimed is justly owing from the bankrupt to the creditor.

(b) Whenever a claim is founded upon an instrument of writing, such instrument, unless lost or destroyed, shall be filed with the proof of claim. If such instrument is lost or destroyed, a statement of such fact and of the circumstances of such loss or destruction shall be filed under oath with the claim. After the claim is allowed or disallowed, such instrument may be withdrawn by permission of the court, upon leaving a copy thereof on file with the claim.

(c) Claims after being proved may, for the purpose of allowance, be filed by the claimants in the court where the proceedings are pending or before the referee if the case has been referred.

(d) Claims which have been duly proved shall be allowed, upon receipt by or upon presentation to the court, unless objection to their allowance shall be made by parties in interest, or their consideration be continued for cause by the court upon its own motion.

(e) Claims of secured creditors and those who have priority may be allowed to enable such creditors to participate in the proceedings at creditors' meetings held prior to the determination of the value of their securities or priorities, but shall be allowed for such sums only as to the courts seem to be owing over and above the value of their securities or priorities.

(f) Objections to claims shall be heard and determined as soon as the convenience of the court and the best interests of the estates and the claimants will permit.

(g) The claims of creditors who have received preferences, voidable under section 96, subdivision (b), of this title, or to whom conveyances, transfers, assignments, or incumbrances, void or voidable under section 107, subdivision (e), of this title, have been made or given, shall not be allowed unless such creditors shall surrender such preferences, conveyances, transfers, assignments, or incumbrances.

(h) The value of securities held by secured creditors shall be determined by converting the same into money according to the terms of the agreement pursuant to which such securities were delivered to such creditors or by such creditors and the trustee, by agreement, arbitration, compromise, or litigation, as the court may direct, and the amount of such value shall be credited upon such claims, and a dividend shall be paid only on the unpaid balance.

(i) Whenever a creditor whose claim against a bankrupt estate is secured by the individual undertaking of any person fails to prove such claim, such person may do so in the creditor's name, and if he discharge such undertaking in whole or in part he shall be subrogated to that extent to the rights of the creditor.

(j) Debts owing to the United States, a State, a county, a district, or a municipality as a penalty or forfeiture shall not be allowed, except for the amount of the pecuniary loss sustained by the act, transaction, or proceeding ont of which the penalty or forfeiture arose, with reasonable and actual costs occasioned thereby and such interest as may have accrued thereon according to law.

(k) Claims which have been allowed may be reconsidered for cause and reallowed or rejected in whole or in part, according to the equities of the case, before but not after the estate has been closed.

(l) Whenever a claim shall have been reconsidered and rejected, in whole or in part, upon which a divldend has been paid, the trustee may recover from the creditor the amount of the dividend received upon the claim if rejected in whole, or the proportional part thereof if rejected only in part.

(m) The claim of any estate which is being administered in bankruptcy against any like estate may be proved by the trustee and allowed by the court in the same manner and upon like terms as the claims of other creditors.

(n) Claims shall not be proved against a bankrupt estate subsequent to six months after the adjudication; or if they are liquidated by litigation and the final judgment therein is rendered within thirty days before or after the expiration of such time, then within sixty days after the rendition of such judgment: *Provided*, That the right of infants and insane persons without guardians, without notice of the proceedings, may continue six months longer. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 57, 30 Stat. 560; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 12, 32 Stat. 799; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 13, 44 Stat. 666.)

§ 94. Creditors; notices to. (a) Creditors shall have at least ten days' notice by mail, to their respective addresses as they appear in the list of creditors of the bankrupt, or as afterwards filed with the papers in the case by the creditors, unless they waive notice in writing, of (1) all examinations of the bankrupt; (2) all hearings upon applications for the confirmation of compositions; (3) all meetings of creditors; (4) all proposed sales of property; (5) the declaration and time of payment of dividends; (6) the filing of the final accounts of the trustee, and the time when and the place where they will be examined and passed upon; (7) the proposed compromise of any controversy; (8) the proposed dismissal of the proceedings; and (9) there shall be thirty days' notice of all applications for the discharge of bankrupts.

(b) Notice to creditors of the first meeting shall be published at least once and may be published such number of additional times as the court may direct; the last publication shall be at least one week prior to the date fixed for the meeting. Other notices may be published as the court shall direct.

(c) All notices shall be given by the referee, unless otherwise ordered by the judge. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 58, 30 Stat. 561; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 9½, 36 Stat. 841.)

§ 95. Bankruptcy petitions; filing and dismissal. (a) Any qualified person may file a petition to be adjudged a voluntary bankrupt.

(b) Three or more creditors who have provable claims against any person which amount in the aggregate in excess of the value of securities held by them, if any, to $500 or over; or if all of the creditors of such person are less than twelve in number, then one of such creditors whose claim equals such amount may file a petition to have him adjudged a bankrupt.

(c) Petitions shall be filed in duplicate, one copy for the clerk and one for service on the bankrupt.

(d) If it be averred in the petition that the creditors of the bankrupt are less than twelve in number, and less than three creditors have joined as petitioners therein, and the answer avers the existence of a larger number of creditors, there shall be filed with the answer a list under oath of all the creditors, with their addresses, and thereupon the court shall cause all such creditors to be notified of the pendency of such petition and shall delay the hearing upon such petition for a reasonable time, to the end that parties in interest shall have an opportunity to be heard; if upon such hearing it shall appear that a sufficient number have joined in such petition, or if prior to or during such hearing a sufficient number shall join therein, the case may be proceeded with, but otherwise it shall be dismissed.

(e) In computing the number of creditors of a bankrupt for the purpose of determining how many creditors must join in the petition, such creditors as were employed by him at the time of the filing of the petition or are related to him by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree, as determined by the common law, and have not joined in the petition, shall not be counted.

(f) Creditors other than original petitioners may at any time enter their appearance and join in the petition, or file an answer and be heard in opposition to the prayer of the petition.

(g) A voluntary or involuntary petition shall not be dismissed by the petitioner or petitioners or for want of prosecution or by consent of parties until after notice to the creditors, and to that end the court shall, before entertaining an application for dismissal, require the bankrupt to file a list, under oath, of all his creditors, with their addresses, and shall cause notice to be sent to all such creditors of the pendency of such application, and shall delay the hearing thereon for a reasonable time to allow all creditors and parties in interest opportunity to be heard. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 59, 30 Stat. 561; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 10, 36 Stat. 841.)

§ 96. Preferred creditors. (a) A person shall be deemed to have given a preference if, being insolvent, he has, within four months before the filing of the petition, or after the filing of the petition and before the adjudication, procured or suffered a judgment to be entered against himself in favor of any person, or made a transfer to [of] any of his property, and the effect of the enforcement of such judgment or transfer will be to enable any one of his creditors to obtain a greater percentage of his debt than any other of such creditors of the same class. Where the preference consists in a transfer, such period of four months shall not expire until four months after the date of recording or registering of the transfer, if by law such recording or registering is required or permitted.

(b) If a bankrupt shall have procured or suffered a judgment to be entered against him in favor of any person or have made a transfer of any of his property and if, at the time of the transfer, or of the entry of the judgment, or of the recording or registering of the transfer if by law recording or registering thereof is required, and being within four months before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy or after the filing thereof and before the adjudication, the bankrupt be insolvent and the judgment or transfer then operate as a preference, and the person receiving it or to be benefited thereby, or his agent acting therein, shall then have reasonable cause to believe that the enforcement of such judgment or transfer would effect a preference, it shall be voidable by the trustee and he may recover the property or its value from such person. And for the purpose of such recovery any court of bankruptcy, as hereinbefore defined, and any State court which would have had jurisdiction if bankruptcy had not intervened, shall have concurrent jurisdiction.

(c) If a creditor has been preferred, and afterwards in good faith gives the debtor further credit without security of any kind for property which becomes a part of the debtor's estates, the amount of such new credit remaining unpaid at the time of the adjudication in bankruptcy may be set off against the amount which would otherwise be recoverable from him.

(d) If a debtor shall, directly or indirectly, in contemplation of the filing of a petition by or against him, pay money or transfer property to an attorney and counselor at law, solicitor in equity, or proctor in admiralty for services to be rendered, the transaction shall be reexamined by the court on petition of the trustee or any creditor and shall only be held valid to the extent of a reasonable amount to be determined by the court, and the excess may be recovered by the trustee for the benefit of the estate. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 60, 30 Stat. 562; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 13, 32 Stat. 799; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 11, 36 Stat. 842; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 14, 44 Stat. 666.)

Chapter 7.—ESTATES

Sec.
101. Depositories for money.
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Section 101. Depositories for money. Courts of bankruptcy shall designate, by order, banking institutions as depositories for the money of bankrupt estates, as convenient as may be to the residences of trustees, and shall require bonds to the United States, subject to their approval, to be given by such banking institutions, and may from time to time as occasion may require, by like order increase the number of depositories or the amount of any bond or change such depositories. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 61, 30 Stat. 562.)

§ 101a. Deposits in postal savings depositories authorized. In all bankruptcy proceedings the officers and agents in charge of the bankrupt funds are authorized to deposit the same without limit as to amount in the postal savings depositories at the prescribed interest rate in all cases where local banks are unable or unwilling to give the required security. Such deposit or any portion thereof may be withdrawn as required in the bankruptcy proceedings. (Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204, § 3, 47 Stat. 1482.)

§ 102. Expenses of administration. The actual and necessary expenses incurred by officers in the administration of estates shall, except where other provisions are made for their payment, be reported in detail, under oath, and examined and approved or disapproved by the court. If approved, they shall be paid or allowed out of the estates in which they were incurred. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 62, 30 Stat. 562.)

§ 103. Debts provable against. (a) Debts of the bankrupt may be proved and allowed against his estate which are (1) a fixed liability, as evidenced by a judgment or an instrument in writing, absolutely owing at the time of the filing of the petition against him, whether then payable or not, with any interest thereon which would have been recoverable at that date or with a rebate of interest upon such as were not then payable and did not bear interest; (2) due as costs taxable against an involuntary bankrupt who was at the time of the filing of the petition against him plaintiff in a cause of action which would pass to the trustee and which the trustee declines to prosecute after notice; (3) founded upon a claim for taxable costs incurred in good faith by a creditor before the filing of a petition in an action to recover a provable debt; (4) founded upon an open account, or upon a contract express or implied; (5) founded upon provable debts reduced to judgments after the filing of the petition and before the consideration of the bankrupt's application for a discharge, less costs incurred and interest accrued after the filing of the petition and up to the time of the entry of such judg-

ments; (6) founded upon an award of an industrial accident commission, or other commission, body, or officer of any State or Territory having power or jurisdiction to make awards as workmen's compensation in case of injury or death for injury prior to adjudication; (6½) the amount of any damages, as evidenced by a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, in any action for negligence instituted prior to adjudication of defendant in such action in bankruptcy and pending at the time of the filing of petition in bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary; and (7) claims for damages respecting executory contracts, including future rents, whether the bankrupt be an individual or a corporation, but the claim of a landlord for injury resulting from the rejection by the trustee of an unexpired lease of real estate or for damages or indemnity under a covenant contained in such lease shall in no event be allowed in an amount exceeding the rent reserved by the lease, without acceleration, for the year next succeeding the date of the surrender of the premises plus an amount equal to the unpaid rent accrued up to said date: *Provided*, That the court shall scrutinize the circumstances of an assignment of future rent claims and the amount of the consideration paid for such assignment in determining the amount of damages allowed assignee hereunder: *Provided further*, That the provisions of this clause (7) shall apply to estates pending on June 7, 1934, in which the time for filing such claims has not expired.

(b) Unliquidated claims against the bankrupt may, pursuant to application to the court, be liquidated in such manner as it shall direct, and may thereafter be proved and allowed against the estate. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 63, 30 Stat. 562; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 4 (a), 48 Stat. 923; June 18, 1934, c. 580, 48 Stat. 991.)

See section 202 (a) of this title.

§ 103a. Same; application of section 103. The provisions of clause (6) of section 103 (a) of this title shall apply to estates pending on June 7, 1934, and claims provided for in such clause (6) shall have the priority provided for in clause (7) of section 104 (b) of this title. (June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 4 (b), 48 Stat. 924.)

§ 104. Debts which have priority. (a) The court shall order the trustee to pay all taxes legally due and owing by the bankrupt to the United States, State, county, district, or municipality in the order of priority as set forth in paragraph (b) hereof: *Provided*, That no order shall be made for the payment of a tax assessed against real estate of a bankrupt in excess of the value of the interest of the bankrupt estate therein as determined by the court. Upon filing the receipts of the proper public officers for such payments the trustee shall be credited with the amounts thereof, and in case any question arises as to the amount or legality of any such tax the same shall be heard and determined by the court.

(b) The debts to have priority, in advance of the payment of dividends to creditors, and to be paid in full out of bankrupt estates, and the order of payment shall be (1) the actual and necessary cost of preserving the estate subsequent to filing the petition; (2) the filing fees paid by creditors in involuntary cases, and, where property of the bankrupt, transferred or concealed by him either before or after the filing of the petition, shall have been recovered for the benefit of the estate of the bankrupt by the efforts and at the expense of one or more creditors, the reasonable expense of such recovery; (3) the cost of administration, including the fees and mileage payable to witnesses as now or hereafter provided by the laws of the United States, and one reasonable attorney's fee, for the professional services actually rendered, irrespective of the number of attorneys employed, to the petitioning creditors in involuntary cases while performing the duties herein prescribed, and to the bankrupt in voluntary and involuntary cases, as the court may allow; (4) where the confirmation of composition terms has been refused or set aside upon the objection and through the efforts and at the expense of one or more creditors, in the discretion of the court, the reasonable expenses of such creditors in opposing such composition; (5) wages due to workmen, clerks, traveling or city salesmen, or servants, which have been earned within three months before the date of the commencement of the proceeding, not to exceed $600 to each claimant; (6) taxes payable under paragraph (a) hereof and (7) debts owing to any person who by the laws of the States or the United States is entitled to priority: *Provided*, That the term "person" as used in this section shall include corporations, the United States, and the several States and Territories of the United States.

(c) In the event of the confirmation of a composition being set aside, or a discharge revoked, the property acquired by the bankrupt in addition to his estate at the time the composition was confirmed or the adjudication was made shall be applied to the payment in full of the claims of creditors for property sold to him on credit, in good faith, while such composition or discharge was in force, and the residue, if any, shall be applied to the payment of the debts which were owing at the time of the adjudication. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 64, 30 Stat. 563; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 14, 32 Stat. 800; June 15, 1906, c. 3333, 34 Stat. 267; May 27, 1926, c. 406, § 15, 44 Stat. 666.)

§ 105. Declaration and payment of dividends. (a) Dividends of an equal per centum shall be declared and paid on all allowed claims, except such as have priority or are secured.

(b) The first dividend shall be declared within thirty days after the adjudication, if the money of the estate in excess of the amount necessary to pay the debts which have priority and such claims as have not been, but probably will be, allowed equals 5 per centum or more of such allowed claims. Dividends subsequent to the first shall be declared upon like terms as the first and as often as the amount shall equal 10 per centum or more and upon closing the estate. Dividends may be declared oftener and in smaller proportions if the judge shall so order. The first dividend shall not include more than 50 per centum of the money of the estate in excess of the amount necessary to pay the debts which have priority and such claims as probably will be allowed. The final dividend shall not be declared within three months after the first dividend shall be declared.

(c) The rights of creditors who have received dividends, or in whose favor final dividends have been declared, shall not be affected by the proof and allowance of claims subsequent to the date of such payment or declarations of dividends; but the creditors proving and securing the allowance of such claims shall be paid dividends equal in amount to those already received by the other creditors if the estate equals so much before such other creditors are paid any further dividends.

(d) Whenever a person shall have been adjudged a bankrupt by a court without the United States and also by a court of bankruptcy, creditors residing within the United States shall first be paid a dividend equal to that received in the court without the United States by other creditors before creditors who have received a dividend in such court shall be paid any amounts.

(e) A claimant shall not be entitled to collect from a bankrupt estate any greater amount than shall accrue pursuant to the provisions of this title. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 65, 30 Stat. 563; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 15, 32 Stat. 800.)

§ 106. Unclaimed dividends. (a) Dividends which remain unclaimed for six months after the final dividend has been declared shall be paid by the trustee into court.

(b) Dividends remaining unclaimed for one year shall, under the direction of the court, be distributed to the creditors whose claims have been allowed but not paid in full, and after such claims have been paid in full the balance shall be paid to the bankrupt. In case unclaimed dividends belong to minors, such mi-

nors may have one year after arriving at majority to claim such dividends. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 66, 30 Stat. 564.)

§ 107. Liens, conveyances, transfers, and assignments; validity of. (a) Claims which for want of record or for other reasons would not have been valid liens as against the claims of the creditors of the bankrupt shall not be liens against his estate.

(b) Whenever a creditor is prevented from enforcing his rights as against a lien created, or attempted to be created, by his debtor, who afterwards becomes a bankrupt, the trustee of the estate of such bankrupt shall be subrogated to and may enforce such rights of such creditor for the benefit of the estate.

(c) A lien created by or obtained in or pursuant to any suit or proceeding at law or in equity, including an attachment upon mesne process or a judgment by confession, which was begun against a person within four months before the filing of a petition in bankruptcy by or against such person shall be dissolved by the adjudication of such person to be a bankrupt if (1) it appears that said lien was obtained and permitted while the defendant was insolvent and that its existence and enforcement will work a preference, or (2) the party or parties to be benefited thereby had reasonable cause to believe the defendant was insolvent and in contemplation of bankruptcy, or (3) that such lien was sought and permitted in fraud of the provisions of this title; or if the dissolution of such lien would militate against the best interests of the estate of such person the same shall not be dissolved, but the trustee of the estate of such person, for the benefit of the estate, shall be subrogated to the rights of the holder of such lien and empowered to perfect and enforce the same in his name as trustee with like force and effect as such holder might have done had not bankruptcy proceedings intervened.

(d) Liens given or accepted in good faith and not in contemplation of or in fraud upon the provisions of this title, and for a present consideration, which have been recorded according to law, if record thereof was necessary in order to impart notice, shall, to the extent of such present consideration only, not be affected by anything herein.

(e) All conveyances, transfers, assignments, or incumbrances of his property or any part thereof, made or given by a person adjudged a bankrupt under the provisions of this title within four months prior to the filing of the petition, with the intent and purpose on his part to hinder, delay, or defraud his creditors, or any of them, shall be null and void as against the creditors of such debtor, except as to purchasers in good faith and for a present fair consideration; and all property of the debtor conveyed, transferred, assigned, or encumbered as aforesaid shall, if he be adjudged a bankrupt, and the same is not exempt from execution and liability for debts by the law of his domicile, be and remain a part of the assets and estate of the bankrupt and shall pass to his said trustee, whose duty it shall be to recover and reclaim the same by legal proceedings or otherwise for the benefit of the creditors. And all conveyances, transfers, or incumbrances of his property made by a debtor at any time within four months prior to the filing of the petition against him, and while insolvent, which are held null and void as against the creditors of such debtor by the laws of the State, Territory, or District in which such property is situate, shall be deemed null and void under the provisions of this title against the creditors of such debtor if he be adjudged a bankrupt, and such property shall pass to the assignee and be by him reclaimed and recovered for the benefit of the creditors of the bankrupt. For the purpose of such recovery any court of bankruptcy as hereinbefore defined, and any State court which would have had jurisdiction if bankruptcy had not intervened, shall have concurrent jurisdiction.

(f) All levies, judgments, attachments, or other liens, obtained through legal proceedings against a person who is insolvent, at any time within four months prior to the filing of a petition in bankruptcy against him, and any bond which may be given to dissolve any such lien so created, shall be deemed null and void in case he is adjudged a bankrupt, and the property affected by the levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien, and any nonexempt property of his which he shall have deposited or pledged as security for such bond or to indemnify any surety thereon, shall be deemed wholly discharged and released from the same, and shall pass to the trustee as a part of the estate of the bankrupt, unless the court shall, on due notice, order that the right under such levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien shall be preserved for the benefit of the estate; and thereupon the same may pass to and shall be preserved by the trustee for the benefit of the estate as aforesaid. And the court may order such conveyance as shall be necessary to carry the purposes of this section into effect: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall have the effect to destroy or impair the title obtained by such levy, judgment, attachment, or other lien, of a bona fide purchaser for value who shall have acquired the same without notice or reasonable cause for inquiry. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 67, 30 Stat. 564; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 16, 32 Stat. 800; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 12, 36 Stat. 842; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 5, 48 Stat. 924.)

§ 108. Set-offs and counterclaims. (a) In all cases of mutual debts or mutual credits between the estate of a bankrupt and a creditor the account shall be stated and one debt shall be set off against the other, and the balance only shall be allowed or paid.

(b) A set-off or counterclaim shall not be allowed in favor of any debtor of the bankrupt which (1) is not provable against the estate; or (2) was purchased by or transferred to him after the filing of the petition, or within four months before such filing, with a view to such use and with knowledge or notice that such bankrupt was insolvent, or had committed an act of bankruptcy. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 68, 30 Stat. 565.)

§ 109. Property; seizure to avoid deterioration. A judge may upon satisfactory proof, by affidavit, that a bankrupt against whom an involuntary petition has been filed and is pending has committed an act of bankruptcy, or has neglected or is neglecting, or is about to so neglect his property that it has thereby deteriorated or is thereby deteriorating or is about thereby to deteriorate in value, issue a warrant to the marshal to seize and hold it subject to further orders. Before such warrant is issued the petitioners applying therefor shall enter into a bond in such an amount as the judge shall fix, with such sureties as he shall approve, conditioned to indemnify such bankrupt for such damages as he shall sustain in the event such seizure shall prove to have been wrongfully obtained. Such property shall be released, if such bankrupt shall give bond in a sum which shall be fixed by the judge, with such sureties as he shall approve, conditioned to turn over such property, or pay the value thereof in money to the trustee, in the event he is adjudged a bankrupt pursuant to such petition. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 69, 30 Stat. 565.)

§ 110. Same; title. (a) The trustee of the estate of a bankrupt, upon his appointment and qualification, and his successor or successors, if he shall have one or more, upon his or their appointment and qualification, shall in turn be vested by operation of law with the title of the bankrupt, as of the date he was adjudged a bankrupt, except insofar as it is to property which is exempt, to all (1) documents relating to his property; (2) interests in patents, patent rights, copyrights, and trade marks, and in applications for patents, copyrights, and trade marks: *Provided*, That in case the trustee, within thirty days after appointment, does not notify the applicant for a patent, copyright, or trade mark or his election to prosecute the application to allowance or rejection, the bankrupt may apply to the court for an order revesting him with the title thereto, which petition shall be granted, unless, for cause shown by the trustee, the court grants further time to the trustee for making such selection; and such applicant may, in any event, at any time petition the court to be revested with such title in case the trustee shall fail to prosecute such application with reasonable diligence; and the court, upon revesting the bankrupt with such title, shall

direct the trustee to execute proper instruments of transfer to make the same effective in law and upon the records; (3) powers which he might have exercised for his own benefit, but not those which he might have exercised for some other person; (4) property transferred by him in fraud of his creditors; (5) property which prior to the filing of the petition he could by any means have transferred or which might have been levied upon and sold under judicial process against him. When any bankrupt shall have any insurance policy which has a cash surrender value payable to himself, his estate, or personal representatives, he may, within thirty days after the cash surrender value has been ascertained and stated to the trustee by the company issuing the same, pay or secure to the trustee the sum so ascertained and stated, and continue to hold, own, and carry such policy free from the claims of the creditors participating in the distribution of his estate under the bankruptcy proceedings, otherwise the policy shall pass to the trustee as assets; and (6) rights of action arising npon contracts or from the unlawful taking or detention of, or injury to, his property.

(b) All real and personal property belonging to bankrupt estates shall be appraised by three disinterested appraisers; they shall be appointed by, and report to, the court. Real and personal property shall, when practicable, be sold subject to the approval of the court; it shall not be sold otherwise than subject to the approval of the court for less than 75 per centum of its appraised value.

(c) The title to property of a bankrupt estate which has been sold, as provided in this title, shall be conveyed to the purchaser by the trustee.

(d) Whenever a composition shall be set aside, or discharge revoked, the trustee shall, upon his appointment and qualification, be vested as provided in tbis title with the title to all of the property of the bankrupt as of the date of the final decree setting aside the composition or revoking the discharge.

(e) The trustee may avoid any transfer by the bankrupt of his property which any creditor of such bankrupt might have avoided, and may recover the property so transferred, or its value, from the person to whom it was transferred, unless he was a bona fide holder for value prior to the date of the adjudication. Such property may be recovered or its value collected from whoever may have received it, except a bona fide holder for value. For the purpose of such recovery any court of bankruptcy as defined in this title, and any State court which would have had jurisdiction if bankruptcy had not intervened, shall have concurrent jurisdiction.

(f) Upon the confirmation of a composition offered by a bankrupt, the title to his property shall thereupon revest in him. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 70, 30 Stat. 565; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 16, 32 Stat. 800; May 27, 1926, c. 496, § 16, 44 Stat. 667.)

§ 111. Records; duty of clerks to keep; inspection. The clerks of the several district courts of the United States shall prepare and keep in their respective offices complete and convenient indexes of all petitions and discharges in bankruptcy filed prior to July 1, 1898, or thereafter filed in the said courts, and shall, when requested so to do, issue certificates of search certifying as to whether or not any such petitions or discharges have been filed; and said clerks shall be entitled to charge and collect for such certificates the same fees as allowed by law on February 5, 1903, for certificates as to judgments in said courts. Bankruptcy indexes and dockets shall at all times be open to inspection and examination by all persons or corporations without any fee or charge therefor. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 71; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 17, 32 Stat. 800; Feb. 11, 1925, c. 204, § 8, 43 Stat. 858.)

§ 112. Restriction of compensation of referees, receivers, marshals, and trustees. Neither the referee, receiver, marshal, nor trustee shall in any form or guise receive, nor shall the court allow him, any other or further compensation for his services than that expressly authorized and prescribed in this title. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 72; Feb. 5, 1903, c. 487, § 18, 32 Stat. 800; June 25, 1910, c. 412, § 13, 36 Stat. 842.)

Chapter 8.—PROVISIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF DEBTORS

Sec.
201. Additional jurisdiction.
202. Compositions and extensions.
202a. Personal representatives.
203. Agricultural compositions and extensions.
203a. Same; conciliation commissioners; franking privileges.
204. Extensions extended to persons secondarily liable for debt; evidence of confirmation of extension.
205. Reorganization of railroads engaged in interstate commerce.
205a. Same; removal to district court.
206. Additional jurisdiction.
207. Corporate organizations.

Section 201. Additional jurisdiction. In addition to the jurisdiction exercised in voluntary and involuntary proceedings to adjudge persons bankrupt, courts of bankruptcy shall exercise original jurisdiction in proceedings for the relief of debtors, as provided in sections 202, 203, and 205 of this chapter. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 73; Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204, § 1, 47 Stat. 1467.)

§ 202. Compositions and extensions. (a) Any person excepting a corporation may file a petition, or, in an involuntary proceeding before adjudication, an answer within the time limited by section 41 (b) of this title, accompanied in either case, unless further time is granted, by his schedules, stating that he is insolvent or unable to meet his debts as they mature, and that he desires to effect a composition or an extension of time to pay his debts. The term "debt" for the purposes of an extension proposal under this section shall include all claims of whatever character against the debtor or his property, including a claim for future rent, whether or not such claims would otherwise constitute provable claims under this title. Upon the filing of such a petition or answer the judge shall enter an order either approving it as properly filed under this section, if satisfied that such petition or answer complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or dismissing it. If such petition or answer is approved, an order of adjudication shall not be entered except as provided in subdivision (l) of this section: *Provided, however,* That in staying the action for adjudication in an involuntary proceeding the court shall make such stay conditional upon such terms for the protection and indemnity against loss by the estate as may be proper, and that in any other proceeding under this section the court may, as the creditors at the first meeting may direct, impose similar terms as a condltion of delaying the appointment of a trustee and the liquidation of the estate. Any person by or against whom a petition is filed shall be referred to in the proceedings under this section as "debtor." The term "creditor" shall include for the purposes of an extension proposal under this section all holders of claims of whatever character against the debtor or his property including a claim for future rent, wbether or not such claims would otherwise constitute provable claims under this title. A claim for future rent shall constitute a provable debt and shall be liquidated under section 103 (b) of this title.

(b) After the filing of such petition or answer the court may upon reasonable notice to creditors and attorneys of record appoint a custodian or receiver, who sball inventory the debtor's estate and exercise such supervision and control over the conduct of the debtor's business as the creditors at any meeting or the court shall direct.

(c) The custodian or receiver, or if none has been appointed, the court, shall promptly call the first meeting of creditors, stating in the notice that the debtor proposes to offer terms of composition or extension, and inclosing with the notice a summary of the inventory, a brief statement of the debtor's indebtedness as shown by the schedules, and a list of the names and addresses of the secured creditors and the fifteen largest nnsecured creditors, with the amounts owing to each as shown by the schedules. Any creditor may appear at or before the first meeting and controvert the facts alleged in the petition. In such case the court shall determine as soon as may be the issues presented, without the intervention of a jury, and

unless the material allegations are sustained by the proofs shall dismiss the petition.

(d) At the first meeting (1) the debtor may be examined; (2) the creditors may nominate a trustee, who shall thereafter be appointed by the court in case it becomes necessary to liquidate the estate as provided in subdivision (1) of this section; and (3) the court shall, after hearing the parties in interest, fix a reasonable time within which application for confirmation shall be made. The court may later extend such time for cause shown, and may require, as a condition of such extension, additional terms for the protection of and indemnity against loss by the estate as may be proper.

(e) An application for the confirmation of a composition or extension proposal may be filed in the court of bankruptcy after, but not before, it has been accepted in writing by a majority in number of all creditors whose claims if unsecured have been allowed, or if secured are proposed to be affected by an extension proposal, which number must represent a majority in amount of such claims; and the money or security necessary to pay all debts which have priority unless waived and the costs of the proceedings, and in case of a composition the consideration to be paid by the debtor to his creditors, have been deposited in such place as shall be designated by and subject to the order of the court. After the first meeting of the creditors as provided in subdivision (c), the debtor fails to obtain the acceptance of a majority in number of all creditors whose claims are affected by an extension proposal representing a majority in amount, the debtor may submit a proposal for an extension including a feasible method of financial rehabilitation for the debtor which is for the best interest of all the creditors, including an equitable liquidation for the secured creditors whose claims are affected.

(f) A date and place, with reference to the convenience of the parties in interest, shall be fixed for a hearing upon each application for the confirmation of the composition or extension proposal, and such objections as may be made to its confirmation.

(g) The court shall confirm the proposal if satisfied that (1) it includes an equitable and feasible method of liquidation for secured creditors whose claims are affected and of financial rehabilitation for the debtor; (2) it is for the best interests of all creditors; (3) that the debtor has not been guilty of any of the acts, or failed to perform any of the duties, which would be a ground for denying his discharge; and (4) the offer and its acceptance are in good faith, and have not been made or procured except as herein provided, or by any means, promises, or acts herein forbidden. In application for extensions the court shall require proof from each creditor filing a claim that such claim is free from usury as defined by the laws of the place where the debt is contracted.

(h) The terms of an extension proposal may extend the time of payment of either or both unsecured debts and secured debts the security for which is in the actual or constructive possession of the debtor or of the custodian or receiver, and may provide for priority of payments to be made during the period of extension as between secured and unsecured creditors. It may also include specific undertakings by the debtor during the period of the extension, including provisions for payments on account, and may provide for supervisory or other control over the debtor's business or affairs during such period by a creditors' committee or otherwise, and for the termination of such period under certain specified conditions: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section shall not affect the allowances and exemptions to debtors as are provided for bankrupts under section 24 of this title, and such allowances and exemptions shall be set aside for the use of the debtor in the manner provided for bankrupts.

(i) Upon its confirmation an extension proposal shall be binding upon the debtor and his unsecured and secured creditors affected thereby: *Provided, however*, That such extension or composition shall not reduce the amount of or impair the lien of any secured creditor, but shall affect only the time and method of its liquidation.

(j) Upon the confirmation of a composition the consideration shall be distributed as the court shall direct, and the case dismissed: *Provided*, That the debts having priority of payment under section 104 of this title, for bankrupt estates, shall have priority of payment in the same order as set forth in said section 104 under the provisions of this section in any distribution, assignment, composition, or settlement herein provided for. Upon the confirmation of an extension proposal the court may dismiss the proceeding or retain jurisdiction of the debtor and his property during the period of the extension in order to protect and preserve the estate and enforce the terms of the extension proposal.

(k) The judge may, upon the application of the parties in interest, filed at any time within six months after the composition or extension proposal has been confirmed, set the same aside and reinstate the case, if it shall be made to appear upon a trial that fraud was practiced in the procuring of such composition or extension, and that knowledge thereof has come to the petitioners since the confirmation thereof.

(l) If (1) the debtor shall fail to comply with any of the terms required of him for the protection of and indemnity against loss by the estate; or (2) the debtor has failed to make the required deposit in case of a composition; or (3) the debtor's proposal has not been accepted by the creditors; or (4) confirmation has been denied; or (5) without sufficient reason the debtor defaults in any payment required to be made under the terms of an extension proposal when the court has retained jurisdiction of the debtor or his property, the court may appoint the trustee nominated by the creditors at the first meeting, and if the creditors shall have failed to so nominate, may appoint any other qualified person as trustee to liquidate the estate. The court shall in addition adjudge the debtor a bankrupt if satisfied that he commenced or prolonged the proceeding for the purpose of delaying creditors and avoiding an adjudication in bankruptcy, or if the confirmation of his proposal has been denied. No order of liquidation or adjudication shall be entered in any proceeding under this section instituted by or against a wage earner or a person engaged chiefly in farming or the tillage of the soil unless the wage earner or a person engaged chiefly in farming or the tillage of the soil consents.

(m) The filing of a debtor's petition or answer seeking relief under this section shall subject the debtor and his property, wherever located, to the exclusive jurisdiction of the court in which the order approving the petition or answer as provided in subdivision (a) is filed, and this shall include property of the debtor in the possession of a trustee under a trust deed or a mortgage, or a receiver, custodian, or other officer of any court in a pending cause, irrespective of the date of appointment of such receiver or other officer, or the date of the institution of such proceedings: *Provided*, That it shall not affect any proceeding in any court in which a final decree has been entered. In proceedings under this section, except as otherwise provided therein, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the title, powers, and duties of its officers and, subject to the approval of the court, their fees, the duties of the debtor, and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the property of the debtor and the jurisdiction of appellate courts shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the debtor's petition or answer was filed and any decree of adjudication thereafter entered shall have the same effect as if it had been entered on that day.

(n) In addition to the provisions of section 29 of this title for the staying of pending suits, the court, on such notice and on such terms, if any, as it deems fair and equitable, may enjoin secured creditors who may be affected by the extension proposal from pro-

ceeding in any court for the enforcement of their claims until the extension has been confirmed or denied by the court.

(o) The judges of the courts of bankruptcy shall appoint sufficient referees to sit in convenient places to expedite the proceedings under this section.

(p) Involuntary proceedings under this section shall not be taken against a wage earner. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 74, as added Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204. § 1, 47 Stat. 1467; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 2, 48 Stat. 922.)

§ 202a. Personal representatives. Section 202 of this title shall include the personal representative of a deceased individual for the purpose of effecting settlement or composition with the creditors of the estate: *Provided, however*, That such personal representative shall first obtain the consent and authority of the court which has assumed jurisdiction of said estate to invoke the relief provided by this title. (June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 2, 48 Stat. 922.)

§ 203. Agricultural compositions and extensions. (a) Within thirty days after June 7, 1934, every court of bankruptcy of which the jurisdiction or territory includes a county or counties having an agricultural population (according to the last available United States census) of five hundred or more farmers shall appoint one or more referees to be known as "conciliation commissioners", one such conciliation commissioner to be appointed for each county having an agricultural population of five hundred or more farmers according to said census: *Provided further*, That where any county in any such district contains a smaller number of farmers according to said census, for the purposes of this paragraph such county shall be included with one or more adjacent counties where the population of the counties so combined includes five hundred or more farmers, according to said census. In case more than one conciliation commissioner is appointed for a county, each commissioner shall act separately and shall have such territorial jurisdiction within the county as the court shall specify. A conciliation commissioner shall have a term of office of one year and may be removed by the court if his services are no longer needed or for other cause. No individual shall be eligible to appointment as a conciliation commissioner unless he is eligible for appointment as a referee and in addition is a resident of the county, familiar with agricultural conditions therein and not engaged in the farm-mortgage business, the business of financing farmers or transactions in agricultural commodities or the business of marketing or dealing in agricultural commodities or of furnishing agricultural supplies. In each judicial district the court may, if it finds it necessary or desirable, appoint a suitable person as a supervising conciliation commissioner. The supervising conciliation commissioner shall have such supervisory functions under this section as the court may by order specify.

(h) Upon filing of any petition by a farmer under this section there shall be paid a fee of $10 to be transmitted to the clerk of the court and covered into the Treasury. The conciliation commissioner shall receive as compensation for his services, including all expenses, a fee of $25 for each case docketed and submitted to him, to be paid out of the Treasury. A supervising conciliation commissioner shall receive, as compensation for his services, a per diem allowance to be fixed by the court, in an amount not in excess of $5 per day, together with subsistence and travel expenses in accordance with the law applicable to officers of the Department of Justice. Such compensation and expenses shall be paid out of the Treasury. If the creditors at any time desire supervision over the farming operations of a farmer, the cost of such supervision shall be borne by such creditors or by the farmer, as may be agreed upon by them, but in no instance shall the farmer be required to pay more than one-half of the cost of such supervision. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a conciliation commissioner who supervises such farming operations from receiving such compensation therefor as may be so agreed upon. No fees, costs, or other charges shall be charged or taxed to any farmer or his creditors by any conciliation commissioner or with respect to any proceeding under this section, except as hereinbefore in this section provided. The conciliation commissioner may accept and avail himself of office space, equipment, and assistance furnished him by other Federal officials, or by any State, county, or other public official. The Supreme Court is authorized to make such general orders as it may find necessary properly to govern the administration of the office of conciliation commissioner and proceedings under this section; but any district court of the United States may, for good cause shown and in the interests of justice, permit any such general order to be waived.

(c) At any time within five years after March 3, 1933, a petition may be filed by any farmer, stating that the farmer is insolvent or unable to meet his debts as they mature, and that it is desirable to effect a composition or an extension of time to pay his debts. The petition or answer of the farmer shall be accompanied by his schedules. The petition and answer shall be filed with the court, but shall, on request of the farmer or creditor, be received by the conciliation commissioner for the county in which the farmer resides and promptly transmitted by him to the clerk of the court for filing. If any such petition is filed, an order of adjudication shall not be entered except as provided hereinafter in this section.

(d) After the filing of such petition or answer by the farmer, the farmer shall, within such time and in such form as the rules provide, file an inventory of his estate.

(e) The conciliation commissioner shall promptly call the first meeting of creditors, stating in the notice that the farmer proposes to offer terms of composition or extension, and inclosing with the notice a summary of the inventory, a brief statement of the farmer's indebtedness as shown by the schedules, and a list of the names and addresses of the secured creditors and unsecured creditors, with the amounts owing to each as shown by the schedules. At the first meeting of the creditors the farmer may be examined, and the creditors may appoint a committee to submit to the conciliation commissioner a supplementary inventory of the farmer's estate. The conciliation commissioner shall, after hearing the parties in interest, fix a reasonable time within which application for confirmation shall be made, and may later extend such time for cause shown. After the filing of the petition and prior to the confirmation or other disposition of the composition or extension proposal by the court, the court shall exercise such control over the property of the farmer as the court deems in the best interests of the farmer and his creditors.

(f) There shall be prepared by, or under the supervision of, the conciliation commissioner a final inventory of the farmer's estate, and in the preparation of such inventory the commissioner shall give due consideration to the inventory filed by the farmer and to any supplementary inventory filed by a committee of the creditors.

(g) An application for the confirmation of a composition or extension proposal may be filed in the court of bankruptcy after but not before (1) it has been accepted in writing by a majority in number of all creditors whose claims have been allowed, including secured creditors whose claims are affected, which number shall represent a majority in amount of such claims, and (2) the money or security necessary to pay all debts which have priority unless waived, and in case of a composition, the consideration to be paid by the farmer to his creditors has been deposited in such place as shall be designated by and subject to the order of the court.

(h) A date and place, with reference to the convenience of the parties in interest, shall be fixed for a hearing upon each application for the confirmation of the composition or extension proposal and upon such objections as may be made to its confirmation.

(i) The court shall confirm the proposal, if satisfied that (1) it includes an equitable and feasible method of liquidation for secured creditors and of financial rehabilitation for the farmer; (2) it is for the best interests of all creditors; and (3) the offer and its acceptance are in good faith, and have not been made or procured except as herein provided, or

by any means, promises, or acts herein forbidden. In applications for extensions the court shall require proof from each creditor filing a claim that such claim is free from usury as defined by the laws of the place where the debt is contracted.

(j) The terms of a composition or extension proposal may extend the time of payment of either secured or unsecured debts, or both, and may provide for priority of payments to be made during tbe period of extension as between secured and unsecured creditors. It may also include specific undertakings by the farmer during the period of the extension, including provisions for payments on account, and may provide for supervisory or other control by the conciliation commissioner over the farmer's affairs during such period, and for the termination of such period of supervision or control under conditions specified: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section shall not affect the allowances and exemptions to debtors as are provided for bankrupts under section 24 of this title, and such allowances and exemptions shall be set aside for tlie use of the debtor in the manner provided for bankrupts.

(k) Upon its confirmation a composition or extension proposal shall be binding upon the farmer and his secured and unsecured creditors affected thereby: *Provided*, Tbat such composition or extension shall not reduce the amount of nor impair the lien of any secured creditor, but shall affect only the time and method of its liquidation.

(l) Upon the confirmation of a composition the consideration shall be distributed under the supervision of the conciliation commissioner as the court shall direct, and the case dismissed: *Provided*, That the debts having priority of payment under section 104 of this title, for bankrupt estates, shall have priority of payment in the same order as set forth in said section 104 under the provisions of this section in any distribution, assignment, composition or settlement herein provided for. Upon tbe confirmation of an extension proposal the court may dismiss the proceeding or retain jurisdiction of the farmer and his property during the period of the extension in order to protect and preserve the estate and enforce through the conciliation commissioner the terms of the extension proposal. The court may, after hearing and for good cause shown, at any time during the period covered by an extension proposal that has been confirmed by the court, set the same aside, reinstate the case, and modify the terms of the extension proposal.

(m) The judge may, upon the application of any party in interest, file at any time within six months after the composition or extension proposal has been confirmed, set the same aside and reinstate the case, if it shall be made to appear upon a trial that fraud was practiced in the procuring of such composition or extension, and that knowledge thereof has come to the petitioners since the confirmation thereof.

(n) The filing of a petition pleading for relief under this section shall subject the farmer and his property, wherever located, to the exclusive jurisdiction of the court. In proceedings under this section, except as otherwise provided herein, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the title, powers, and duties of its officers, the duties of the farmer, and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the property of the farmer and the jurisdiction of the appellate courts, shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the farmer's petition or answer was filed.

(o) Except upon petition made to and granted by the judge after hearing and report by the conciliation commissioner, the following proceedings shall not be instituted, or if instituted at any time prior to the filing of a petition under this section, shall not be maintained, in any court or otherwise, against the farmer or his property, at any time after the filing of the petition under this section, and prior to the confirmation or other disposition of the composition or extension proposal by the court:

(1) Proceedings for any demand, debt, or account, including any money demand;

(2) Proceedings for foreclosure of a mortgage on land, or for cancelation, rescission, or specific performance of an agreement for sale of land or for recovery of possession of land;

(3) Proceedings to acquire title to land by virtue of any tax sale;

(4) Proceedings by way of execution, attachment, or garnishment;

(5) Proceedings to sell land under or in satisfaction of any judgment or mechanic's lien; and

(6) Seizure, distress, sale, or other proceedings under an execution or under any lease, lien, chattel mortgage, conditional sale agreement, crop payment agreement, or mortgage.

(p) The prohibitions of subdivision (o) shall not apply to proceedings for the collection of taxes, or interest or penalties with respect thereto, nor to proceedings affecting solely property other than that used in farming operations or comprising the home or household effects of the farmer or his family.

(q) A conciliation commissioner shall upon request assist any farmer in preparing and filing a petition under this section and in all matters subsequent thereto arising under this section and farmers shall not be required to be represented by an attorney in any proceeding under this section.

(r) For the purpose of this section and section 202, the term "farmer" means any individual who is personally bona fide engaged primarily in farming operations or the principal part of whose income is derived from farming operations, and includes the personal representative of a deceased farmer; and a farmer shall be deemed a resident of any county in which such farming operations occur.

(s) Any farmer failing to obtain the acceptance of a majority in number and amount of all creditors whose claims are affected by a composition or extension proposal, or if he feels aggrieved by the composition or extension, may amend his petition or answer asking to be adjudged a bankrupt. Such farmer may, at the time of the first hearing, petition the court that all of his property, whether pledged, encumbered, or unencumbered, by liens or otherwise, be appraised, and that his exemptions as prescribed by the State law, subject to any liens thereon, be set aside and that he be allowed to retain possession of any part or parcel or all of the remainder of his property and pay for same under the terms and conditions set forth in this subsection (s).

(1) Upon such a request being made in the petition or answer, at the time of the first hearing, appraisers shall be designated and appointed. Such appraisers shall appraise all the property of the debtor at its then fair and reasonable value, not necessarily the market value at the time of such appraisal. The appraisals shall be made in all other respects, with right of objections, exceptions, and appeal, in accordance with this title: *Provided*, That in case of real estate either party may file objections, exceptions, and appeals within one year from date of order approving the appraisal.

(2) After the value of the debtor's property shall bave been fixed by the appraisal as herein provided, the referee shall issue an order setting aside to such debtor his exemptions as prescribed by the State law, subject to any existing mortgages or liens upon any such exemptions to an amount equal to the value, as fixed by the appraisal, of the value of such exempt property as is covered by any mortgage or lien, and shall further order that the possession, under the control of the court, of any part or parcel or all of the remainder of the debtor's property, shall remain in the debtor subject to a general lien, as security for the payment of the value thereof to the trustee of the creditors, if a trustee is appointed, such a lien to be subject to and inferior to all prior liens, pledges, or encumbrances. Such prior liens, pledges, or encumbrances shall remain in full force and effect, and the property covered by such prior liens, pledges, or encumbrances shall be subject to the payment of the

claims of the secured creditors holding such prior liens, pledges, or encumbrances up to the actual value of such property as fixed by the appraisal provided for herein. All liens herein on livestock shall cover all increase, and all liens on real property shall cover all rental received or crops grown thereon by the debtor, as security for the payment of any sum that may be due or past due under the terms and provisious of the next paragraph, until the full value of any such particular property has been paid.

(3) Upon request of the debtor, and with the consent of the lien holder or lien holders, the trustee, after the order is made setting aside to the debtor his exemptions, shall agree to sell to the debtor any part, parcel, or all of tbe remainder of the bankrupt estate at the appraised value upon the following terms and conditions, and upon such other conditions as in the judgment of the trustee shall be fair and equitable: .

a. Payment of 1 per centum interest upon the appraised price within one year from the date of said agreement.

b. Payment of 2½ per centum of the appraised price within two years from the date of said agreement.

c. Payment of an additional 2½ per centum of the appraised price within three years from the date of said agreement.

d. Payment of an additional 5 per centum of the appraised price within four years from the date of said agreement.

e. Payment of an addltional 5 per centum of the appraised price within five years from the date of said agreement.

f. Payment of the remaining unpaid balance of the appraised price within six years from the date of said agreement.

Interest shall be paid on the appraised price and unpaid balances of the appraised price yearly as it accrues at the rate of 1 per centum per annum and all taxes shall be paid by the debtor.

The proceeds of such payments on the appraised prlce and interest and shall be paid to the lien holders as their interests may appear, and to the trustee of the unsecured creditors, as their interests may appear, if a trustee is appointed.

(4) An agreement having been reached as provided in subsection (3), the debtor may consume or dispose of any part or parcel or all of said property whether covered by the general lien to the trustee, if a trustee is appointed, or suhject to pledges or prior liens or encumbrances held by secured creditors, provided he pays the appraised value of such part or parcel or all, as the case may be, to the secured creditors, as their interests may appear, and the trustee of the unsecured creditors, as his interests may appear, if a trustee is appointed, or he may put up a bond approved by the referee in bankruptcy that he will make payments, as provided for herein, of any property so consumed or disposed of.

(5) In case tbe debtor fails to make any payments, as herein provided, to any or all of the secured creditors or to the trustee of the unsecured creditors, then such secured creditors or the trustee may proceed to enforce their pledge, lien, or encumbrances in accordance with law. It shall be the duty of the secured creditors and of the trustee of the unsecured creditors to discharge all liens of record in accordance with law, whenever the debtor has paid tbe appraised value of any part, parcel, or all of his property as herein provided.

(6) Having complied with the provisions of subsection (3), the debtor may apply for his discharge as provided in this title.

(7) If any secured creditor of the debtor, affected thereby, shall file written objections to the manner of payments and distribution of debtor's property as herein provided for, then the court, after having set aside the debtor's exemptions as prescribed by the State law, shall stay all proceedings for a period of five years, during which five years the debtor sball retain possession of all or any part of his property, under the control of the court, provided he pays a reasonable rental annually for that part of the property of which he retains possessiou; the first payment of such rental to be made within six months of the date of the order staying proceedings, such rental to be distributed among the secured and unsecured creditors, as their interests may appear, under the provisions of this title. At the end of five years, or prior thereto, the debtor may pay into court the appraised price of the property of which he retains possession: *Provided*, That upon request of any lien holder on real estate the court shall cause a reappraisal of such real estate and tbe debtor may then pay the reappraised price, lf acceptable to the lien holder, into the court, otherwise the original appraisal price shall be paid into court, and thereupon the court shall, by an order, turn over full possession and title of said property to the debtor and he may apply for his discharge as provided for by this title; *Provided, however*, That the provisions of this subsection shall apply only to debts existing on June 28, 1934.

If the debtor fails to comply with the provisions of this subsection, the court may order the trustee to sell the property as provided in this title. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 75; Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204, § 1, 47 Stat. 1470; June 7. 1934, c. 424, §§ 8, 9, 48 Stat. 925; June 28, 1934, c. 869, 48 Stat. 1289.)

§ 203a. Same; conciliation commissioners; franking privileges. Conciliation commissioners appointed under section 203 of this title shall be entitled to transmit in the malls free of postage under cover of a penalty envelope all matters which relate exclusively to the business of the Government, including notices to creditors. (June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 6, 48 Stat. 924.)

§ 204. Extensions extended to persons secondarily liable for debt; evidence of confirmation of extension. Extensions made pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this chapter shall extend the obligation of any person who is secondarily liable for or who may have insured or guaranteed such debt or debts, or any part thereof, or bonds issued upon the security of same, and a copy of the order confirming such extension, certified as required by the provisions of law with reference to judgments and proceedings in courts of the United States, shall be sufficient evidence that such extension has been confirmed in any suit or proceeding brought against any such person so liable. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 76; Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204, § 1, 47 Stat. 1474; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 10, 48 Stat. 925.)

§ 205. Reorganization of railroads engaged in interstate commerce. (a) Any railroad corporation may file a petition stating that the railroad corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization. The petition shall be filed with the court in whose territorial jurisdiction the railroad corporation, during the preceding six months or the greater portion thereof, has had its principal executive or operating office, and a copy of the petition shall at the same time be filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission hereinafter called the commission: *Provided*, That when any railroad, although engaged in interstate commerce, lies wholly within one State, sucb proceedings shall be brought in the Federal district court within the State in which the railroad is located. The petition shall be accompanied by payment to the clerk of a filing fee of $100, which shall be in addition to the fees required to be collected by the clerk under other sections of this title. Upon the filing of such a petition, the judge shall enter an order either approving it as properly filed under this section, if satisfied that such petition complies with this section and has been filed in good faitb, or dismissing it if not so satisfied. If the petition is so approved, the court in whicb such order approving the petition is entered sball, during the pendency of the proceedings under this section and for the purposes thereof, have exclusive jurisdiction of the debtor and its property wherever located. The railroad corporation shall be re-

ferred to in the proceedings as a "debtor." Any corporation, the majority of the capital stock of which having power to vote for the election of directors is owned, either directly or indirectly through an intervening medium, by any railroad corporation filing a petition as a debtor under this section, or substantially all of whose properties are operated by such a debtor under lease or operating agreement may file, with the court in which such other debtor had filed such a petition. and in the proceeding upon such petition under this section, a petition stating that it is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization in connection with, or as a part of, the plan of reorganization of such other debtor; and thereupon such court shall have the same jurisdiction with respect to it, its property, and its creditors and stockholders as the court has with respect to such other debtor. Creditors of any railroad corporation having claims or interests aggregating not less than 5 per centum of all the indebtedness of such railroad corporation as shown in the latest annual report which it has filed with the commission at the time when the petition is filed, may, if the railroad corporation has not filed a petition under this section, but subject to first having obtained the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, after hearing, upon notice to such railroad corporation, file with the court in which such railroad corporation might file a petition under the provisions of this section, a petition stating that such railroad corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that such creditors propose that it shall effect a reorganization; upon such filing of such a petition copies thereof shall be filed with the commission and served by the petitioning creditors forthwith upon the railroad corporation; the railroad corporation shall, within ten days after such service, answer such petition; if such answer shall admit the jurisdiction of the court, that the claims of the petitioning creditors constitute the amounts necessary to entitle them to file such petition under this section, and that the railroad corporation is either insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature, the court shall, upon the filing of the recommendations of the commission in writing. enter an order approving the petition as properly filed under this section if satisfied that it complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or disapprove it if not so satisfied; and if so approved the proceedings thereon shall continue with like effect as if the railroad corporation had itself filed a petition under this section; if such answer shall deny either the jurisdiction of the court or that the claims of the petitioning creditors constitute such necessary amounts or that the railroad corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature, the court shall summarily try the issues, and if after the filing of the recommendations of the commission in writing it shall find that the petition complies with this section, and has been filed in good faith, the court shall enter an order approving the petition as properly filed under this section, and the proceedings thereon shall continue with like effect as if the railroad corporation had itself filed a petition under this section; otherwise the court shall dismiss the petition.

(b) A plan of reorganization within the meaning of this section (1) shall include a proposal to modify or alter the rights of creditors generally, or of any class of them, secured or unsecured, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; (2) may include, in addition, provisions modifying or altering the rights of stockholders generally, or of any class of them; (3) shall provide adequate means for the execution of the plan, which may, so far as may be consistent with the provisions of sections 1 and 5 of Title 49, include the transfer or conveyance of all or any part of the property of the debtor to another corporation or to other corporations or the consolidation of the properties of the debtor with those of another railroad corporation, or the merger of the debtor with any other railroad corporation and the issuance of securities of either the debtor or any such corporation or corporations, for cash, or in exchange for existing securities, or in satisfaction of claims or rights, or for other appropriate purposes; and (4) may deal with all or any part of the property of the debtor. The term "securities" shall include evidences of indebtedness, either secured or unsecured, bonds, stocks, certificates of beneficial interest therein, and certificates of beneficial interest in property. The term "stockholders" shall include the holders of voting trust certificates. The term "creditors" shall, except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, include, for all purposes of this sectiou and of the reorganization plan, its acceptance and confirmation, all bolders of claims, interests, or securities of whatever character against the debtor or its property, including claim for future rent, whether or not such claims, interests, or securities would otherwise constitute provable claims under this title.

(c) Upon approving the petition as properly filed the judge (1) may temporarily appoint from a panel of standing trustees qualified for such service to be selected and designated in advance by the commission a trustee or trustees of the debtor's estate, who shall have all the title and, subject to the control of the judge and consistently with the provisions of this section, shall exercise all the powers of a trustee appointed pursuant to section 72 or any other section of this title, and, subject to the judge's control and the jurisdiction of the commission as provided by the Interstate Commerce Act as amended (Title 49), shall have the power to operate the business of the railroad corporation; (2) shall fix the amount of the bond of such trustee or trustees and require the debtor, the trustee, or trustees to give such notice as the order may direct to creditors and stockholders and to cause publication thereof to be made at least once a week for two successive weeks of a hearing to be held within thirty days after such appointment, at which hearing or any adjournment thereof the judge may make permanent such appointment, or may terminate it and may, in the manner herein provided for the appointment of trustees, appoint a substitute trustee or substitute trustees, and in the same manner may appoint an additional trustee or additional trustees, and shall fix the amouut of the bond of the substitute or additional trustee or trustees; the trustee or trustees and their counsel shall receive such compensation as the judge may allow within a maximum approved by the commission; (3) may for cause shown, and with the approval of the commission, in accordance with section 20 (a) of Title 49, authorize the trustee or trustees to issue certificates for cash, property, or other consideration approved by the judge, for such lawful purposes and upon such terms and conditions and with such security and such priority in payments over existing obligations, secured or unsecured, as might in an equity receivership be lawful; (4) shall require the debtor, at such time or times as the judge may direct and in lieu of the schedules required by section 25 of this title, to file such schedules and submit such other information as may be necessary to disclose the conduct of the debtor's affairs and the fairness of any proposed plan; (5) shall determine a reasonable time within which the claims and interests of creditors and stockholders may be filed or evidenced and after which no such claim or interest may participate in any plan except on order for cause shown; the manner in which such claims and interests may be filed or evidenced and allowed, and, for the purposes of the plan and its acceptance, the division of creditors and stockholders into classes according to the nature of their respective claims and interests; (6) shall cause reasonable notice of such determination or of the dismissal of the proceedings, or the allowance of fees or expenses, to be given creditors and stockholders by publication or otherwise; (7) if a plan of reorganization is not proposed or accepted, or, if proposed and accepted, is not confirmed within such reasonable time as the judge may, upon cause shown and after considering any recommendation which has been filed by the commission, allow, may dismiss the proceedings; (8) may, within such maximum limits as are fixed by the commission, as elsewhere provided in subdivision (f) of this section, allow a reasonable compensation for the services rendered and reimbursement for the actual and neces-

sary expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding and plan by officers, parties in interest, reorganization managers, and committees or other representatives of creditors or stockholders, and the attorneys or agents of any of the foregoing, and by such assistants as the commission with the approval of the judge may specially employ; and (9) may on his own motion or at the request of the commission refer any matters for consideration and report, either generally or upon specified issues, to one of several special masters who shall have been previously designated to act as special masters in any proceedings under this section by order of any Circuit Court of Appeals and may allow such master a reasonable compensation for his services. The Circuit Court of Appeals of each circuit shall designate three or more members of the bar as such special masters whom they deem qualified for such services, and shall from time to time revise such designations by changing the persons designated or reducing or adding to their number, as the public interest may require: *Provided, however*, That there shall always be three of such special masters qualified for appointment in each circuit who shall in their respective circuits hear any matter referred to them under this section by a judge of any district court. For all purposes of this section claims against a railroad corporation which would have been entitled to priority over existing mortgages if a receiver in equity of the property of the debtor had been appointed by a Federal court at the date of the filing of the petition hereunder shall be entitled to such priority, and holders of such claims shall be treated as a separate class of creditors. If in any case in which the issues have not already been tried under the provisions of subdivision (a) of this section any of the debtor's creditors shall, prior to the hearing provided for in subdivision (c), clause (2), of this section, appear and controvert the facts alleged in the petition, the judge shall determine, as soon as may be, the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, and unless the material allegations of the petition are sustained by the proofs shall dismiss the petition. Any creditor or stockholder shall be heard on the question of the permanent appointment of any trustee or trustees, the proposed recommendation, approval, or confirmation of any reorganization plan, and upon filing a petition for leave to intervene on such other questions arising in the proceeding as the judge shall determine. The debtor, or the trustees if appointed, shall within fifteen days or, upon cause shown, such other time as may be directed by the judge, prepare (1) a list of all known bondholders and creditors of, or claimants against, the debtor or its property, and the amounts and character of their debts, claims, and securities, and the last known post-office address or place of business of each creditor or claimant, and (2) a list of the stockholders of the debtor, with the last known post-office address or place of business of each. The contents of such lists shall not constitute admissions by the debtor or the trustees in a proceeding under this section or otherwise. Such lists shall be open to the inspection of any creditor or stockholder of, or claimant against, the debtor, during reasonable business hours, upon application to the debtor or trustees, as the case may be.

(d) Before creditors and stockholders of the debtor are asked finally to accept any plan of reorganization, the Interstate Commerce Commission shall after due notice hold a public hearing, at which the debtor shall present its plan of reorganization and at which, also, such a plan may be presented by the trustee or trustees, or by or on behalf of creditors of the debtor, being not less than 10 per centum in amount of any class of creditors. Following such hearing, the commission shall render a report in which it shall recommend a plan of reorganization (which may be different from any which has been proposed) that will, in its opinion, be equitable, will not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors or stockholders, will be financially advisable, will meet with the requirements of subdivision (g) of this section, and will be compatible with the public interest. In such report the commission shall state fully the reasons for its conclusions, and it may thereafter, upon petition for good cause shown, and upon further hearing if the commission shall deem necessary, modify any of its recommendations and conclusions in a supplemental report stating the reasons for such modification. Thereafter the plan of reorganization recommended by the commission shall be submitted in such manner as the commission may direct to the creditors and stockholders of the debtor for acceptance or rejection, together with the report or reports of the commission thereon; and the commission may at the same time afford an opportunity to accept or reject any other plan of reorganization filed as in this subdivision (d) provided.

(e) A plan of reorganization shall not be finally approved by the commission until it has been accepted in writing and such acceptance has been filed in the proceeding by or on behalf of creditors holding two-thirds in amount of the claims of each class whose claims or interests would be affected by the plan, and by or on behalf of stockholders of the debtor holding two-thirds of the stock of each class: *Provided, however*, That if adequate provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests, claims, and liens of any class of creditors or stockholders in the manner provided in clauses (5) and (6) of subdivision (g) of this section, then the acceptance of the plan by such class of creditor or stockholders shall not be requisite to the approval of the plan: *And provided further*, That the acceptance of stockholders shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan if (1) the judge shall have determined (a) that the corporation is insolvent, or (b) that the interests of stockholders will not be adversely affected by the plan, or (c) that the debtor has pursuant to authorized corporate action accepted the plan, and its stockholders are bound by such acceptance. For the purposes of this section acceptance by a creditor or stockholder shall include acceptance in writing executed by him; or acceptance by his duly authorized attorney or committee acting under authority executed by him subsequent to the recommendation of the plan by the commission. Upon acceptance of the plan in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (e), the commission may, without further proceedings, grant authority for the issue of any securities, assumption of obligations, transfer of any property, or consolidation or merger of properties, to the extent contemplated by the plan consistent with the purposes of the Interstate Commerce Act as amended. If the United States of America is directly a creditor or stockholder, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept or reject a plan in respect of the interests or claims of the United States.

(f) If the plan recommended by the commission is accepted as provided in subdivision (e), the commission shall thereupon certify the plan to the court together with its approval thereof and that the same has been so accepted, together with a report of the proceedings before it and its conclusions thereon. If the plan accepted as provided in subdivision (e) differs from the plan recommended by the commission, it shall, upon acceptance, be submitted to the commission, which shall hear all interested parties upon such notice and subject to such rules and regulations as it shall prescribe. If after such hearing the commission determines that the accepted plan in its opinion is equitable and will not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors or stockholders; will be financially advisable; will meet the requirements of subdivision (g) of this section; and will be compatible with the public interest; the commission shall thereupon certify the plan to the court, together with its approval thereof, and that the same has been duly accepted, and together with a report of the proceedings before it and its findings and conclusions thereon. The commission shall also, after hearing if necessary, fix the maximum compensation and reimbursement which may be allowed by the court pursuant to clause (8) of subdivision (c) of this section: *Provided*, That unless good and sufficient reasons appear therefor no allowance for fees or compensation shall be made to

officers of corporations who have acted as managers or in any capacity in connection with the reorganization when such corporation had an interest in the matter. No plan of reorganization shall be confirmed in any proceeding under this section except upon the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission certified to the court. If the commission shall decline to issue such a certificate it shall file in the proceeding its decision, specifying the particular grounds upon which it bases its disapproval of the plan.

(g) Upon such approval by the commission, and after hearing such objections as may be made to the approved plan, the judge shall confirm the plan if satisfied that (1) the approved plan complies with the provisions of subdivision (b) of this section, is equitable and does not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors or stockholders; (2) all amounts to be paid by the debtor or by any corporation or corporations acquiring the debtor's assets, for services or expenses incident to the reorganization and cost of financing, have been fully disclosed and are reasonable, or are to be subject to the approval of the judge; (3) the offer of the plan and its acceptance are in good faith and have not been made or procured by any means or promises forbidden by this title; (4) the approved plan provides for the payment of all costs of administration and other allowances made by the court, except that compensation or reimbursement provided for in subdivision (c), clause (8), of this section may be paid in securities provided for in the plan if those entitled thereto will accept such payment and the court finds such compensation reasonable; (5) the approved plan provides, with respect to stockholders of any class the acceptance of which is requisite to the confirmation of the plan, and who would not become bound by the plan under the provision of subdivision (h) of this section, and of which more than one-third have not accepted the plan, adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their equity, if any, in the property of the debtor dealt with by the plan either by a sale of the property at not less than a fair upset price, or by appraisal and payment in cash either of the value of their stock or, at the objecting stockholder's election, of the value of the securities, if any, allotted to such stock under the plan; (6) the plan provides with respect to any class of creditors the acceptance of which is requisite to the confirmation of the plan, and who would not become bound by the plan under the provisions of subdivision (h) of this section, adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their securities, liens, and claims, either (a) by the sale of such property subject to their liens, if any, or (b) by the sale free of such liens at not less than a fair upset price, and the transfer of such liens to the proceeds of such sale, or (c) by appraisal and payment in cash of either the value of such liens and claims or, at the objecting creditors' election, the value of the securities allotted to such liens and claims under the plan. Section 93, clause (h), of this title shall be applicable to the appraisal of securities under this section, and the value of the unpaid balance shall be appraised as an unsecured claim; and (7) the debtor, and every other corporation issuing securities or acquiring property under the plan, is authorized by its charter or by applicable State or Federal laws, upon confirmation of the plan, to carry out the plan. In the case of a sale or appraisal under clause (5) or (6) of this subdivision (g) the court shall refer to the commission for its consideration and determination the amount to be fixed as the upset price and the appraisal of any securities.

(h) Upon such confirmation the provisions of the plan shall be binding upon (1) the corporation, (2) all stockholders if the judge shall have determined (a) that the corporation is insolvent, or (b) that the interests of stockholders will not be adversely affected by the plan, or (c) that the debtor has pursuant to authorized corporate action accepted the plan and its stockholders are bound by such acceptance, (3) all stockholders of each class of which two-thirds in amount shall have accepted the plan, (4) all creditors whose claims are payable in cash in full under the plan, (5) all creditors entitled to priority under subdivision (c) of this section, whose claims are not payable in cash in full under the plan, provided two-thirds in amount of such creditors shall have accepted the plan in writing filed in the proceeding, (6) all other unsecured creditors, provided two-thirds in amount of such creditors shall have accepted the plan in writing filed in the proceeding, and (7) all secured creditors of each class of which two-thirds in amount shall have accepted the plan. The confirmation of the plan shall discharge the debtor from its debts except as provided in the plan. Upon confirmation of the plan by the judge, the debtor and other corporations affected by the plan, or organized or to be organized for the purpose of carrying out the plan, shall, subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, have full power and authority to put into effect and carry out the plan and the orders of the judge relative thereto, the laws of any State or the decision or order of any State authority to the contrary notwithstanding. In the event that the judge should disapprove the plan he shall file an opinion stating his reasons therefor.

(i) The provisions of sections 901, 902, and 921 of Title 26, and 724, and 725 of the Revenue Act of 1932 [see notes under sections 900 and 901 of Title 26] shall not apply to the issuance, transfers, or exchange of securities or filing of conveyances to make effective any plan of reorganization confirmed under the provisions of this section.

(j) Upon the confirmation of the plan the property dealt with by the plan, when transferred and conveyed to the debtor or other corporation or corporations provided for by the plan, or if no trustee or trustees have been appointed when held by the debtor pursuant to the plan, shall, as the court may direct, be free and clear of all claims of the debtor, its stockholders and creditors, except such as may consistently with the provisions of the plan be reserved in the order confirming the plan or directing such transfer and conveyance, and the court may direct the trustee or trustees, or if there be no trustee or trustees the debtor, to make any such transfer and conveyance, and may direct the debtor to join in any such transfer or conveyance made by the trustee or trustees. Upon the termination of the proceeding a final decree shall be entered discharging the trustee or trustees, if any, making such provisions as may be equitable, and closing the case.

(k) If a receiver of all or any part of the property of a corporation has been appointed by a Federal or State court, whether before or after this chapter takes effect, the railroad corporation may nevertheless file a petition or answer under this section at any time thereafter, but if it does so and the petition is approved, the trustee or trustees appointed under the provisions of this section shall be entitled forthwith to possession of such property, and the judge shall make such orders as he may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by the receiver and for the payment of such reasonable administrative expenses and allowances in the prior proceeding as may be fixed by the court appointing said receiver within maximum limits approved by the commission. If a receiver has been appointed by a Federal or State court prior to the dismissal under subdivision (c), clause (7), of a proceeding under this section, the judge may include in the order of dismissal appropriate provisions directing the trustee to transfer possession of the debtor's property within the territorial jurisdiction of such court to the receiver so appointed, upon such terms as the judge may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by the trustee and for the payment of administrative expenses and allowances in the proceeding hereunder. For the purposes of this section the words "Federal court" shall include the district courts of the United States and of the Territories and possessions to which this title is or may hereafter be applicable, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States Court of Alaska.

(l) In addition to the provisions of section 29 of this title for the staying of pending suits against the debtor, such suits shall be further stayed until after

final decree the judge may, upon notice and for cause shown, enjoin or stay the commencement or continuance of any judicial proceeding to enforce any lien upon the estate until after final decree.

(m) A certified copy of an order confirming a plan of reorganization shall be evidence of the jurisdiction of the court, the regularity of the proceedings, and the fact that the order was made. A certified copy of an order directing the transfer and conveyance of the property dealt with by the plan as provided in subdivision (j) of this section shall be evidence of the transfer and conveyance of title accordingly, and if recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed if recorded would impart.

(n) In proceedings under this section and consistent with the provisions thereof, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the duties of the debtor and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the debtor and his property, shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the debtor's petition was filed.

(o) No judge or trustee acting under this title shall change the wages or working conditions of railroad employees, except in the manner prescribed in sections 151 to 163 of Title 45, or as set forth in the memorandum of agreement entered into in Chicago, Illinois, on January 31, 1932, between the executives of twenty-one standard labor organizations and the committee of nine authorized to represent Class 1 railroads.

(p) No judge or trustee acting under this title shall deny or in any way question the right of employees on the property under his jurisdiction to join the labor organization of their choice, and it shall be unlawful for any judge, trustee, or receiver to interfere in any way with the organizations of employees, or to use the funds of the railroad under his jurisdiction, in maintaining so-called company unions, or to influence or coerce employees in an effort to induce them to join or remain members of such company unions.

(q) No judge, trustee, or receiver acting under this title shall require any person seeking employment on the property under his jurisdiction to sign any contract or agreement promising to join or to refuse to join a labor organization; and if such contract has been enforced on the property prior to the property coming under the jurisdiction of said judge, trustee, or receiver, then the said judge, trustee, or receiver, as soon as the matter is called to his attention, shall notify the employees by an appropriate order that said contract has been discarded and is no longer binding on them in any way.

(r) The term "railroad corporation" as used in this title means any common carrier by railroad engaged in the transportation of persons or property in interstate commerce, except a street, suburban, or interurban electric railway which is not operated as a part of a general railroad system of transportation or which does not derive more than 50 per centum of its operating revenues from the transportation of freight in standard steam-railroad freight equipment.

(s) In proceedings under this section, claims for personal injuries to employees of a railroad corporation, and claims of personal representatives of deceased employees of a railroad corporation arising under State or Federal laws, shall be preferred claims against the assets of such railroad corporation in receivership or in reorganization as herein provided, such claims to be subordinate only to costs of administration of such receivership or reorganization. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 77; Mar. 3, 1933, c. 204, § 1, 47 Stat. 1474.)

§ 205a. Same; removal to district court. Proceedings under section 205 of this title shall not be grounds for the removal of any cause of action to the United States district court which was not removable before the passage and approval of said section, and any cause of action heretofore removed from a State court on account of said section shall be remanded to the court from which it was removed, and such order of removal vacated. (June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 7, 48 Stat. 924.)

§ 206. Additional jurisdiction. In addition to the jurisdiction exercised in voluntary and involuntary proceedings to adjudge persons bankrupt, courts of bankruptcy shall exercise original jurisdiction in proceedings for the relief of debtors, as provided in section 207 of this chapter. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 77A; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 1, 48 Stat. 912.)

§ 207. Corporate reorganizations. (a) Any corporation which could become a bankrupt under section 22 of this title, and any railroad or other transportation corporation, except a railroad corporation authorized to file a petition or answer under the provisions of section 205 of this chapter, and except as hereinafter provided, may file an original petition, or, before adjudication in an involuntary proceeding, an answer, or in any proceeding pending in bankruptcy, whether filed before or after this section becomes effective, provided the present operations of such corporation do not exclude it hereunder, and whether or not the corporation has been adjudicated a bankrupt, a petition stating the requisite jurisdictional facts under this section; the nature of the business of the debtor; in brief description, the assets, liabilities, capital stock, and financial condition of the debtor; if a prior proceeding is pending, the name of the court in which it is pending and the nature of such proceeding; facts showing the need for relief under this section; and that the corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization. The petition shall be filed with the court in whose territorial jurisdiction the corporation, during the preceding six months or the greater portion thereof, has had its principal place of business or its principal assets, or in any territorial jurisdiction in the State in which it was incorporated. The court shall upon petition transfer such proceedings to the territorial jurisdiction where the interests of all the parties will be best subserved. The petition or answer shall be accompanied by payment to the clerk of a filing fee of $100, which shall be in addition to the fees required to be collected by the clerk under other sections of this title. Upon the filing of such a petition or answer the judge shall enter an order either approving it as properly filed under this section if satisfied that such petition or answer complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or dismissing it. If the petition or answer is so approved, an order of adjudication in bankruptcy shall not be entered and the court in which such order approving the petition or answer is entered shall, during the pendency of the proceedings under this section, have exclusive jurisdiction of the debtor and its property wherever located for the purposes of this section, and shall have and may exercise all the powers, not inconsistent with this section, which a Federal court would have had it appointed a receiver in equity of the property of the debtor by reason of its inability to pay its debts as they mature. The corporation shall be referred to in the proceedings as a "debtor." Any corporation the majority of the capital stock of which having power to vote for the election of directors is owned, either directly or indirectly through an intervening medium, by any debtor, or substantially all of whose properties are operated by such debtor under lease or operating agreement, may file, with the court in which such debtor had filed its petition or answer, and in the same proceeding, a petition stating that it is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and that it desires to effect a plan of reorganization in connection with, or as a part of, the plan of reorganization of such other debtor; and thereupon such court, if it approves such petition, shall have the same jurisdiction with respect to such corporation, its property, and its creditors and stockholders as the court has with respect to such other debtor. Three or more creditors who have provable claims against any corporation which amount in the aggregate, in excess of the value of securities held by them, if any, to $1,000 or over may, if such corporation has not filed

a petition or answer under this section, file with the court in which such corporation might file a petition under this section, a petition stating that such corporation is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature and, if a prior proceeding in bankruptcy or equity receivership is not pending, that it has committed an act of bankruptcy within four months, that such creditors propose that it shall effect a reorganization; and such corporation shall, within ten days after the service of a copy of such petition upon it, answer such petition. If such answer shall admit (a) the jurisdiction of the court and (b) the material allegations of the petition, the court shall enter an order approving the petition as properly filed under this section if satisfied that it complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, or dismiss it if not so satisfied. If such answer shall deny any material allegation of the petition, the judge shall determine summarily the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, and if the material allegations of the petition are sustained by the proofs and the court is satisfied that the petition complies with this section and has been filed in good faith, it shall approve the petition; otherwise the court shall dismiss the petition; and if any such petition shall be so approved, the proceedings thereon shall continue with like effect as if the corporation had itself filed a petition or answer under this section. In case any such petition or answer or proceedings shall be dismissed in the manner provided in this subdivision (a) or in subdivision (c), clause (8), of this section, the same shall not constitute an act of bankruptcy or an admission of insolvency or be admissible in evidence, without the consent of the debtor, in any proceedings then or thereafter pending or commenced under this title or in any Federal or State court. If three or more creditors who have provable claims which amount in the aggregate in excess of the value of securities held by them, if any, to $1,000 or over, or if stockholders holding 5 per centum in number of all shares of stock of any class of the debtor outstanding shall, prior to the hearing provided for in subdivision (c), clause (1), of this section appear and controvert the facts alleged in the petition or answer, the judge shall determine as soon as may be the issues presented by the pleadings, without the intervention of a jury, and unless the material allegations of the petition or answer are sustained by the proofs, the proceedings shall be dismissed.

(b) A plan of reorganization within the meaning of this section (1) shall include provisions modifying or altering the rights of creditors generally, or of any class of them, secured or unsecured, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; (2) may include provisions modifying or altering the rights of stockholders generally, or of any class of them, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; (3) shall provide for the payment in cash of all costs of administration and other allowances made by the court except that compensation or reimbursement provided for in subdivision (c), clause (9), of this section, may be paid in securities provided for in the plan if those entitled thereto will accept such payment and the court finds such compensation reasonable; (4) shall provide in respect of each class of stockholders, of which less than a majority shall accept such plan (unless the judge shall determine either that the debtor is insolvent, or that the interest of such class of stockholders will not be affected adversely by the plan), adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their equity, if any, in the property of the debtor dealt with by the plan, either, as provided in the plan, (a) by a sale of the property at not less than a fair upset price, or (b) by appraisal and payment in cash of the value either of their stock, or at the objecting stockholders' election, of the securities allotted to such stockholders under the plan, if any shall be so allotted, or (c) by such methods as will do substantial justice to such stockholders under and consistent with the circumstances of the particular case; (5) shall provide in respect of each class of creditors of which less than two-thirds in amount shall accept such plan (unless the claims of such class of creditors will not be affected by the plan, or the plan makes provision for the payment of their claims in cash in full), provide adequate protection for the realization by them of the value of their interests, claims, or liens, if the property affected by such interests, claims, or liens is dealt with by the plan, either as provided in the plan (a) by the transfer or sale of such property subject to such interests, claims, or liens, or by the retention of such property by the debtor subject to such interests, claims, or liens, or (b) by a sale free of such interests, claims, or liens at not less than a fair upset price and the transfer of such interests, claims, or liens to the proceeds of such sale; or (c) by appraisal and payment either in cash of the value either of such interests, claims, or liens, or, at the objecting creditors' election, of the securities allotted to such interests, claims, or liens under the plan, if any shall be so allotted; or (d) by such method as will, in the opinion of the judge, under and consistent with the circumstances of the particular case, equitably and fairly provide such protection; (6) may reject contracts of the debtor which are executory in whole or in part, including unexpired leases except contracts in the public authority; (7) shall, in case any creditor or stockholder or class thereof shall not be affected by the plan, specify the creditor or stockholder or class or classes thereof not affected and contain such provisions with respect thereto as may be appropriate, and in case any controversy shall arise as to whether any creditor or stockholder or class thereof shall or shall not be affected, the issue shall be determined by the judge after hearing upon notice to the parties interested; (8) shall specify what claims, if any, are to be paid in cash in full; (9) shall provide adequate means for the execution of the plan, which may include the transfer of all or any part of the property of the debtor to another corporation or to other corporations, or the consolidation of the properties of the debtor with those of another corporation, or the merger or consolidation of the debtor into or with another corporation or corporations, or the retention of the property by the debtor, the distribution of assets among creditors or any class thereof, the satisfaction or modification of liens, indentures, or other similar instruments, the curing or waiver of defaults, extension of maturity dates of outstanding securities, the change in interest rates and other terms of such securities, the amendment of the charter of the debtor, and the issuance of securities of either the debtor or any such corporation or corporations, for cash, or in exchange for existing securities, or in satisfaction of claims or rights, or for other appropriate purposes; (10) may deal with all or any part of the property of the debtor and may include any other appropriate provisions not inconsistent with this section. No creditor or stockholder shall, for the purposes of this section be deemed to be affected by any plan of reorganization unless the same shall affect his interests materially and adversely. The term "securities" shall include evidences of indebtedness, either secured or unsecured, stock, certificates of beneficial interest therein, and certificates of beneficial interest in property. The term "stockholders" shall include the holders of voting trust certificates. The term "creditors" shall include for all purposes of this section and of the reorganization plan, its acceptance and confirmation, all holders of claims of whatever character against the debtor or its property, including claims under executory contracts, whether or not such claims would otherwise constitute provable claims under this title. The term "claims" includes debts, securities, other than stock, liens, or other interests of whatever character. For all purposes of this section unsecured claims which would have been entitled to priority over existing mortgages if a receiver in equity of the property of the debtor had been appointed by a Federal court on the day of the approval of the petition or answer under this section, shall be entitled to such priority, and the holders of such claims, and of other claims, if any, of equal rank, shall be treated as a separate class of creditors. In case an executory contract or unex-

pired lease of real estate shall be rejected pursuant to direction of the judge given in a proceeding instituted under this section, or shall have been rejected by a trustee or receiver in bankruptcy or receiver in equity, in a proceeding pending prior to the institution of a proceeding under this section any person injured by such rejection shall, for all purposes of this section and of the reorganization plan, its acceptance and confirmation, be deemed to be a creditor. The claim of a landlord for injury resulting from the rejection of an unexpired lease of real estate or for damages or indemnity under a covenant contained in such lease shall be treated as a claim ranking on a parity with debts which would be provable under section 103 (a) of this title, but shall be limited to an amount not to exceed the rent, without acceleration, reserved by said lease for the three years next succeeding the date of surrender of the premises to the landlord or the date of reentry of the landlord, whichever first occurs, whether before or after the filing of the petition, plus unpaid rent accrued up to such date of surrender or reentry: *Provided*, That the court shall scrutinize the circumstances of an assignment of future rent claims and the amount of the consideration paid for such assignment in determining the amount of damages allowed assignee hereunder. In the case of secured claims entitled to the provisions of clause (5) of this subdivision (b), the value of the security shall be determined in the manner provided in section 93, clause (h) of this title, and if the amount of such value shall be less than the amount of the claim, the excess may be classified as an unsecured claim. The provisions of section 96 of this title shall apply to claims against the debtor in a proceeding under this section. For all purposes of this section any creditor may act in person, by an attorney at law, or by a duly authorized agent or committee: *Provided*, That the judge shall scrutinize and may disregard any limitations or provisions of any depositary agreements, trust indentures, committee or other authorizations affecting any creditor acting under this section and may enforce an accounting thereunder or restrain the exercise of any power which he finds to be unfair or not consistent with public policy and may limit any claims filed by such committee member or agent, to the actual consideration paid therefor. The running of all periods of time prescribed by any other provisions of this title, and by all statutes of limitations, shall be suspended during the pendency of a proceeding under this section.

(c) Upon approving the petition or answer or at any time thereafter, the judge, in addition to the jurisdiction and powers elsewhere in this section conferred upon him, (1) may, after hearing upon notice to the debtor and to such others as the judge may determine temporarily continue the debtor in possession or appoint a trustee or trustees of the debtor's estate, and shall require the debtor, or such trustee or trustees, if appointed, to give such notice as the order may direct to creditors and stockholders and to cause publication thereof to be made at least once a week for two successive weeks of a hearing to be held within thirty days after such appointment, or, if no such appointment, within thirty days after the approval of the petition or answer, at which hearing or any adjournment thereof, or at any subsequent hearing after notice, the judge may make permanent any such appointment, or terminate it and restore the debtor to possession, or, if no trustee has been appointed, may appoint a trustee or trustees, and may remove any such trustee or trustees and continue the debtor in possession or appoint a substitute trustee or trustees and may appoint an additional trustee or trustees; (2) shall fix the amount of the bond of every such trustee, and every such trustee, upon filing such bond, shall have all the title and shall exercise, subject to the control of the judge and consistently with the provisions of this section, all the powers of a trustee appointed pursuant to section 72 of this title, and if authorized by the judge, the same powers as those exercised by a receiver in equity to the extent consistent with this section, and, subject to the authorization and control of the judge, the power to operate the business of the debtor during such period, fixed or indefinite, as the judge may from time to time prescribe; (3) may, for cause shown, authorize the debtor or the trustee or trustees, if appointed, to issue certificates for cash, property, or other consideration approved by the judge for such lawful purposes, and upon such terms and conditions and with such security and such priority in payments over existing obligations, secured or unsecured, as may be lawful in the particular case; (4) shall require the debtor, or the trustee or trustees if appointed, at such time or times as the judge may direct, and in lieu of the schedules required by section 25 of this title, to file such schedules and submit such other information as may be necessary to disclose the conduct of the debtor's affairs and the fairness of any proposed plan; and may direct the debtor, or the trustee or trustees if appointed, to prepare (a) a list of all known bondholders and creditors of, or claimants against, the debtor or its property, and the amounts and character of their debts, claims, and securities, and the last known post-office address or place of business of each creditor or claimant, and (b) a list of the stockholders of each class of the debtor, with the last known post-office address or place of business of each, which lists shall be open to the inspection of any creditor or stockholder of the debtor, during reasonable business hours, upon application to the debtor, or to the trustee or trustees, if appointed, and the contents of such lists shall not constitute admissions by the debtor or the trustees in a proceeding under this section or otherwise; (5) may direct the rejection of contracts of the debtor executory in whole or in part; (6) shall determine a reasonable time within which the claims and interests of creditors and stockholders may be filed or evidenced and after which no such claim or interest may participate in any plan, except on order for cause shown, the manner in which such claims and interests may be filed or evidenced and allowed, and, for the purposes of the plan and its acceptance, the division of creditors and stockholders into classes according to the nature of their respective claims and interests; and may, for the purposes of such classification, classify as an unsecured claim, the amount of any secured claim in excess of the value of the security therefor, such value to be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 93, clause (h), of this title; (7) shall cause reasonable notice of such determination and of all hearings for the consideration of any proposed plan, or of the dismissal of the proceedings, or the liquidation of the estate, or the allowance of fees or expenses, to be given creditors and stockholders by publication or otherwise; (8) if a plan of reorganization is not proposed or accepted within such reasonable period as the judge may fix, or, if proposed and accepted, is not confirmed, may, after hearing, whether the proceeding be voluntary or involuntary, either extend such period or dismiss the proceeding under this section or, except in the case of a railroad or other public utility or of a debtor which has not been found by the judge to be insolvent, direct the estate to be liquidated, or direct the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate, appointing a trustee or trustees, if none shall previously have been appointed, as the interests of the creditors and stockholders may equitably require; (9) may allow a reasonable compensation for the services rendered and reimbursement for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding and the plan by officers, parties in interest, depositaries, reorganization managers and committees or other representatives of creditors or stockholders, and the attorneys or agents of any of the foregoing and of the debtor, but appeals from orders fixing such allowances may be taken to the Circuit Court of Appeals independently of other appeals in the proceeding and shall be heard summarily; (10) in addition to the provisions of section 29 of this title for the staying of pending suits against the debtor, may enjoin or stay the commencement or continuation of suits against the debtor until after final decree; and may, upon notice and for cause

shown, enjoin or stay the commencement or continuance of any judicial proceeding to enforce any lien upon the estate until after final decree; and (11) may refer any matters to a special master, who may be one of the referees in bankruptcy, for consideration and report, either generally or upon specified issues, and allow such master a reasonable compensation and reimbursement for his services and actual and necessary expenses. The debtor shall have the right to be heard on all questions. Any creditor or stockholder shall have the right to be heard on the question of the permanent appointment of any trustee or trustees, and on the proposed confirmation of any reorganization plan, and upon filing a petition for leave to intervene, on such other questions arising in the proceeding as the judge shall determine. In case a trustee is not appointed, the debtor shall continue in the possession of its property, and, if authorized by the judge, shall operate the business thereof duriug such period, fixed or indefinite, as the judge may from time to time prescribe, and shall have all the title to and shall exercise, consistently with the provisions of this section, all the powers of a trustee appointed pursuant to this section, subject at all times to the control of the judge, and to such limitations, restrictions, terms, and conditions as the judge may from time to time impose and prescribe. While the debtor is in possession (a) its officers shall be entitled to receive only such reasonable compensation as the judge shall from time to time approve, and (b) no person shall be elected or appointed to any office, to fill a vacancy or otherwise, without the prior approval of the judge.

(d) A plan of reorganization which has been approved by creditors of the debtor, whose claims would be affected by the plan, being not less than 25 per centum in amount of any class of creditors, and not less than 10 per centum in amount of all the claims against the debtor, or, if the debtor is not found by the judge to be insolvent, but is found unable to meet its debts as they mature, by stockholders whose interests would be affected by the plan, provided said amount is not less than 10 per centum of any class of stock outstanding and not less than 5 per centum of the total number of shares of all classes of stock outstanding, may be proposed by any creditor or by any stockholder, or without such approval by the debtor, at a hearing duly noticed for its consideration or for the consideration of any other plan of reorganization similarly proposed.

(e) (1) A plan of reorganization shall not be confirmed until it has been accepted in writing, whether before or after the filing of the petition or answer under this section, and such acceptance shall have been filed in the proceeding by or on behalf of creditors holding two-thirds in amount of the claims of each class whose claims have been allowed and would be affected by the plan and by or on behalf of stockholders of the debtor holding a majority of the stock of each class: *Provided, however,* That such acceptance shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan by any creditor or class of creditors (a) whose claims are not affected by the plan, or (b) if the plan makes provision for the payment of their claims in cash in full, or (c) if provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests, claims, or liens of such creditor or class of creditors in the manner provided in subdivision (b), clause (5), of this section: *And provided further,* That such acceptance shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan by any stockholder or class of stockholders (1) if the judge shall have determined either that the debtor is insolvent, or that the interests of such stockholder or stockholders will not be affected by the plan, or (2) if provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests of such stockholder or class of stockholders in the manner provided in subdivision (b), clause (4), of this section. With such acceptance there shall be set forth, verified in such manner as the judge shall require, what, if any, contracts of the debtor are executory in whole or in part, and what unexpired leases have been rejected and surrendered. With such acceptance there shall be filed a statement, verified in such manner as the judge shall require, showing what, if any, claims and shares of stock have been purchased or transferred by those accepting the plan after the commencement or in contemplation of the proceeding, and the circumstances of such purchase or transfer: *Provided, however,* That if the judge is satisfied that by reason of the number of securities outstanding and the extent of the public dealing therein the preparation of such a statement would be impractical, he may direct that it be not filed. If the United States of America is a creditor or stockholder, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to accept or reject a plan in respect of the interests or claims of the United States.

(2) In case the debtor is a utility subject to the jurisdiction of a regulatory commission or commissions or other regulatory authority or authorities, created by the laws of the State or States in which the properties of the debtor are operated, a plan of reorganization shall not be confirmed until (a) it shall be submitted to each such commission or authority having regulatory jurisdiction over the debtor, (b) an opportunity shall be afforded each such commission or authority to suggest amendments or objections to the plan, and (c) the judge shall consider such amendments or objections at a hearing at which each such commission or authority may be heard. In case the debtor is a public utility corporation wholly intrastate in character no court shall approve any plan of reorganization if the regulatory commission of such State having jurisdiction over such public utility certifies that the public interest is affected by said plan, unless said regulatory commission shall first approve of said plan as to the public interest therein and the fairness thereof. If said regulatory commission shall not within thirty days or such additional period as the court may prescribe after the submission of a plan to it file said certificate it shall be deemed that the public interest is not affected by said plan.

(f) After hearing such objections as may be made to the plan, the judge shall confirm the plan if satisfied that (1) it is fair and equitable and does not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors or stockholders, and is feasible; (2) it complies with the provisions of subdivision (h) of this section; (3) it has been accepted as required by the provisions of subdivision (e), clause 1, of this section; (4) the provisions of subdivision (e), clause (2), of this section have been complied with; (5) all amounts to be paid by the debtor or by any corporation or corporations acquiring the debtor's assets, and all amounts to be paid to committees or reorganization managers, whether or not by the debtor or any such corporation for services or expenses incident to the reorganization, have been fully disclosed and are reasonable, or are to be subject to the approval of the judge; (6) the offer of the plan and its acceptance are in good faith and have not been made or procured by any means or promises forbidden by this title; and (7) the debtor, and every other corporation, issuing securities or acquiring property under the plan, is authorized by its charter or by applicable State or Federal laws, upon confirmation of the plan, to take all action necessary to carry out the plan, and that, in case the debtor is a utility corporation subject to the jurisdiction of a regulatory commission or commissions or other regulatory authority or authorities, created by the laws of the State or States in which the properties of the debtor are operated, all authorizations, approvals, or consents of each such commission or authority required by the laws of such State or States, have been obtained. Before or after a plan is confirmed, changes and modifications may be proposed therein by any party in interest and may be made with the approval of the judge after hearing upon notice to creditors and stockholders, subject to the right of any creditor or stockholder who shall previously have accepted the plan to withdraw his acceptance, within a period to be fixed by the judge and after such notice as the judge may direct, if, in the opinion of the judge, the change or modification will be materially adverse to the interest of such

creditor or stockholder, and if any creditor or stockholder having such right of withdrawal shall not withdraw within such period, he shall be deemed to have accepted the plan as changed or modified: *Provided, however*, That the plan as changed or modified shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (h) of this section and shall have been or shall thereafter be accepted as required by the provisions of subdivision (e), clause (1), of this section, including acceptances by reason of failure to withdraw as hereinbefore provided, and the provisions of this subdivision (f), and of subdivision (e), clause (2), of this section, shall have been complied with in respect thereof. Upon confirmation of the plan by the judge, the debtor and other corporation or corporations organized or to be organized for the purpose of carrying out the plan, shall have full power and authority to put into effect and carry out the plan and the orders of the judge relative thereto. The provisions of subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 of schedule A of section 901 of Title 26, shall not apply to the issuance, transfers, or exchanges of securities or making or delivery of conveyances to make effective any plan of reorganizatiou confirmed under the provisions of this section.

(g) Upon such confirmation the provisions of the plan and of the order of confirmation shall be binding upon (1) the debtor, (2) all stockholders thereof, including those who have not, as well as those who have, accepted it, and (3) all creditors, secured or unsecured, whether or not affected by the plan, and whether or not their claims shall have been filed, and, if filed, whether or not approved, including creditors who have not, as well as those who have, accepted it.

(h) Upon final confirmation of the plan, the debtor and other corporation or corporations organized or to be organized for the purpose of carrying out the plan, shall have full power and authority to, and shall put into effect and carry out the plan and the orders of the judge relative thereto, under and subject to the supervision and control of the judge, and the property dealt with by the plan, when transferred and conveyed by the trustee or trustees to the debtor or the other corporation or corporations provided for by the plan, or, if no trustee has been appointed, when retained by the debtor pursuant to the plan or transferred by it to the other corporation or corporations provided for by the plan, shall be free and clear of all claims of the debtor, its stockholders and creditors, except such as may consistently with the provisions of the plan be reserved in the order confirming the plan or directing such transfer and conveyance or retention, and the court may direct the trustee or trustees, or if there be no trustee, the debtor and any mortgagee, the trustee of any obligation of the debtor, and all other proper and necessary parties, to make any such transfer or conveyance, and may direct the debtor to join in any such transfer or conveyance made by the trustee or trustees. Upon the termination of the proceedings a final decree shall be entered discharging the trustee or trustees, if any, making such provisions as may be equitable, by way of injunction or otherwise, and closing the case. Such final decree shall discharge the debtor from its debts and liabilities, and shall terminate and end all rights and interests of its stockholders, except as provided in the plan or as may be reserved as aforesaid. All securities issued pursuant to any plan of reorganization confirmed by the court in accordance with the provisions of this section, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any securities issued pursuant to such plan for the purpose of raising money for working capital and other purposes of such plan and securities issued by the debtor or by the trustee or trustees pursuant to subdivision (c), clause (3), of this section, and all certificates of deposit representing securities of or claims against the debtor which it is proposed to deal with under any such plan, shall be exempt from all the provisions of sections 77a to 77z of Title 15, except the provisions of subdivision (2) of section 771 of Title 15, and section 77q of Title 15, and except the provisions of section 77x of Title 15 as applied to any willful violation of said section 77q.

(i) If a receiver or trustee of all or any part of the property of a corporation has been appointed by a Federal, State, or Territorial court, whether before or after June 7, 1934, at 12 o'clock noon a petition or answer may be filed under this section at any time thereafter by the corporation, or its creditors as provided in subdivision (a) of this section and if such petition or answer is approved, the trustee or trustees appointed under this section, or the debtor if no trustee is appointed, shall be entitled forthwith to possession of and vested with title to such property, and the judge shall make such orders as he may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by the receiver or prior trustee and for the payment of such reasonable administrative expenses and allowances in the prior proceeding as may be fixed by the court appointing said receiver or prior trustee. If a receiver or trustee has been appointed by a Federal or State or Territorial court prior to the institution of a proceeding under this section, and such proceeding shall be dismissed under subdivision (c), clause (8), of this section, the judge may include in the order of dismissal appropriate orders directing the trustee or trustees, or the debtor if no trustee is appointed, to transfer possession of the debtor's property within the territorial jurisdiction of such court to the receiver or prior trustee so appointed, upon such terms as the judge may deem equitable for the protection of obligations incurred by any trustee or trustees appointed under this section, and for the payment of administrative expenses and allowances in the proceeding hereunder. For the purposes of this section the words "Federal court" shall include the district courts of the United States and of the Territories and possessions to which this section and section 206 of this titie are or may hereafter be applicable, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the United States Court of Alaska, and the District Court of the United States for the Territory of Hawaii.

(j) A certified copy of the final decree or of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, or of any other decree or order entered in a proceeding under this section, shall be evidence of the jurisdiction of the court, the regularity of the proceedings, and the fact that the decree or order was made. A certified copy of an order directing the transfer of the property dealt with by the plan as provided in subdivision (h) of this section shall he evidence of the transfer of title accordingly, and if recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed, if recorded, would impart.

(k) If an order is entered directing the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate pursuant to the provisions of clause (8) of subdivision (c) of this section: (1) The case may be referred to a reference as provided in section 45 of this title, who shall be compensated as provided in section 68 of this title; (2) the first meeting of creditors shall be held as provided in section 91 of this title, upon notice as provided in section 94 of this title; (3) a trustee or trustees shall be appointed as provided in section 72 of this title, and be compensated as provided in section 76 of this title; (4) claims which are provable under section 103 of this title may be proved as provided in section 93 of this title, except that the time within which proof may be made shall not expire until six months after the date of the last publication of the notice of the first meeting; (5) debts shall be entitled to priority as provided in section 104 of this title; (6) sales shall be made as provided in subdivision (b) of section 110 of this title; (7) dividends may be declared and paid as provided in section 105 of this title. None of the sections enumerated in this subdivision (k), except subdivisions (g), (i), (j), and (m) of section 93 of this title, and subdivisions (a) and (e) of section 110 of this title, shall apply to proceedings instituted under this section unless and until an order has been entered directing the trustee or trustees to liquidate the estate. All other provisions of this title, except such as are inconsistent with the provisions of this section, shall apply to proceedings instituted under this section, whether or not an order to liquidate the estate has been entered. For

the purposes of such application, provisions relating to "bankrupts" shall be deemed to relate also to "debtors"; "bankruptcy proceedings" or "proceedings in bankruptcy" shall be deemed to include proceedings under this section; the date of the order approving the petition or answer under this section shall be taken to be the date of adjudication, and such order shall have the same consequences and effect as an order of adjudication.

(l) No judge, debtor, or trustee acting under this section shall deny or in any way question the right of employees on the property under the jurisdiction of the judge, to join the labor organization of their choice, and it shall be unlawful for any judge, debtor, or trustee to interfere in any way with the organizations of employees, or to use funds under such jurisdiction, in maintaining so-called company unions, or to coerce employees in an effort to induce them to join or remain members of such company unions.

(m) No judge, debtor, or trustee acting under this section shall require any person seeking employment on the property under the jurisdiction of the judge to sign any contract or agreement promising to join or to refuse to join a labor organization; and if such contract has been enforced on the property prior to the property coming under the jurisdiction of said judge, then the judge, debtor, or trustee, as soon as the matter is called to his attention, shall notify the employees by an appropriate order that said contract has been discarded and is no longer binding on them in any way.

(n) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed or be deemed to affect or apply to the stockholders, creditors, or officers of any corporation operating or owning a railroad or railroads, railway or railways, owned in whole or in part by any municipality and/or owned or operated by a municipality, or under any contract to any municipality by or on its behalf or in conjunction with such municipality under any contract, lease, agreement, certificate, or in any other manner provided by law for such operation: *Provided, however,* That this paragraph shall not apply to or affect any corporation or the stockholders, creditors, or officers thereof, if not more than 20 per centum of its operating revenue is derived from such operations.

(o) In proceedings under this section and consistent with the provisions thereof, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the duties of the debtor and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the debtor and its property, shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the debtor's petition or answer was approved.

(p) This section shall take effect and be in force from and after June 7, 1934, and shall apply as fully to debtors, their stockholders and creditors, whose interests or debts have been acquired or incurred prior to such date, as to debtors, their stockholders and creditors, whose interests or debts are acquired or incurred after such date. Proceedings under this section may be taken in proceedings in bankruptcy which are pending on June 7, 1934. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 77B; June 7, 1934, c. 424, § 1, 48 Stat. 912.)

Chapter 9.—PROVISIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY TEMPORARY AID OF PUBLIC DEBTORS

Sec.
301. Declaration of policy.
302. Additional jurisdiction.
303. Municipal-debt readjustments.

Section 301. Declaration of policy. There is hereby found, determined, and declared to exist a national emergency caused by increasing financial difficulties of many local governmental units, which renders imperative the further exercise of the bankruptcy powers of the Congress of the United States. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 78; May 24, 1934, c. 345, 48 Stat. 798.)

§ 302. Additional jurisdiction. Until the expiration of two years from May 24, 1934, in addition to the jurisdiction exercised in voluntary and involuntary proceedings to adjudge persons bankrupt, courts of bankruptcy shall exercise original jurisdiction in proceedings for the relief of debtors, as provided in this chapter of this title. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 79; May 24, 1934, c. 345, 48 Stat. 798.)

§ 303. Municipal-debt readjustments. (a) Any municipality or other political subdivision of any State, including (but not hereby limiting the generality of the foregoing) any county, city, borough, village, parish, town, or township, unincorporated tax or special assessment district, and any school, drainage, irrigation, reclamation, levee, sewer, or paving, sanitary, port, improvement, or other districts (hereinafter referred to as a "taxing district"), may file a petition stating that the taxing district is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature, and that it desires to effect a plan of readjustment of its debts. The petition shall be filed with the court in whose territorial jurisdiction the taxing district or the major part thereof is located and for any such district having no officials of its own the petition shall be filed by the municipality or political subdivision, the officials of which have power to contract on behalf of said district or to levy the special assessments within such district. The petition shall be accompanied by payment to the clerk of a filing fee of $100, which shall be in addition to the fees required to he collected by the clerk under other chapters of this title. The petition shall state that a plan of readjustment has been prepared, is filed and submitted with the petition, and that creditors of the taxing district owning not iess than 30 per centum in the case of drainage, irrigation, reclamation, and levee districts and owning not less than 51 per centum in the case of all other taxing districts in amount of the bonds, notes, and certificates of indebtedness of the taxing district affected by the plan, exciuding bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness owned, held, or controlled by the taxing district in a fund or otherwise, have accepted it in writing. The petition shall be accompanied with such written acceptance and with a list of all known creditors of the taxing district, together with their addresses so far as known to the taxing district, and description of their respective claims showing separately those who have accepted the plan of readjustmeut, together with their separate addresses, the contents of which list shall not constitute admissions by the taxing districts in a proceeding under this chapter or otherwise. Upon the filing of such a petition the judge shall enter an order either approving it as properly filed under this chapter, if satisfied that such petition complies with this chapter and has been filed in good faith, or dismissing it, if not so satisfied. If creditors holding 5 per centum in amount of the bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness shall, within ninety days after the first publication of the notice provided for in subdivision (c), clause (1), of this chapter, appear and controvert the facts alleged in the petition, the judge shall decide the issues presented, and unless the material allegations of the petition are sustained, shall dismiss the petition.

(b) A plan of readjustment within the meaning of this chapter (1) shall inciude provisions modifying or altering the rights of creditors generally, or of any class of them, secured or unsecured, either through the issuance of new securities of any character or otherwise; and (2) may contain such other provisions and agreements, not inconsistent with this chapter, as the parties may desire.

No creditor shall be deemed to be affected by any plan of readjustment unless the same shall affect his interests materially and adversely, and in case any controversy shall arise as to whether any creditor or class thereof shall or shall not be affected, the issue shall be determined by the judge after hearing upon notice to the parties interested.

The term "securities" shall include bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness, either secured or unsecured, and certificates of beneficial interests in property. The term "creditors" shall include for all purposes of this chapter all holders of claims,

debts, securities, liens, or other interests of whatever character against the taxing district or its property or revenues, including claims under executory contracts and for future rent, whether or not such claims would otherwise constitute provable claims under this title, and all holders of judgments rendered against such taxing district but excepting claims for salaries and wages of officers and employees of the taxing district.

For all purposes of this chapter any creditor may act in person or by a duly authorized agent or committee. Where any committee, organization, group, or individual shall assume to act for or on behalf of creditors, such committee, organization, group, or individual shall first file with the court in which the proceeding is pending a list of the creditors represented by such committee, organization, group, or individual, together with a statement of the amount, class, and character of the indebtedness held by each such creditor. and shall accompany the same with a copy of the contract or agreement entered into between such committee, organization, group, or individual and the creditors represented by it or them, which contracts shall disclose all compensation to be received directly or indirectly by such agent or committee.

(c) Upon approving the petition or at any time thereafter the judge (1) shall require the taxing district to give such notice as the order may direct to creditors, and to cause publication, to be made at least once a week for three successive weeks, of a hearing, to be held within ninety days after the approval of the petition for the purpose of considering the plan of readjustment filed with the petition and of any changes therein or modifications thereof which may be proposed; (2) if a plan of readjustment is not accepted and approved within such reasonable period as the judge may fix, or, if accepted and approved, is not confirmed. the judge may, after hearing, either extend such period not exceeding one year from the date of the filing of the petition, or dismiss the proceedings as the interests of the creditors may equitably require: *Provided, however*, That if a plan shall not be accepted and approved within one year from the date of the filing of the petition, the judge, after hearing, may continue the proceeding for not exceeding two years from the date of the filing of the petition, with the written consent of creditors of the taxing district holding more than one-half in amount of all claims affected by the plan; (3) shall require the taxing district at such time or times as the judge may direct, and in lieu of the schedules required by section 25 of this title, to file such schedules and submit such other information as may be necessary to disclose the conduct of the affairs of the taxing district and the fairness of any proposed plan; (4) shall determine a reasonable time and manner in which the claims and interests of creditors may be filed or evidenced, and, for the purposes of the plan and its acceptance, the division of creditors into classes according to the nature of their respective claims and interests; and may, for the purposes of such classification, classify as an unsecured claim the amount of any secured claim in excess of the value of the security thereof, such value to be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 93, clause (h), of this title; (5) may, with the authorized written approval of the taxing district, direct the rejection of contracts of the taxing district executory in whole or in part; (6) shall cause reasonable notice of such determination and of all hearings for the consideration of the proposed plan, or the dismissal of the proceedings, or the allowances of fees or expenses, to be given creditors by publication or otherwise; (7) may require the taxing district to open its books, records, and files to the inspection of any creditor of the taxing district during reasonable business hours; (8) may allow a reasonable compensation for the services rendered and reimbursement for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding and the payment of special masters, readjustment managers, and committees or other representatives of creditors of the taxing district, and the attorneys or agents of any of the foregoing; and appeals may be taken, from the orders making such allowances, to the circuit court of appeals for the circuit in which the proceeding under this chapter is pending, independently of other appeals which may be taken in the proceedings, and such appeals shall be heard summarily: *Provided, however*, That no fees, compensation, reimbursement, or other allowances for attorneys, agents, committees, or other representatives of creditors shall be assessed against the taxing district or paid from any revenues, property, or funds except in the manner and in such sums, if any, as may be provided for in the plan of readjustment: (9) in addition to the provisions of section 29 of this title for the staying of pending suits, the court may upon notice enjoin or stay until after final decree, the commencement or continuation of suits against the taxing district, or any officer or inhabitant of the taxing district, on account of the indebtedness of such taxing district, or to enforce any lien or to enforce levy of taxes for the payment of any such indebtedness: *Provided, however*, That the judge may enter an interlocutory decree providing that the plan shall be temporarily operative with respect to all indebtedness affected thereby and that the payment of the principal or interest, or both, of such indebtedness shall be temporarily postponed or extended or otherwise readjusted in the same manner and upon the same terms as if such plan had been finally confirmed and put into effect, and upon the entry of such decree the principal or interest, or both, of such indebtedness which has otherwise become due, or which would otherwise become due, shall not be or become due or payable, and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be postponed during the period in which such decree shall remain in force; and (10) may refer any matters to a special master, for consideration and report upon specified issues; but (11) shall not, by any order or decree, in the proceeding or otherwise, interfere with (a) any of the political or governmental powers of the taxing district, or (b) any of the property or revenues of the taxing district necessary in the opinion of the judge for essential governmental purposes, or (c) any income-producing property, unless the plan of readjustment so provides. The taxing district shall be heard on all questions. Any creditor shall be heard on the question of the proposed confirmation of the plan, and, upon filing a petition for leave to intervene, on such other questions arising in the proceeding as the judge shall determine.

(d) The plan of readjustment shall not be confirmed until it has been accepted in writing, filed in the proceeding, by or on behalf of creditors whose claims have been allowed holding two-thirds in amount of the claims of each class whose claims have been allowed and would be affected by the plan, and by creditors holding 66⅔ per centum in the case of drainage, irrigation, reclamation, and levee districts and creditors holding 75 per centum in the case of all other taxing districts in amount of the claims of all classes of the taxing district affected by the plan, but excluding claims owned, held, or controlled by a taxing district, and such plan has been accepted and approved by the taxing district in a writing filed in the proceeding, signed in its name by an authorized authority: *Provided, however*, That it shall not be requisite to the confirmation of the plan that there be such acceptance by any creditor or class of creditors (a) whose claims are not affected by the plan, or (b) if the plan makes provision for the payment of their claims in cash in full, or (c) if provision is made in the plan for the protection of the interests, claims, or liens of such creditors or class of creditors.

(e) After hearing such objections as may be made to the plan, the judge shall confirm the plan if satisfied that (1) it is fair, equitable, and for the best interests of the creditors, and does not discriminate unfairly in favor of any class of creditors; (2) complies with the provisions of subdivision (b) of this chapter; (3) has been accepted and approved as required by the provisions of subdivision (d) of this chapter; (4) all amounts to be paid by the taxing district for services or expenses incident to the readjustment have been fully disclosed and are reasonable; (5) the offer of the plan and its acceptance are in good faith; and (6) the taxing district is author-

ized by law, upon confirmation of the plan, to take all action necessary to carry out the plan. Before a plan is confirmed, changes and modifications may be made therein, with the approval of the judge after hearing upon notice to creditors, subject to the right of any creditor who shall previously have accepted the plan to withdraw his acceptance, within a period to be fixed by the judge and after such notice as the judge may direct, if, in the opinion of the judge, the change or modification will be materially adverse to the interest of such creditor, and if any creditor having such right of withdrawal shall not withdraw within such period, he shall be deemed to have accepted the plan as changed or modified: *Provided, however*, That the plan as changed or modified shall comply with all the provisions of this subdivision.

(f) Upon such confirmation the provisions of the plan and of the order of confirmation shall be binding upon (1) the taxing district, and (2) all creditors, secured or unsecured, whether or not affected by the plan, and whether or not their claims shall have heen filed or evidenced, and if filed or evidenced, whether or not allowed, including creditors who have not, as well as those who have, accepted it.

(g) In the event the judge shall disapprove the plan he shall file an opinion stating his reasons for such disapproval. If he approve the plan, the final decree shall discharge the taxing district from those debts and liabilities dealt with in the plan except as provided in the plan; and upon the entry of such decree the jurisdiction of the court in such proceeding shall cease.

(h) A certified copy of the final decree or of an order confirming a plan of readjustment, or of any other decree or order entered in a proceeding under this chapter, shall be evidence of the jurisdiction of the court, the regularity of the proceedings, and the fact that the decree or order was made. A certified copy of an order directing the transfer of any property dealt with by the plan shall be evidence of the transfer of title accordingly, and if recorded as conveyances are recorded shall impart the same notice that a deed, if recorded, would impart.

(i) In proceedings under this chapter and consistent with the provisions thereof, the jurisdiction and powers of the court, the duties of the taxing district and the rights and liabilities of creditors, and of all persons with respect to the taxing district and its property, shall be the same as if a voluntary petition for adjudication had been filed and a decree of adjudication had been entered on the day when the petition of the taxing district was approved.

(j) This chapter shall take effect and be in force from and after May 24, 1934, and shall apply as fully to taxing districts and their creditors, whose interests or debts have been acquired or incurred prior to such date, as to taxing districts and their creditors, whose interests or debts are acquired or incurred after such date.

(k) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to limit or impair the power of any State to control, by legislation or otherwise, any political subdivision thereof in the exercise of its political or governmental powers, including expenditures therefor, and including the power to require the approval by any governmental agency of the State of the filing of any petition hereunder and of any plan of readjustment, and whenever there shall exist or shall hereafter be created under the law of any State any agency of such State authorized to exercise supervision or control over the fiscal affairs of all or any political subdivisions thereof, and whenever such agency has assumed such supervision or control over any political subdivision, then no petition of such political subdivision may be received hereunder unless accompanied by the written approval of such agency, and no plan of readjustment shall be put into temporary effect or finally confirmed without the written approval of such agency of such plans.

(l) If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby. (July 1, 1898, c. 541, § 80; May 24, 1934, c. 345, 48 Stat. 798.)