

to move its adoption. For as the opinions of a deliberative body can be expressed only in the form of resolutions, the adoption of a mere opinion can have no binding effect. It is best, therefore, to let such a report pass without any motion whatever, and then it would go on the records simply as the opinion of the members of the Committee. If this opinion is to become operative as a rule of action, that can be effected only by some resolution based upon its recommendations, which resolution may be made by any member of the Lodge or assembly. This is the parliamentary method of proceeding, but it is not always observed in Lodges, where the motion to adopt a mere declaratory report is often made. But if the motion is carried, its effect is precisely that above stated. Such a motion has no more legislative value than the piece of paper on which it is written.

But the report may be submitted in its second or third form, that is to say, the expression of opinion may be accompanied with resolutions, or the report may consist simply of a resolution, or series of resolutions, not preceded by any preliminary expression of opinion.

Here the motion for adoption would be strictly regular, and its effect would be tangible. If the motion to adopt a report having resolutions annexed, or consisting only of resolutions, be carried, then the adoption of the report is also the adoption of the resolutions, which thus become the expression of the will of the assembly, and have the same legal effect as they would have if they were resolutions which had been independently proposed by some member irrespective of the Committee.

But, if the motion to adopt is lost, then the matter is defunct. The effect of a refusal to adopt a report is the same as a negative vote on a motion. By the refusal it ceases to be before the body, and goes into parliamentary death.

But on the reception of a report there is another method, besides adoption or non-adoption, by which it may be disposed of. Instead of moving that it be adopted, a motion may be made that it be recommitted. If this motion be carried, the Committee which had become *functus officio* by the reception of its report, is instantly revived. The report is handed to the chairman, and the Committee in due time makes another report, which passes through the same stages, and is governed by the same rules as in the case of the first report.

This recommitment may be accompanied with instructions, but these instructions can refer only to some legislative act, such as the preparation of a resolution for future action. In parliamentary bodies reports are often recommitted, with instructions to a Committee to prepare a bill. Analogous to this would be the instructions of a popular assembly to its Committee to prepare a resolution. But, in the case of the parliamentary body, the preparation of the bill by the Committee is intended to expedite the forms of legislation. Nothing of this kind could be accomplished by causing a Committee to prepare a resolution, since the resolution could be more readily offered by a member, and acted on at once by the assembly. It is not, therefore, usual to recommit reports with such instructions, although such a course would be perfectly regular and parliamentary. Sometimes, however, reports have been recommitted, with instructions to change the opinions therein expressed. This is altogether incorrect and unparliamentary. The members of no Committee can be required to change their views on any particular subject, merely to gratify a majority who held different