

day to which the writ or process served on him is returnable, shall enter the appearance of any defendant so summoned and failing to appear, and the action shall proceed in the same manner as if the party had appeared in person.

**308.** When a declaration in any action shall be filed in court, and a copy thereof delivered to the defendant before the day of the return of the writ, and the defendant shall be summoned before the said day of the return of the writ, he shall plead before the next succeeding return day, or judgment by default for want of a plea shall be entered by the court or clerk thereof, upon motion in writing made by the plaintiff, or his attorney, then, or at any time thereafter, before the filing of a plea by the defendant, unless the court for good reason shall have granted said defendant further time to plead; and upon such entry of judgment, the plaintiff may forthwith sue out his writ of inquiry, or otherwise enter up final judgment according to the course of the court.

**309.** When any action shall be brought upon a titling and the defendant shall have been summoned, the plaintiff shall file his declaration within fifteen days after the return day to which said defendant had been summoned, or judgment of *non pros.* may be entered by the court or the clerk thereof against him for want of a declaration, upon motion in writing made by the defendant at any time thereafter, unless the court for good cause shown shall grant further time; but if the plaintiff shall have filed his declaration in any such action, at any time before the entry of a judgment of *non pros.* against him, the defendant shall be required to plead to such declaration within the time and upon the terms prescribed by the rules of the court, or judgment by default may be entered against him as provided by said rules.

**310.** Every suit in which any defendant shall be returned summoned, shall stand for trial or judgment (as against such defendant) at the return day next succeeding the day to which he has been summoned; *provided*, the declaration shall have been filed in court, and a copy thereof shall have been served on the defendant, or his attorney, at least fifteen days before