

The same 18 Sheriffs held 1,219 Superior Court Writs, the overcharge on which for Writs and Renewals was \$8,778.72, being an average overcharge of \$7.20 on each Writ. The illegal charges on Superior and County Court Writs in the 18 Counties was \$29,554.74, and as there are 18 more Counties including Toronto, we may safely double the above sum, making \$59,109.48, being the amount of illegal fees collected annually through the Sheriffs.

Having ascertained the extent of the wrongs to which litigants were subjected, I suggested to the Government the appointment of an Inspector of Sheriffs' offices as the best means of ending the wrong-doing. An Inspector was not appointed till 1884, and then he found matters as bad as I had represented them, as shown by the following instructions to Sheriffs :

INSTRUCTIONS TO SHERIFFS.

From John Winchester, Esq., Inspector of Offices, Toronto.

OSGOODE HALL, Toronto, Oct 8th, 1884.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that whilst inspecting Sheriffs' Offices lately, I have found that it has been almost the invariable practice with some Sheriffs to endorse upon Writs of Execution against Goods and Lands, as fees for such Writs, the sums of \$10, \$12, (and in some cases even more) in the High Courts of Justice, and \$6, \$8 and \$10 in the County Court, and similar sums for renewals; and that the Sheriffs have been in the habit of collecting such sums, believing it to be their duty to obey the instructions thus given. Sheriffs in so acting, render themselves liable to be proceeded against, and in the future must refuse to levy for more than the legal charges, which are as follows :—

In High Courts of Justice, Goods or Lands Writs (original or alias) each.....	\$5 00
Goods or Lands Writs, Renewals each.....	3.75
In County Court, Goods or Lands Writs (original or alias) each.....	3.00
Goods or Lands Writs, Renewals.....	2.25

Where money is made under Goods Writs no fees whatever for Lands Writs are to be collected. See *Revised Statutes of Ontario, Cap. 66, Sec. 17, page 803.*

Endorsements on Writs must be made on face of Writ with fees for Writ added. If no costs mentioned in Writ, and debt or damages given, no costs other than fees for Writ are to be levied. If no debt, or damages, or costs mentioned in the Writ, then no costs or fees of any kind are to be levied.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN WINCHESTER,

Inspector of Offices.

To
MR. SHERIFF McKELLAR,

HAMILTON.

ARCH. McKELLAR,

Sheriff.

Hamilton, July 4th, 1889.