

between the price in money and the price in grain. For instance, a tub of lard was valued at 80*l.* if paid for in grain and 75*l.* if paid for in money. Further light is thrown upon this point by a complaint presented to the Council to the effect that, there having been an *arret* established that wheat should be taken at the rate of 100 *sols* (5*l.*) per *minot* in payment of old debts, as also to facilitate the carrying on of business in the country, this was found to be very prejudicial to business, inasmuch as the price of wheat was inconstant. After considering this complaint the Council ordained, May 29th, 1665, that for the future those who were obliged to receive payment in wheat should be required to accept it only at current prices. The *arret* here referred to was evidently an ordinance of the Intendant Talon, who wished to provide an opportunity for the settlers to make use of their surplus products for the purchase of supplies. The making of wheat a legal tender at current prices was obviously a very indefinite settlement of the difficulty and could hardly have worked smoothly. At any rate we find, on March 19th, 1669, an ordinance passed, requiring the merchants to take the wheat of their debtors in payment at the rate of 4*l.* per *minot*. Talon brought the matter up on the ground that some creditors were refusing to take wheat in payment of debts, or, if so, at a very low price. The ordinance, however, was to hold good for only three months from the date of its issue.

We have seen that Colbert believed that the commerce of the colonies could best be promoted by the establishment of trading companies. But instead of a number of small independent companies he proposed to establish two strong companies, one for the East and the other for the West Indies. The West India Company, which covered all the American colonies and part of Africa, was formally established on May 28th, 1664, and was even more favored by the government than Richelieu's company. Yet, notwithstanding all its extraordinary privileges and favors, it became bankrupt in eight years, and in 1674, the king resumed all the grants made to it. Though Canada was granted as a feudal possession to the company, yet the king continued to nominate the Governor and Intendant and otherwise direct the development of the colony.

The company being fully established, Colbert resumed