

question (*x*). If a question is before a meeting, a member may prevent any amendment by proposing that the "question be now put." The chairman will propose the motion like any other, but this does not mean that the meeting is precluded from continuing the discussion on the main motion, unless there is a special rule limiting the practice of parliament. On the contrary, the debate goes on as before under our general parliamentary law, and it is only when the meeting proceeds to give a final decision that the effect of the previous question is at once felt. If the meeting decide by a majority vote that "the question be now put," then a vote must be immediately taken without amendment or debate on the original question; or, if the meeting negative the motion that "the question be now put," then no vote can be taken at all on the original motion, since the house has decided that the question shall *not now* be put—in other words, it is practically effaced for the time being (*y*). This suspending or removal from debate of the main motion in case an assembly negative the previous question is rarely understood in public bodies and municipal councils, some of which, like that of Toronto (*z*), entirely change the parliamentary rule and allow debate and amendment on the main motion if the majority reject the previous

(*x*) See *below*, p. 51, for parliamentary form of the previous question.

(*y*) See Bourinot, p. 398; May's Practice (8th ed.) p. 283; Cushing's Practice (large ed.), p. 551; Roberts' Rules of Order.

(*z*) See *Fifth Part*, II. sec. 16, Rule 37.