

creditor, or of two or more persons, being partners, petitioning for the same, shall amount to fifty pounds or upwards; and the debts of two creditors, so petitioning, shall amount to seventy pounds or upwards; and the debts of three or more creditors, so petitioning, shall amount to one hundred pounds or upwards; and that every person who has given credit to any trader, upon valuable consideration, for any sum payable at a certain time, which time shall not have arrived when such trader committed an act of bankruptcy, may so petition, or join in petitioning as aforesaid, whether he shall have had any security in writing for such sum or not.

XXII. And be it enacted, that after any act of bankruptcy as aforesaid committed, such creditor may make application, upon affidavit, to the Judge or Commissioner for the District within which such trader resides, or has his usual place of business, setting forth the nature and amount of the debt due to him by such trader, and the act of bankruptcy by him committed; which act of bankruptcy shall also be proved on the oath of at least one credible witness, not being a creditor of the trader; and thereupon it shall and may be lawful for such Judge or Commissioner, by commission under his hand and seal, to appoint and authorize the Sheriff of the District aforesaid, to take and receive possession of all the estate, real and personal, of such trader, excepting such as may be by law exempted from attachment, and of all the deeds, books of account and papers, of such trader, and to keep the same safely until the appointment of assignees.

Issuing of the Commission, and proceedings thereon.

XXIII. And be it enacted, that the Judge or Commissioner shall, in the commission, fix the day and place for the first meeting of the creditors of such bankrupt, which shall be at some convenient place within the District wherein such commission is issued; and

First meeting of creditors appointed.