

### **PLANK No. 8.—COUNTY BOUNDARIES FOR RIDINGS.**

That by the Gerrymander Acts, the electoral divisions for the return of members to the House of Commons have been so made as to prevent a fair expression of the opinion of the country at the general elections, and to secure to the party now in power a strength cut of all proportion greater than the number of electors supporting them would warrant. To put an end to this abuse, to make the House of Commons a fair exponent of public opinion, and to preserve the historic continuity of counties, it is desirable that in the formation of electoral divisions, county boundaries should be preserved, and that in no case parts of different counties should be put in one electoral division.

Two earnest attempts were made to repeal the worst features of the "Gerrymander" Acts, and to restore county boundaries, but the partisan Senate refused to pass the Bills, which had been successfully and, by large majorities passed through the House of Commons.

### **PLANK No. 9.—THE SENATE.**

The present constitution of the Senate is inconsistent with the Federal principle in our system of government, and is in other respects defective, as it makes the Senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government.

This is the only plank that so far has not been effectively dealt with by the Liberal Government, but the subject has not been lost sight of. Great constitutional changes of this kind involve much consideration, and the co-operation of the Imperial Government and Parliament.

### **PLANK No. 10.—PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.**

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of Prohibition by means of a Dominion Plebiscite.

A Dominion Plebiscite was taken, and this pledge, therefore, kept to the letter.

The Opposition frequently misrepresent the situation by alleging that the pledge of the party was to grant Prohibition. The words above quoted from the official platform show distinctly that no such pledge was ever made. The declaration of the Liberal Convention was that a plebiscite should be taken to ascertain the mind of the people on the question of Prohibition, leaving Parliament perfectly free to take such course, after the plebiscite, as might be deemed best, in the interest of the country.