

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

tants of Our said Colony, whom you shall esteem the best qualified for that Trust ; And you are also to transmit a duplicate of the said Account to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for their Information.

6. And if it shall at any time happen, that by the death or departure out of Our said Province, of any of Our said Councillors, there shall be a Vacancy in Our said Council, Our Will and Pleasure is ; that you signify the same to Us by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, by the first Opportunity, that we may by Warrant under Our Signet and Sign Manual, and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, constitute and appoint others in their stead.

7. You are forthwith to communicate such and so many of these Our Instructions to Our said Council, wherein their Advice and Consent are mentioned to be requisite, as likewise all such others from time to time, as you shall find convenient for Our Service to be imparted to them.

8. You are to permit the Members of Our said Council to have and Enjoy Freedom of Debate and vote in all Affairs of Public Concern, that may be debated in Council.

9. And Whereas by the aforesaid Act passed in the fourteenth year of Our Reign, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual Provision for the "Government of the Province of Quebec in North America," It is further enacted and Provided, that the Council for the Affairs of the said Province, to be constituted and appointed in Manner therein directed, or the Major Part thereof, shall have power and Authority to make Ordinances for the peace, Welfare, and good Government of the said Province with the Consent of Our Governor, or, in his absence, of the Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being ; provided, that no Ordinance shall be passed, unless upon some urgent Occasion at any Meeting of the Council, except between the first day of January and the first day of May. *(And Whereas the State and condition of Our said Province do require, that immediate provision should be made by Law for a Great Variety of Arrangements and Regulations essentially necessary to the Government thereof ; It is therefore Our Will and Pleasure, that you do within a convenient time issue Summons for the Assembling of our said Council in their Legislative Capacity either on the first day of April next, or as soon after as may be convenient, in Order to deliberate upon, and frame such Ordinances, as the Condition of Affairs within Our said Province shall require, and as shall, in your and their Judgement, be fit and necessary for the Welfare of Our said Province, and the Territories thereunto belonging.)¹

10. You are nevertheless to take especial Care,

That no Ordinance be passed at any Meeting of the Council, where less than a Majority of the Council is present, or at any time, except between the first day of January and the first day of May, as aforesaid, unless upon

* The latter part of this section (in bracket) omitted in the instruction to Haldimand.

¹ The first session of the Legislative Council was convened 17 August, 1775. Two other brief meetings were held Sept. 2nd and 5th but no legislative results were accomplished before Jan., 1777, when the Council resumed its sessions.