

by those crime-creating laws, and do you therefore stand by them, either with a loud voice or in silence? How much better then are you than the Beckers, who also are grafters? Are you not worse than the McNamaras, who, criminals though they be, are at any rate not sordidly criminal?



Negro Capability.

"Nigger haters" who excuse their ill-will with absurd "scientific" on the inferiority of the Negro, should read of the career of Tom Walker. It is interestingly told in "The World's Work" for October—Tom Walker of Gloucester County, Virginia. This region, reduced by the Civil War from reputable disorder to disorder of ill-repute, has been in great measure redeemed under the leadership of a "squat, thick-lipped and kinky-haired" Negro who has qualified himself in the face of difficulties that few white men ever triumph over. This Negro is Tom Walker. He drove whisky out of the county when the leading white men said that "every man in the county, white and black," would vote wet. He farmed scientifically, taught school effectively, took care of a lawyer's office so as to study law by the way, studied law—all this at the same time and over a period of years,—and won his admission to the bar against intense professional prejudice, but by the permission and with the cordial admiration of the prejudiced lawyers themselves. He was elected to the board of supervisors "by the votes of Southern-born white Democrats, Walker himself being a Republican;" and so effectively did he serve that a reduction of the county tax rate from 40 to 27 cents is conceded to his efforts during his first term. With it all, he led his own race in Gloucester county from idleness, improvidence and crime, to industry, thrift and orderly living.



Yet there is one dark spot in the story, relieved only by the fact that it is not the Negro's fault. Here is the way the story runs at one point: "There is now scarcely a Negro cabin to be found in all Gloucester, save where one used as a storehouse or barn stands in noteworthy contrast to the modern home which supplanted it. *Land values rose steadily from an average of \$10 an acre to \$25 and \$30.*" We do not mean that the rise in land values is the dark spot in that story. This is in itself a bright spot. Increase of land values with improving civilization is in the natural order. It is one of the great facts that go to show that Nature has provided for all a fund which grows with social growth, and there-

by offers just opportunity for common participation in common progress. The increase in those Gloucester land values is stronger testimony to the efficiency of Tom Walker's leadership than any man's testimony or any magazine's assurance. But right there, nevertheless, lurks the black spot in this otherwise splendid tribute to Negro competency. Those higher land values find their way, not into the common treasury of Gloucester county where in justice they belong, but to the owners of Gloucester county land,—and to them, not as users, but as *owners* of the land. This is robbery of all for the enrichment of a few. No reference to custom, no appeal to the doctrine of vested interests, no quibbling confusion of conventional law with the moral law, can make it anything less than robbery. Though the beneficiaries themselves be not robbers—no more are they robbers than were individual slaveowners under the robbing slave system,—yet the thing itself is robbery, just as the slave system was. And be it never so legal, robbery makes a black spot in the best of stories.



ANALYSIS OF THE THREE PLATFORMS.

A comparison of the Democratic, Republican and Progressive platforms shows that, although each platform is considered as embodying certain distinctive principles, yet, in their ultimate analysis, the differences in many cases are only apparent.

On some questions the three parties maintain *exactly* identical positions; on others, *apparently* identical; on some, only one or two of the parties define their positions; on several questions they are *diametrically opposed*.



The things on which the attitudes of the parties are identical, and which they desire to accomplish are as follows:

(1) Prevent Mississippi floods. (2) Improve inland waterways. (3) Revive the merchant marine. (4) Secure safety at sea. (5) Compensate injured workmen. (6) Avoid delay in legal procedure. (7) Secure public health.

The three parties agree that the nation should perform at least a part of the work necessary to prevent the floods of the Mississippi River, which destroy both life and property.

They favor a systematic policy for the improvement of rivers and harbors.

The Democrats and the Republicans believe in