

by such Clerk of the Peace, as above directed, under oath as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the Master of the Rolls to make an order that unless good cause be shewn to him to the contrary on or before a certain day, (not less than twenty days,) to be in such order named, he, the said Master of the Rolls, will make an order releasing and discharging the said debtor or debtors from all his or their existing debts and other liabilities, upon and agreeably to the terms and conditions that shall have been so agreed upon at such meeting as aforesaid, save and except the composition or other terms and agreement forming the basis of such discharge, and agreed to at such meeting in manner aforesaid; which order the said petitioning debtor or debtors shall cause to be published and continued in the Royal Gazette of the Province for two successive weeks previous to the day appointed in such order for shewing cause.

III. And be it enacted, That at the expiration of the said twenty days or other period fixed by the Master of the Rolls, at which cause is to be shewn against such order, it shall and may be lawful for the said Master of the Rolls, and he is hereby required, unless good and sufficient cause shall be shewn to the contrary at the time limited for that purpose, by any of the creditors of such debtor or debtors, such as fraud, undue preference by secret compromise or otherwise, or want of due publication of the notice of the meeting of the creditors before such Clerk of the Peace, or other substantial irregularity, contrary to the provisions of this Act, to make an order for the discharge of such debtor or joint debtors from all debts and liability to his or their creditors as aforesaid, agreeably to and upon the terms and conditions that shall have been so agreed to by at least such three fourths as aforesaid of his or their creditors, in number and amount, at such meeting; provided always, that such order shall be made upon the said debtor or debtors paying all the expenses of the meeting, and all other fees and expenses connected with and incurred in the necessary proceedings to procure his or their discharge under this Act, agreeably to a scale to be fixed upon under this Act, after deducting the deposit of five pounds required by the second section of this Act.

IV. And be it enacted, That when such order shall be so made by the Master of the Rolls, it shall operate as an effectual bar to all proceedings against such debtor or joint debtors, his or their persons and property, for the recovery of any thing beyond the amount agreed upon by not less than such three fourths as aforesaid of the creditors present at such meeting, in person or by attorney, in number and amount, and which order shall and may be pleaded in bar in any Court of Law or Equity in this Province, to any action or suit that shall be brought for the recovery of any thing beyond what shall at such meeting have been agreed upon in manner aforesaid, or for the enforcing of any matter or thing contrary to the true intent and meaning of the terms, provisions and conditions of what shall have been agreed upon at such meeting as aforesaid, and so transmitted by the Clerk of the Peace presiding at such meeting to the Master of the Rolls as aforesaid.

V. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said petitioning debtor or joint debtors, after any agreement by way of compromise, or other arrangement that shall or may have been made or entered into at any public meeting of the creditors to be called under the provisions of this Act, to receive any debt or debts, or to make any settlement, or to give any release or discharge of his or their debt or debts, or in any way to interfere with his or their real or personal property or assets, directly or indirectly, or to make any secret or other compromise with any of his or their debtor or debtors, creditor or creditors, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the terms and conditions of any arrangement, agreement or compromise which shall or may have been agreed upon by and between such debtor or

debtors and his or their creditors at such meeting in manner aforesaid.

VI. And be it enacted, That if any such petitioning debtor or debtors do or shall receive any debt or debts, or give any release or other discharge to any of his or their debtors, or enter into arrangement, agreement or compromise with his or their debtor or debtors, creditor or creditors, at or after any such public meeting of the creditors of such petitioning debtor or joint debtors, called under the provisions of this Act, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the agreement, compromise or arrangement that shall or may have been so agreed upon between such debtor or debtors and his or their creditors at such public meeting, the same, that is, all such receipts of debts, releases, discharges, arrangements, agreements, and compromises, shall be utterly void and of none effect.

VII. And be it enacted, That all sales and conveyances of his estate, lands, goods and chattels to him belonging, made by any such debtor or debtors after the making of such first order by the Master of the Rolls for calling a public meeting of the creditors of such debtor or debtors under the provisions of this Act, and all powers of attorney by him given for selling any estate or effects, or collecting any debts or demands, whether such power of attorney be made after or before such public notice as aforesaid given, shall be null and void.

VIII. And be it enacted, That all levies and seizures made by any Sheriff or other officer, under any execution or other legal process, after publication of the first order made for the calling of a public meeting mentioned in the first section of this Act, and all sales by virtue of such levies and seizures upon any estates, lands, goods and chattels of any such debtor or debtors, and also all arrests of the person or persons of any such debtor or debtors upon mesne process or execution for any debt or debts, after the publication of such first order as aforesaid, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever, any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; provided nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to any debt due to Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors, or to restrain any landlord, or other person or persons, from his or their legal right of distress or lien for any rent actually due; and provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to restrain any creditor or creditors of any such debtor or debtors from any proceedings to recover or secure any debt or debts due to him, her or them, from such debtor or debtors, or to restrain the legal right of such debtor or debtors to the possession, sale, or other disposition of any estate, lands, goods and chattels to him belonging, after the final close and dissolution of any such public meeting of his creditors, in case no arrangement or agreement shall be come to and made between him and his creditors at such public meeting, for the liquidation of his debts, signed by such three fourths of his creditors as aforesaid, under the provisions of this Act; but in every such case the legal rights of such debtor or debtors over his estates, lands, goods and chattels, and all the legal right of his creditors against him shall immediately revive, the same as if no such proceedings had been taken; and provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to make void the arrest of any person or persons in any civil action before the publication of the notice for calling such public meeting hereinbefore mentioned.

IX. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the creditors, or any of them, of such petitioning debtor or debtors, at any public meeting called under the provisions of this Act, at which such debtor or debtors is and are hereby required to attend and be present, to examine such petitioning debtor or debtors upon oath, which oath the officer presiding at such meeting is hereby authorized to administer, as to all matters touching his or their affairs, the honesty and correctness of his or