

represented." The three years limit was chosen because it seemed best for both good and bad members. If a man proved capable he would have ample time to distinguish himself, if he were not worthy of his position, he could be removed before he had time to injure the union.

"That after the first three years, when the proportion of money arising out of each colony to the general treasury can be known, the number of members to be chosen for each colony shall from time to time in all ensuing elections be regulated by that proportion, yet so as that the number to be chosen for any province be not more than seven nor less than two." This proportion might become known through the duties which the general council might levy as explained in a subsequent article. When the proportion was known then the numbers might vary as the quota of tax, with circumstances, and the harmony of the parts of the union be still preserved.

"That the Grand Council shall meet once in every year, and oftener if occasion requires, at such time and place as they shall adjourn to at the last preceding meeting, or as they shall be called to meet at, by the President General on any emergency: he having first obtained, in writing, the consent of seven of the members to such call, and sent due and timely notice to the whole." This clause covers all needs of meeting for, as Franklin stated, once a year under ordinary circumstances would be often enough whereas less than this would have been too little, on account of Indian affairs, treaties, etc. The place of meeting could not be a fixed one owing to the probability of occasions arising for extra meetings, near a seat of war, or when any difficulty arose requiring careful personal observation. This settling of difficulties was, as we have seen, the main idea in England when the proposition arose there. (16) The possibility of abuse of power by the President General was guarded against by the requirement of the signatures of seven members to endorse his summons.

"That the Grand Council have power to choose their speaker, and shall neither be dissolved, prorogued, nor continue sitting longer than six weeks at any one time without their own consent, or the special command of the Crown." At this point in the plan there is inserted a brief account of the member's fees, their size and relation to the opinions on such payment current at the time. The assent of

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(16) Note 5.