

On a preceding page I showed how the lawyers utilized the Sheriffs to collect for them thousands of dollars of illegal fees on Writs of Execution.

I shall now show how the same lawyers practiced on the Sheriffs, taking nearly half their fees for serving of Process, and at the same time collected much more from the persons served than they took from the Sheriff. Now for the proof. I entered on the duties of my office 1st August, 1875. The net receipts of the office for the whole year was \$3,692.11. Of this amount, the receipts for serving Writs, &c., was \$2118.91. In 1876, the first whole year I was in office, the net receipts were \$3618.19; of this sum \$1682.88 was for serving Writs, &c. The receipts for serving Process in 1876 was \$436.03 less than in 1875. In 1876 I noticed that a number of cases belonging to the County were tried in my Courts, in which neither defendants nor witnesses were served through my office. As the Ontario Legislature met early in January, 1877, I thought the speediest and best way to ascertain the extent to which the serving of Writs and other papers was carried by process-serving Attorneys would be through a return asked for by the Legislature. With this end in view, I gave my friend, Mr. Sinclair, M. P. P. for North Bruce, a motion asking for a return of the number of Bills in Chancery and Writs of Summons that were issued out of the Superior and County Courts during the year 1876, and also a return of the number of such papers as were served by the Sheriffs. I did not apprehend any opposition to the motion, for the cost of obtaining the information I asked for would be trifling. On the evening of the 10th January, '77, Mr. Sinclair brought up his motion, and contrary to my expectation it was met in the most hostile spirit by a number of the members of the Legal Profession, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Lauder, M. P. P. for East Grey, said: "I object to compelling persons making services through the Sheriff when the Attorney would make the service for nothing."

Mr. Deacon, M. P. P., said: "If services were made by the Profession it was at the expense of the Profession itself."

Hon. Mr. Hardy, Prov. Sec., said: "That in Brantford it was an exceptional case that a Writ was served by another than the Sheriff; the law was plain that no gentleman could make a charge for the service of Process."

Mr. Meredith moved: "That the motion be amended by adding the following words, viz., 'and also the cases, if

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