

ment thus made was loyally adhered to by both sides. Circulars were sent throughout the constituency notifying the rural voters and others of the terms of the agreement and it met with the hearty approval of the vast majority of the electorate in the constituency. In one or two districts there was some murmuring and I remember getting a letter from a colored voter in one district indignantly remonstrating against such unprecedented action. In words in which indignation overpowered orthography he wrote that "such purceedings was rediklus and farsikul and aint no lection at all." It is only fair to the complainant to state that his pathetic remonstrance was not against the effort to stop buying votes with money, but rather against the discontinuance of what he euphemistically called "refreshmunts." In justice to him it should also be stated that on subsequent enquiry I found that notwithstanding his remonstrance he afterwards voted and without any stimulus although it was only just before the closing of the polls that his vote was recorded.

Throughout the constituency a clean election was held and the experiment was considered by all parties as satisfactory. I cannot offer any explanation as to why it was not formally continued in later contests, but it is possible that mutual distrust prevented its repetition. The incident is mentioned as affording some proof of the fact that the majority of people desire clean contests and would actively support a strong measure compelling the abandonment of corrupt methods. Doubtless, however, all parties would have more confidence in a drastic law ensuring an honest election than in an agreement made with each other, or than in any resolutions which might be adopted by each party.

A majority of the Special Committee of the House of Commons also approved of what is sometimes although not accurately described as a compulsory voting system.

If the adoption of such a principle would greatly aid in the suppression of corrupt practices it ought to be adopted. One obvious difficulty in the practical working of such a system would arise in connection with the provision exempting from disfranchisement those citizens who had a lawful "excuse,"