

No. 12, S.]

[Published February 24, 1933.]

CHAPTER 14.

AN ACT to amend subsection (17) of section 352.03 of the statutes, relating to definition of maple syrup.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Subsection (17) of section 352.03 of the statutes is amended to read: (352.03) (17) Syrup is the sound product made by purifying and evaporating the juice of a sugar-producing plant without removing any of the sugar.

Sugar-cane syrup is syrup made by the evaporation of the juice of the sugar cane or by the solution of sugar-cane concrete, and contains not more than thirty per cent of water and not more than two and five tenths (2.5) per cent of ash.

Sorghum syrup is syrup made by the evaporation of sorghum juice or by the solution of sorghum concrete, and contains not more than thirty per cent of water and not more than two and five tenths (2.5) per cent of ash.

Maple syrup is syrup made by the evaporation of maple sap or by the solution of maple concrete (*maple sugar*), and contains not more than thirty- * * * *five* per cent of water and not less than forty-five hundredths (0.45) of *one* per cent of maple * * * ash and weighs not less than eleven pounds (231 cubic inches) to the gallon.

Sugar syrup is the product made by dissolving sugar to the consistence of a syrup, and contains not more than thirty-five per cent of water.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved February 21, 1933.

No. 24, S.]

[Published February 24, 1933.]

CHAPTER 15.

AN ACT to create sections 281.20 to 281.23 of the statutes, providing machinery for the adjustment, extension and compromise of encumbrances on homes.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Four new sections are added to the statutes to read: 281.20 AN EMERGENCY EXISTS. The provisions of sections 281.20 to 281.23 are made necessary by the existence of an economic emergency, so great that it constitutes a serious menace to the health, morality, comfort, prosperity and peace of the people of this state. This emergency results, in a large measure, from the depressed condition of agriculture, from which the largest part of the wealth produced in this state is derived, and upon the prosperity and welfare of which, and the continuance of which, the people of this state, and other businesses and pursuits carried on in this state, are largely dependent, and also from the fact that there are at present no means by which existing indebtedness can be refinanced, so that the agricultural debtor and unemployed home owner are at the mercy of their creditors. This economic crisis has deprived thousands of people in this state of employment, and has thrown the burden of their support, and of the support of their families, upon local communities and the state. It is resulting in greatly increased pauperization, and is causing many of the people of this state to lose their homes, contrary to the public welfare, which is promoted by insuring to persons the retention of their homes. In view of the prevailing public emergency, it is deemed expedient to provide for a temporary curtailment of remedies for enforcing payment of certain debts, and to provide means of encouraging and facilitating between such debtors and creditors, the adjustment, extension, and compromise thereof.

281.21 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY LEGISLATION. Sections 281.20 to 281.23 are enacted as temporary emergency legislation, the provisions of which shall apply only to obligations secured by mortgage, land contract, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage upon real estate which constitutes a home. Their provisions shall not be in effect longer than March 1, 1935, and may be sooner terminated by the legislature.

281.22 DEFINITIONS. As used in sections 281.20 to 281.23, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- (1) "Local board" means local mediation board.
- (2) "Home" means a farm occupied by the owner, or any parcel of land other than a farm, where at least a one-tenth portion of the building or buildings thereon, used or useful for residence purposes, is actually used for such purpose by the owner.
- (3) "Owner" includes a purchaser under a land contract.

281.23 LOCAL MEDIATION BOARD. (1) There is created in each county a local mediation board. In all counties except counties having a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the local mediation board shall consist of two members of the county board, to be selected by a majority vote of such board. In counties in which the county board will not be in session within thirty days after the taking effect of this section, such appointments shall be made by the chairman of the county board and such appointees shall hold office until the next meeting of the county board. One of said two members shall be a farmer, if there is a farmer on the board. The third member shall be selected by such two members selected by the county board, and he may or may not be a member of such county board. The county board shall determine what compensation, if any, the members of said board shall receive for their services upon such board, such compensation, if any, to be paid by the county in the same manner that other employes of the county are paid. The county board shall also determine what legal, clerical and other assistants, if any, the local board shall employ, and shall fix the compensation of such assistants, which shall be paid in the same manner that other employes of the county are paid.

(2) In counties having a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county board shall appoint the members of the local board, and shall determine whether more than one such board shall be established.

(3) The local mediation boards shall bring about, between debtors and creditors, adjustments of, and mutually acceptable agreements for, the payment of obligations covered by this section. It shall inquire into the obligations of the debtor, his ability to pay, either presently or in the future, and shall make just and reasonable recommendations to the parties for the meeting, adjustment, or compromise of such obligations, for the purpose of enabling the debtor to retain possession of his home and his interest therein. The local boards may make the following recommendations:

(a) Extension of the time within which any obligation, or part thereof, shall be paid;

(b) Reduction of the contract rate of interest provided for in the evidence of indebtedness to a just and reasonable rate, in view of the circumstances, for a period of not longer than three years,

with provision for payment of the balance of the contract rate thereafter ;

(c) Reduction of the contract rate of interest provided for in the evidence of indebtedness to a just and reasonable rate, in view of the circumstances, for a period of not longer than three years, without provision for the payment of the balance of the contract rate thereafter ;

(d) A division of the annual income from the mortgaged premises into three parts, to wit : First, a sum necessary to the debtor reasonably to maintain his family and the mortgaged premises, which shall be kept by the debtor ; Second, a sum necessary for the payment of current taxes and insurance upon the mortgaged premises ; and Third, a sum, representing the balance, to be paid to the creditor and to be applied upon interest and principal ;

(e) A conveyance of the real estate involved to the creditor in complete satisfaction of the debt ;

(f) And such other recommendations as the board may deem just and reasonable.

(4) Applications may be made to the local boards by either debtors or creditors, and the board representing the county where the debtor resides shall have jurisdiction.

(5) In the administration of its duties, the local boards, or any member thereof, may issue subpoenas, administer oaths to witnesses, and take testimony. The witnesses and every person who subpoenas them shall be entitled to the same fees as are allowed in courts of record. Such fees shall be paid by the party at whose request the witnesses were subpoenaed.

(6) All agreements reached between parties at the instance of the mediation board shall be reduced to writing, signed by the parties, and approved in writing by the board. Such agreements when so subscribed and approved shall be binding in all respects upon the parties, to the same extent, and with like effect, as if incorporated in and made a part of the original contract.

(7) The court, in exercising the discretion conferred upon it in chapter 278 of the statutes, shall take into consideration the refusal of either party to submit to mediation or his failure to accept the recommendations of the local mediation board for the voluntary adjustment of the obligation.

(8) The provisions of sections 281.20 to 281.23 shall apply only to obligations secured by mortgage, land contract, trust deed,

or other security in the nature of a mortgage upon real estate which constitutes a home.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved February 23, 1933.

No. 43, S.]

[Published February 24, 1933.

CHAPTER 16.

AN ACT to authorize cities, villages and towns to extend the time on the payment of taxes on real estate assessed in the year 1932 to persons who are unable to pay such taxes.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The governing body of any city, village or town may by a two-thirds vote of the members-elect authorize the treasurer to extend the time for the payment of the taxes on real estate for the year 1932 up to and including June 1, 1933, of such classes of taxpayers and upon such conditions as it shall determine. Taxpayers desiring to take advantage of any such extension shall file an affidavit with the treasurer to establish their right to such extension and the treasurer shall, by entering in red ink on the tax roll opposite the name of such party, extend the time for the payment of such taxes without penalty up to and including the first day of June, 1933. All such taxes which shall not have been paid prior to March 22, 1933, when local treasurers are required to settle with the county treasurer, shall be returned delinquent, and, unless paid before the fourth Monday of April thereafter, the lands covered thereby shall be advertised for sale and sold at the same time and in the same manner and treated in all respects as other delinquent taxes, except that the owners of such lands shall be entitled to pay such taxes at the amount extended upon the local tax roll without penalty, interest or other charges except the fee for advertising the same at tax sale, at any time before the first day of June, 1933. If the owner shall pay such taxes as herein provided to the local treasurer before delinquent return, or to the county treasurer after that date and before the first of June following, the treasurer to whom such payment is made in each case shall issue a tax receipt in full for the payment thereof, which shall have the same force and effect as if such payment had been