

seem humiliating that the honor of such a discovery in political economy should fall to the mere provincials or colonials which the Lunatics undoubtedly are? Not even Gladstone ever thought of it. What a power to secure Home Rule or settle the question of the Lords!

The plan was adopted, and according to the *Daily Dodger*, "While it was finally abandoned, the fault lay not in the scheme itself, but in the pusillanimous government that failed to preserve the peace while giving the new franchise law a trial."

This is what happened. At the first general election after the preparation of the new lists, the government was defeated by the largest majority and the largest vote ever polled in Luna. The opposition, having made large promises in the way of reduction of the taxes, went into power very strong in the public confidence. In the meantime the retiring ministry had looted the treasury. This left the government no alternative but to issue bonds to meet the emergency. Of course there was some talk of criminal prosecution but as the leaders did not offer themselves for re-election, and as the money was all gone and past recovery, the government took the matter under their consideration and decided that though the fallen ones had no doubt done wrong, but were now sorry for their fault, and above all, were gentlemen, it would be magnanimous in the hour of victory to be merciful, besides somebody, they reflected, might also have to do as much for them some day. They did not prosecute. So taxes were up again and likely to stay up for a few years. Elections were pretty lively after that, and engaged the attention of a larger proportion of the electorate than formerly. The only thing that was now needed was to get out the right men to blot out party and make the people the sovereign rulers.

There were now observed some startling physiological effects of the new franchise. As every citizen had to vote, the women had less time to devote to missions and millinery. They voted, but they began to die early. Very few women reached thirty, while the majority dropped off about twenty-three! The race was threatened; the alarm became general. On the other hand the effect on the male portion of the population was without

parallel in Lunar history. Men aged fast and lived to number many years. A few recorded their plumpers at twenty-one, but it was common to find men of one hundred and seventy-five summers taking a hearty interest in politics, and voting with vigour. Not only did men age fast, but they did so without the signs of age usual to mankind. The sight was frequent of centenarians who must have had the blood of Moses in their veins (though how, it would be impossible to say), for their eye was not dimmed and their hair-crop was heavy and dark, while their step was light and brisk. Men marvelled much and rejoiced; while the women wailed and hoped for the better country. Then was born the first female poet. Long ere our Christian era it was that the great Lunatic (our scientist did not see her, but he knows she had grey eyes, high, smooth forehead and a far-away look), nibbled her crow quill and broke forth in strains which the later Christian plagiarists do not rival—"I would not live away,"—and she didn't, but hied her to that Home where the healer quits his heeling and the ballot-stuffers cease.

(To be continued.)

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