

1663.

to discharge, in council, the function of First President, giving, nevertheless, the first place to the Governor-General and the second to the bishop. The number of councillors was at the same time increased by two, and all the members of the council received commissions from the court.<sup>1</sup>

Present  
form of the  
Superior  
Council.

This investing of the Intendant with the functions of First President, gave great umbrage to the Governor-General. He remonstrated, but was not heard. It was, however, enacted by an edict of the Council of State, on the 29th of May, 1680, that in all the acts and minutes of the council, the Governor and Intendant should take no title but that of their office or rank.<sup>2</sup> In 1704 four new councillors were created, one ecclesiastical and three laymen: the number is accordingly twelve at present,<sup>3</sup> including the bishop. One, styled First Councillor, has a double salary. He is appointed by the court, but the grade is only an honorary one, without any special functions. He has eight hundred livres a year: five senior councillors have four hundred, the rest nothing, and there are no fees. The Procurator-General and Greffier-en-Chef also have salaries, but very moderate ones.<sup>4</sup>

Principles  
regulating  
its de-  
cisions.

The council meets regularly every Monday in the palace where the Intendant resides; and when an extraordinary meeting is necessary, the day and hour are fixed by the Intendant, who notifies the Governor-General by the first Huissier. Justice is administered according to the ordinances of the kingdom and the custom of Paris. In the month of June, 1679, the king, by edict, authorized some regulations of this council, and this is called, in Canada, "*La Reduction du Code.*"<sup>5</sup> Difficulties then arose as to the hearing of appeals, and these were explained by another edict in March, 1685, which further declared that actions, in which members of the council were interested,

<sup>1</sup> Edits et Ordonnances, iii., p. 81.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, i., p. 238.

<sup>3</sup> 1743.

<sup>4</sup> Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 299.

<sup>5</sup> The ordinance of 1667, as modified, is given in the Edits et Ordonnances, iii., pp. 106-230; the king's edict, *Ib.*, p. 236.