

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

"determine in all causes or matters of property not exceeding the sum of five pounds current money of Quebec ; and to any two justices of the peace, within their respective districts, to hear and finally determine in all causes or matters of property not exceeding the sum of ten pounds said currency ; which decisions being within, and not exceeding the aforesaid limitation, shall not be liable to an appeal ; and also full power is, by the authority aforesaid, given and granted to any three of said justices of the peace to be a *quorum*, with power of holding quarter sessions in their respective districts every three months, and also to hear and determine all causes and matters of property which shall be above the sum of ten pounds, and not exceeding thirty pounds current money of Quebec, with liberty of appeal to either party to the superior court, or court of King's Bench. And it is hereby ordered, that the aforesaid justices of the peace do issue their warrants directed to the captains and other officers of the militia in this province, to be by them executed, until the provost-marshal, legally authorized by his Majesty, shall arrive, and other inferior officers be appointed for that purpose ; all officers, civil and military, or other his Majesty's loving subjects, are hereby commanded and required to be aiding and assisting to the said justices and officers of militia in the due execution of their duty. And it is further ordered and directed, by the authority aforesaid, that two of the said justices of the peace do sit weekly in rotation, for the better regulation of the police and other matters and things in the towns of Quebec and Montreal, and that the names of the justices who are to sit in each week be posted up on the door of the Session-house by the clerk of the peace, two days before their respective days of sitting, that all persons may know to whom to apply for redress."

The ordinance of the 6th of November 1764.

Further, by another ordinance of your Majesty's governour and council, dated the 6th day of November 1764,¹ it is ordained, that until the 10th day of August next, that is, of August 1765, the tenures of lands, with respect to such grants as are prior to the cession of Canada to the Crown of Great Britain by the definitive treaty of peace of February 1763, and the rights of inheritance, as practised before that period, in such lands, shall remain to all intents and purposes the same, unless they shall be altered by some declared and positive law. The words of this ordinance relating to this subject are of the tenor following :

The words of this ordinance

"Whereas it appears right and necessary to quiet the minds of the people in regard to their possessions, and to remove every

¹ See p. 229.