

suffering as well as myself. There are 43 Sheriffs in Ontario. 5 of them are in Muskoka, Parrey Sound, Algoma, Thunder Bay District and Rainey River; these being new districts, the Sheriffs are partly paid by the Government. The remaining 38 in old Ontario should be self-sustaining but they are not: 19, being one-half, have incomes ranging from \$1,955.10 down to \$583.09. Their incomes aggregate \$28,261.68, which gives the 19 Sheriffs an average yearly income of \$1,482.19, of the other 19 Sheriffs—Sheriff Mowat receives \$8,840.46, Sheriff Widdifield receives \$5,436.16, and the other 17 Sheriffs have incomes ranging from \$3,500 down to \$2,000. Shortly after the Sheriffs were handed over to the Judges, they held a meeting in Toronto and appointed Sheriff Davis Secretary-Treasurer; they contributed \$200 to retain a Solicitor to appear before the Judges in their behalf. A Solicitor was retained but he never did anything. Was it reasonable to expect that the Solicitor would work to deprive himself and other solicitors of the fees Mr. Mowat had placed within reach. Mr. Mowat appointed me, and if he is unwilling or unable to protect me, then I shall appeal to the electors of Ontario who have removed many an abuse in the last fifty years, and they will remove the wrongs to which Sheriffs and litigants are now subjected to also. That the public may fully understand why the Government dealt so unjustly to myself and other Sheriffs, I submit the following facts: On entering on the duties of my office in 1875, I noticed it was almost the invariable practice of solicitors to endorse upon Writs of Execution, as their fee for such Writs, the sums of \$8, \$10 and \$12 in the High Court of Justice, and \$6, \$8 and \$10 in the County Court. I soon discovered these charges were too high. I obtained returns from the Sheriffs, and found that \$59,108.48 of illegal fees were collected annually by the Sheriffs for the Solicitors. I determined not to be used for such evil and illegal practices. I obtained a copy of the legal tariff of fees for issuing Writs of Execution in the Superior and County Courts, and collected the fees under that tariff and no more. I never robbed for myself, and I failed to see why I should rob to enrich others. I told the Government of this evil practice, and suggested the appointment of an Inspector as the best means of ending the wrong-doing. An Inspector was appointed, and found that what I had stated was true. Here is what he says:—