

Grand Chancellor, and the Grand Treasurer, and two members elected from the active members of the Supreme Council, form five; the President of the Grand Lodge Central, one; the Presidents of the Three Sections of the Grand Lodge Central, three; the Grand Hospitaller of Grand Lodge, one; seven delegates elected by the First Section, two by the Second, and two by the Third Section complete the number. The Grand Commander, or his Lieutenant, sits as President of this Commission. The duties of the Commission are to give effect to the acts of the Grand Lodge Central and of the Three Sections of which it is composed, to administer the finances, and to exercise in a general way a supervisory work as a Superior Committee or Board of Management for all the Degrees except those immediately controlled by the Supreme Council. It holds its Sessions monthly. The Grand Lodge Central is composed (1) of all the active members of the Supreme Council; (2) of all active Masons of the Rite possessing the 33°, 32°, 31° and 30°, and of delegates from each Lodge, Chapter, Tribunal and Consistory, chosen on a principle in part of representation by numbers. Over this Grand Lodge Central presides the Sovereign Grand Commander Grand Master; but, in addition, there is a President and other officers. The President must be a member of the Supreme Council, the Vice-President a member of Grand Lodge, and the other officers can be, apparently, chosen from the Craft at large. This Grand Lodge is again divided into three sections, the first section engaged with the affairs of the first three Degrees, and under the title Section Symbolic; the second under the title the Chapter Section (Section Chapitrale), taking cognizance of the work of the Degrees from the 4° to the 18° inclusive; the third section comprises authority over the Degrees 19° to 30° and is called the High Grades Section. Each Section elects its own President and other office-bearers annually, and they are eligible for the same office for three successive years. The new Constitution fully sets forth the duties of each Section and of the Grand Lodge itself; and while each has jurisdiction in so far as the Degrees specified are concerned, the Grand Lodge itself—all Sections united under the Presidency and direction of its elected officers—takes cognizance of all difficulties and matters which can arise between the Supreme Council and a Section or a Lodge of the Rite, either for infraction of the Constitution or General Regulations, or for non-observance of the decrees and judgments of the Supreme Council. The object of this division of powers and of authority is clear. It is to give all the Masons in the Rite, of every Degree, a share in the government, and is a concession to the democratic spirit of the times. It is, probably, necessary to the amity of the Rite in France, but in countries where the Symbolic Lodges do not necessarily form a part of the Rite, such a form of government seems quite cumbersome. In reality there are six controlling or governing powers, the Supreme Council, the Administrative and Executive Commission, the Grand Lodge Central, and the Three Sections into which it is divided. The new constitution maintains the Lausanne declaration of principles until the next Convention has resolved the question. During the year the Ill. Bro. JULES SIMON, a French statesman of some renown, resigned his seat in the Supreme Council, as did Ill. Bro.