- 3. Upon the filing of said petition, the Court, or any judge thereof, shall pass an order directing a summons to issue for the defendants, to be served in the same manner as summons in actions at law, and returned by some day to be named in said order, not less than ten days nor more than twenty days from the day of the filing of said petition. If any defendant be not summoned before the return day of the said summons, the summons may be renewed from time to time, as often as the Court, in its discretion, may think proper; or, if any defendant is nonresident or unknown or returned non est twice successively, the Court shall order the sheriff to set up a copy of the summons for such defendant upon the property and shall order a notice to be published once a week for four successive weeks, in a paper published in the county where such property is situated, and also in one daily newspaper published in the City of Baltimore, if the proceedings be in a county; and if the proceedings be in Baltimore City, in two daily newspapers published in said city; requiring such defendant to appear in the said court on or before a certain day to be named in the order, said day to be not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days from the date of the first publication of said order, and show cause why said property, or such defendants' interest therein, should not be condemned as prayed in the petition.
- 4. Every defendant summoned shall within fifteen days after the return day to which he is summoned, and every defendant appearing shall within fifteen days after such appearance file an answer showing cause, if any he has, why the property mentioned in the petition or said defendant's interest therein, should not be condemned as prayed. And every defendant against whom publication has been duly made, as hereinabove provided, shall file such an answer within the time limited in such order of publication.

The Court shall have power for good cause shown to extend the time for answering. In default of answer within the time hereinabove provided, or any extension thereof which may have been granted by the Court, the Court shall enter judgment that the said property, or the interest therein of the defendant or defendants so in default, be condemned.

The Court shall also render the same judgment upon the filing of an answer by any defendant or defendants, if such answer does not deny the right of the petitioner to have the property condemned. In the event of an answer being filed denying the right of the petitioner to have the property condemned, the Court shall hear the question thus raised as to the right of the petitioner to condemn the property at an early date,