

way to bring the grievances of which the Sheriffs complained under the notice of the Government would be through an independent officer who would visit our offices, see how they were managed, give us advice and instruction, and hear our complaints. I suggested the appointment of an Inspector of Sheriffs' offices to the Attorney-General several times. I did not fully enter into the various reasons I had for the recommendation, but thought that a Sheriff who managed and worked his office honestly and properly would be pleased and encouraged to have the approval and testimony of an able, honest and efficient officer, such as I was confident the Attorney-General and his colleagues would appoint, while on the other hand if the Sheriff were inefficient, careless or dishonest, the public interests would be protected by the inspection and immediate report of such an officer to the Government. Immediately after making the suggestion I set to work with a view of ascertaining the amount that was wrongfully taken from litigants on over-charges on Writs of Execution; I received Returns from 18 Counties, showing that on 1,219 Writs of Execution in the Superior Court in the hands of the 18 Sheriffs on the day on which they made the Return there was an over-charge of \$8,778.72, being an average over-charge of \$7.20 on each one of the 1,219 Writs. In the County Court there were 3,692 Writs of Execution in the hands of the 18 Sheriffs at the same date on which the Superior Court Writs were returned, and on these there was an over-charge of \$20,766.02, being an over-charge of \$5.62 on each of the 3,692 Writs as seen below. Some time after the Returns which I herewith publish, carefully prepared copies were prepared, which I publish herewith. If Returns had been received from the 21 Sheriffs not heard from, I have no doubt the over-charge for the whole Province would be double the amount returned to me; say over-charge in Superior Court \$8,778.72, over-charge in County Court \$20,766.02, say double for Province \$59,088.48.