

appear to them to be reasonable, taking care to keep the public indemnified from all costs and charges.

15. If any sheriff shall fail to return an original writ within the time limited by rule of the court for that purpose, the court, on motion, shall amerce the sheriff to the amount of the debt or damages and costs due from the defendant, to be ascertained by the oath of the plaintiff, his agent, or attorney, and such other proof as the court may require, and shall enter judgment nisi the second day of the next term thereafter, for the amount of the amercement aforesaid, in the name of the plaintiff against such sheriff; which judgment shall have the same effect as if rendered upon verdict.

16. If any sheriff shall fail to make return of a writ of execution within the time limited by rule of court for that purpose, the court may cause judgment to be entered in the name of the plaintiff, against such sheriff, for the amount of the judgment recited in such execution, which judgment shall have the same effect as a judgment rendered on verdict.

17. The court, on motion, shall order a sheriff to make return of any original writ, or writ of execution, unless such sheriff shall satisfy the court by his oath or otherwise, that the said writ was not received by him, or to his knowledge by any of his deputies.

18. If a sheriff shall pay to the plaintiff any judgment rendered against him as aforesaid, he shall thereupon be entitled to the original cause of action, or the judgment, as fully as the plaintiff was; and may issue any execution in his own name, or in the name of the plaintiff, on such judgment for his own use, or prosecute such action to judgment and execution for his own use; and shall be entitled to every other benefit and advantage from such judgment or cause of action and suit thereon depending, that the original plaintiff might have had thereon.

19. The sheriff shall serve and return all writs and process which may be sent from another county or city and delivered to him, to the court to which the same is returnable, on or before the second day of the session of such court; and if he neglect or fail to do so, it shall be considered a contempt of the court, and such sheriff, for such contempt, shall forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.