

should be spent or invested, and dealt with many other financial matters. It conducted the foreign affairs of the Republic, and nominated ambassadors and consuls. It was the Supreme Court of Appeal for criminal cases, and after 1440 for civil cases as well. It appointed a number of State officials, such as the *Provveditori* of the Arsenal, the financial secretaries, and the functionaries who attended to the supply of provisions. The number of Senators varied considerably. At the date of the Statute Book they were thirty-five;<sup>1</sup> later they rose to sixty-one. The body included the Count or Rector, the eleven Minor Councillors, various high functionaries, and a number of unofficial members. They met four times a week, and remained in office for a year, but might be re-elected, "for the Republic desires that her sons should exercise themselves in this kind of council, so that they may become Senators of judgment, and learn by long and continual experience the method and practice of governing excellently."<sup>2</sup> By a decree of 1331<sup>3</sup> it was decided that thirty Senators made a quorum.

The Grand Council was the ultimate basis of the State, and was composed of all nobles above twenty years of age,<sup>4</sup> including the Minor Councillors, the Senators, and all the officials. Its numbers usually ranged from 200 to 300. It met in September, and the list of vacant offices were read out by the Count. The Secretary called up the Councillors one by one, drawing the numbers of all the seats from a bag. Each Councillor then drew a ball from an urn, which con-

<sup>1</sup> Gelcich, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Luccari.

<sup>3</sup> *Lib. Ref.*, v. p. 307.

<sup>4</sup> The age was afterwards lowered to eighteen years.