

to appoint all Committees, unless otherwise specially ordered by the House, in which case they are to be appointed by ballot. But the latter mode is now never resorted to, and the present practice is for the House to direct the Speaker to appoint all Committees, Standing and Select.

By the universal usage of Masonry, the appointment of all Select Committees, that is to say, all Committees created by special resolution, is, unless otherwise specially provided for, vested in the presiding officer; therefore, when a motion is adopted which creates a Committee, and charges it with the consideration of a particular subject, it is not necessary, as it is in other deliberative bodies, for the Master or presiding officer to inquire "how shall the Committee be appointed?" Unless the resolution creating the Committee provides at the same time for the election of its members by the Lodge, the power of the appointment is in the presiding officer.

In the motion for the creation of a Committee the number of members is often left blank, and after the adoption of the resolution, it becomes necessary to fill up the blank with some specified number. This may be done, as the filling of any other blank, by several motions for different numbers, in which case the presiding officer will put the question on each number, beginning with the highest, until one of them is adopted. But more frequently the blank is filled up upon the mere suggestion of some member, which suggestion is informally adopted if there be no opposition.

As to the number of which a Committee is to be composed, there is no other rule than the pleasure of the Lodge; but uniform custom has restricted committees to a as few as can conveniently and judiciously discharge the duty, on the ground that a few may be more easily brought together than many, are a less unwieldy body to organize, and can more readily agree upon measures. An odd number is selected in preference to an even one, because, as a majority of the Committee make the report, an odd number always secures a majority on one side or the other of the question, if there be a difference of opinion; whereas in an even number there might be a tie, and the Committee could come to no conclusion.

The Committee is appointed by the Master's reading out the names of the members whom he has selected, which duty he may perform at once; or he may require time for a judicious selection, when he announces that he will make the appointment at his leisure.

There is no positive rule to regulate the presiding officer in the choice of committeemen, but the courtesy of parliamentary law has always indicated that the person who makes the motion for the creation of a Committee should be the first one placed on it, and not to so name him would be considered as an act of discourtesy.

In naming the other members of the committee, respect should be had to their peculiar views of the subject to be referred. It is a parliamentary practice not to appoint persons on a Committee who are opposed to the proposition which is to be referred. It being the object of a Committee to prepare the matter with which they have been charged, and to put it into a shape fit for the action of the body which they represent, it is evident that they should be so far its friends as to lead them to such a result. The enemies of a proposition would be more likely to stifle it than to give it a proper form for future discussion. In the forcible language of a parliamentary writer "The child is