

directed a ballot for Secretary, which resulted in the election of Bro. B., who was previously elected Chaplain. In your opinion, is this legal? Can Bro. B. under the constitution be elected to two offices? Was not his election confirmed when the minutes were confirmed? If Bro. B. was not legally elected to the office of Secretary, should the next highest candidate be declared elected?

A.—The proper course to be pursued in cases where a brother, having been elected to office, refuses to serve, or declines to be installed, is to order a new election. The W. M. should state the fact, and should order a new election for the vacant office, to be held at the next regular meeting, or at an emergency meeting to be called for that special purpose. He should also direct the Secretary to issue summonses to all the members of the Lodge; and to state in the summonses, that at that meeting (whether regular or emergent) an election would be held to fill the vacancy.

The election of Bro. B. as Secretary, was not legal; not because he had previously been elected Chaplain, but because the new election should not have been held without previous notice to all the members.

No brother can fill two elective offices in the same Lodge at the same time, nor can an officer of a Lodge resign his office. But he does not become an officer until he is installed, as the installation is a necessary part to complete the election. At any time before the installation, Bro. C. could decline to serve as Secretary, and Bro. B. could equally decline to serve as Chaplain. Then, at the new election, held after proper notice to all the members, Bro. B. could be elected Secretary, and Bro. C., or some other brother, could be elected Chaplain, and be installed at the same meeting.

When the minutes were confirmed, the election of officers were confirmed, so far as the Lodge was concerned; that is, that it had been determined by the Lodge that a majority had decided that such candidates should fill certain offices. But that confirma-

tion did not, and could not, bind those elected to serve in those particular offices. No brother can be forced to accept an office against his wish; and any brother, before he is installed, may decline to serve, and may refuse to be installed, and then a new election must be held.

As to the next highest candidate being declared elected, there is no such law known in Masonry. The only course to be pursued is to hold a new election, as stated above.

Q.—At the R. C. for the election of officers, a brother is elected who declines to serve, and at the meeting on 27th Dec., the W. M. announces this fact, and orders the ballot to be passed for the election of another brother to the office of Secretary, no notice to that effect being given in the summons. Was the election in this case legal?

No. When a brother who is elected to office declines to serve a new election can only be held after proper notice to all the members. In case the W. M. becomes aware of the brother's refusal, before the time for issuing the summonses for the installation meeting, he could order the new election to be held at that meeting, by directing the Secretary to give notice to that effect in the summonses. But it would not be proper to hold such election, without such previous notice to all the members.

OUR AGENTS.—The following brethren are agents for the "CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN and Masonic Record." Orders entrusted to them will receive prompt attention:—

R. W. Bro. J. H. BELL,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

V. W. Bro. JAS. MILLER,
Victoria, British Columbia.

Bro. B. BAKER, (P. O. Box 260.)
251 St. James St., Montreal, Q.

Bro. A. W. SHARP,
St. John, N. B.

R. E. Comp. DAVID McLELLAN,
Hamilton.

Bro. H. J. MABIN,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

R. E. Comp. PETER BEGG,
General Agent.