

a bare majority. Hence the rule in the Congress of the United States, which has been universally adopted in all public meetings, is to begin with the highest sum and the longest time; and therefore the presiding officer will continue putting the propositions for filling the blank in this order, until the assembly comes to one on which a majority of the members can agree.

Sometimes the sum or time will be inserted by the mover in the original motion, so that no blank occurs. Yet as the sum or time proposed may not be satisfactory to all, an effort may be made to change it. But this can only be done in the form of an amendment, by moving to strike out and insert, and here the rule of the largest sum or the longest time will not prevail, but the parliamentary law of amendment will be in force. One amendment only, and one amendment to it, is permissible, and the latter must be put to the question first. Thus the original motion may be "to appoint a committee of *three* persons." An amendment may be offered to strike out *three* and insert *five*; and this may again be amended by a motion to insert *seven* instead of *five*. The motion to *strike out and insert* may be divided. If the motion to *strike out* be lost, the motion to insert cannot be put, but a new motion may be made to *strike out three* and insert *nine*, or some number other than *five* or *seven*. If the motion to strike out be adopted, then the amendment to insert *seven* will be put in order; and, that being lost, then the question will recur on inserting *five*. If this also be lost, the proposition will remain incomplete, because *three* has been stricken out and nothing inserted in its place, and a new amendment must be offered for the insertion of some other number. And the proceedings will thus continue by the introduction of new figures, until the original proposition is perfected by the adoption of some number which will be satisfactory to the majority.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

OF CO-EXISTING QUESTIONS.

It is a principle of parliamentary law that two independent propositions cannot be at the same time before a meeting. But during the pendency of a main question, a privilege motion may be made and entertained, and then these two motions, the original and the privileged one, constitute what are called co-existing questions. Now, it may be asked what becomes of the original motion, if the privileged one be decided in the affirmative. The answer will depend on the nature of the privileged motion that has been adopted. The parliamentary law prescribes that when a motion for adjournment is made and carried during the pendency of a question, that question is suppressed, and cannot again at a subsequent meeting be revived except by a new motion. As the closing of the lodge is in Masonic usage equivalent to an adjournment, it is evident that the closing of the Lodge during the pendency of any question must have the same effect. But the inconvenience and oftentimes the injustice that would result from the rigid enforcement of such a rule has led to the adoption by Congress of a special regulation, by which such interrupted propositions are considered not as totally suppressed, but only as thrown into the class of unfinished business, to be taken up at the proper time, and such unfinished business would be in order. And although no such special regulation should be found in the rules of order of a Lodge, the spirit of comity and the dictates of