

say, for the whole day, and not for any particular hour of it—then it would be in order to call it up at any time during the session of Wednesday.

When a special order has been taken up, it may be proceeded with to the exclusion of all other business until it is concluded. If not finished at the time of calling off, which in another society would be the adjournment, it is to be resumed the next day as unfinished business, having, however, the preference over all other business, unless a motion be made to postpone or to discharge it.

It is not uncommon for several orders to be made for the same day, in which case the one first made takes precedence of the others; and if the whole day is consumed by it, then the other orders lose their specialty, for they cannot be considered special orders for the ensuing day.

In Congress it is usual to frame the resolution making a special order so that the proposition is made “the special order for the — day of —, and from day to day, until the same is disposed of.” A resolution so framed would carry over a special order from one day, when it had been omitted, to the succeeding day. This is not the form generally adopted in the business of Grand Lodges, but I see no reason why it should not be; and if a motion in that form be made and adopted, the effect of it in a Grand Lodge would be the same as in Congress, where, although the first day may be consumed in the consideration of a special order previously made, the second one does not lose its specialty, but on the succeeding day comes up and takes precedence of all other business.

These are all the rules of parliamentary law in reference to special orders which appear to be applicable to the government of Masonic bodies.

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## CHAPTER XXIX.

### OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

That there may be no confusion or unnecessary delay in the transaction of business, that everything may be considered at the proper time, and that due precedence may be given to the most important matters, or to those which claim precedence from some special reason, it is necessary in all deliberative assemblies that there should be some well-understood arrangement, either by regulation or by custom, for the government of the order and sequence in which the various propositions that are likely to be brought before the meeting, shall be considered.

A settled order of business, says Jefferson, is necessary for the government of the presiding officer, and to restrain individual members from calling up favorite measures or matters under their special patronage out of their just turn, and it is also useful for directing the discretion of the members when they are moved to take up a particular matter to the prejudice of others having priority of right to their attention in the general order of business.

Hence, an arrangement of business under proper heads and by a predetermined rule will be convenient to the Master of a Lodge, because he is thus enabled to carry on the business of the Lodge without unnecessary delay and embarrassment, and will be necessary for the