TWO MONTANA MEN.

MILLIONAIRES WHO CONTEND FOR MASTERY.

Clarke is a Pennsylvanian, a Pioneer, and Self Made—Daly is a New York Irishman—How the Struggle Between the Two Men Happened.

The trial of John B. Wellcome, a Helena attorney and a confidential representative of William A. Clarke, United States Senator-elect, for disbarment on a charge of corrupting the members of the State legislature which elected Mr. Clarke, brings into special prominence at this time the two men who have been fighting so long for the ascendency in the Democratic party of Montana—William A. Clark and Marcus Daly.

A veteran who knows both men said to a N. Y. Sun correspondent in response to a request for information:

"W. A. Clark, Democratic Senator-elect, is a Pennsylvanian by birth and came west in the fifties. He is now over 60 years of age, well preserved and vigorous, and ought to be good for the fourscore mark. Like other pioneers he was not rich when he came to the west and he had no particular object in view except to grow up with the country. He drifted out as far as Walla, Walla, Wash., where he bought a four horse wagon load of tobacco and hauled it to some mines near where Bear Mouth on the Northern Pacific now is, and sold it at sufficient profit to give him his first real start. He struck Montana about '63 or '64 and went into merchandising, mining and other ventures, making more or less money all the time but nothing big. When the Butte copper mines were discovered about 1875, Clarke was among the first on the ground and had the best opportunities of getting good properties. From this time on Clark, made money fast, and by '84 he was reckoned a millionaire and his interests had begun to expand all over the west. With the first million made the others came more easily and during the past fifteen years Mr Clarke's fortune has gone on growing until nobody but himself knows how much it is. As an indication of what he has, I may cite a few items: He is the sole owner of the United Verde copper mine in Arizona, which makes a net profit of $400,000 a month, and for it he has refused $50,000 000 in cash and a block of stock offered by the Rothschilds. This mine is capable of a profit of $100,000 a day, if worked to its full capacity. He has a beet-sugar farm and factory near Los Angeles, which cleared $400,000 the first year; he owns one of the largest coffee plantations in the world in Mexico; he owns a gold mine in Arizona paying $100,000 a month; he owns mining interests in Butte worth $100,000 a month, he is spending $50,000 a month in the Cœur d'Alene district, Idaho, developing the largest lead mines in the United States; he owns a coal mine in Carbon county, Mont., which is said to be the best equipped in the country; he is probably the largest live stock owner in Montana, one herd alone being worth $250,000; he has extensive lumber interests in Montana; he owns a bank in Butte; he owns a newspaper, The Butte Miner; he is a very large holder of gilt edge railroad securities; he owns the finest residence in Butte; and is spending $2,500,000 in building his New York city home, and nobody knows how much other property, cash and other available assets he has. As an example of the amount of ready money he carries I'll mention one case. When the late A. W. Lyman was appointed Internal Revenue Collector he asked Mr. Clark to go on his bond. They were both in New York city at the time and Mr. Clark said he had no real estate there, but that he had cash in four or five banks, and they went to the nearest one having an account with Mr. Clark. The books showed a million dollars to his credit, and the others were about the same.

'Now as to the man himself. He has the greatest capacity for work of any man I ever knew, and for years his working hours were from 7 a. m. to 12 p. m., and I have known him to keep at it all night. His application and energy are intense and he is thorough in all he undertakes. When he started into the business of mining he learned assaying himself and became an expert; later in life he took up the study of French and is now conversant with its literature, and speaks it perfectly; he spends three months every year in Paris; when he became interested in art and pictures he applied himself as he did to other subjects and after careful and general reading he studied all the galleries of Europe under the tutelage of competent critics. So that to day there are very few men who know as well as Mr. Clark does the real merit and value of pictures. He knew exactly what he was doing when he paid $42,000 for that Fortuny at a picture sale in New York. He has studied architecture and could make his living as an architect if necessary. His real greatness is his masterful power of analyzing any business proposition submitted to him, and his wonderful capacity to systemize and conduct large business enterprises.

'He seems to know intuitively what there is in a proposition, and how to carry it to financial success if he takes hold of it. Mr. Clark is not a man of strong personal magnetism, but he does not affect the air of haughty reserve common to a great many wealthy men. He is a faithful friend and there is no sacrifice too great for him to make for friendship sake. With the keeping of all engagements he permits nothing to interfere, and what he says he will do that he will do to the very end.

'Although conscious of his merit, and not averse to any one else recognizing it, he will freeze a flatterer out in a minute and no one can pave the way to his favor by conventional compliments. He is not a maker of literature, but he knows his newspaper as he knows other things and when he wants an editorial written he sits down and writes it.

'Mr Clark is a widower with two sons and two daughters. The sons show the business capacity of the father, and the younger one took high rank at the University of Virginia where he was graduated. All the family possess unusual linguistic ability; they are all thoroughly conversant with books, music, art, current thought and events, and when they are together they constitute an interesting and delightful family. The only office Mr. Clark ever held until his election as Senator, was Presidens of the Constitutional Convention when Montana was organized as a State in 1889.

'Marcus Daly, who is the second biggest man in Montana, is as unlike W. A. Clark as you can imagine. He is an Irishman, claiming New York as his birthplace, and he has the typical characteristics of his people. He is an interesting man to talk to, a good story teller and impresses any one at once by his force of character. He came to Montana from Utah about 1880, representing J. B. Haggin, Lloyd Tevis and Hearst of California, having only a working interest in the combination and little or no means of his own. He took hold of the Anaconda copper properties of his principals and developed them to such an extent that his interests have amounted in nineteen years to $20,000,000, at least, that is the estimate put on his wealth, and he has very little outside of Anaconda propery. The Anaconda, with its mines at Butte, its smelters at Anaconda, its sawmills in the western part of the State and its coal in the eastern and northern portions, is the largest employer of labor in the State, employing 10,000 people out of of a total population of 250,000. It reduces 4 000 tons of ore every day and during 1898 cut more lumber than any any other establishment in the United States.

'Daly owns one of the finest stud farms in the country in the Bitter Root Valley, and his horses are known on every first-class race-course. He is possibly a little older than Clark and lacks his health and vigor of constitution, though of keener wit and more subtle in his methods. He is a born tyrant, brooking no interference and insisting upon having everything his own way. I remember once to have been with him on his stock farm, where a contractor with a force of men was building a tremendous barn. It was about half up when we arrived and Daly, who was absent when the building began, noticed that it was not placed exactly as he had ordered it. He called up the contractor, who explained that he had made the change to accommodate the barn to the ground, whereupon Daly cursed him out and made tear the building down and put it up again as he wanted it.'

He has a wife and family, his wife's sister being the wife of Mr. Clark's brother, Ross. Daly is a Roman Catholic and his wife is an Episcopalian.

'His ability as an organizer is equal to Clark's, but he lacks his power of analyzing a proposition; he has a stronger influence over men than Clark has, and personal following is greater. He makes men work for him by promises that are not always fulfilled. He is a more revengeful man than Clark, and he is vindictive in his pursuit of his rival. The feud between the two men began in ordinary business rivalry in Butte, but did not fully develop until Daly was building his smelters at Anaconda. Water was a necessity at the smelters and Daly was buying the water rights of Warm Springs Creek, flowing through the town and had got about seven-eighths of them for some small amount, $10,000 or $15,000, when Clark quietly came in and bought the remaining eighth. Then Daly sent his representative to buy Clark's interest. He asked $25,000 for it, which the representative refused to give, and went away. Next day he came back to accept the figure, and Clark wanted $50,000. Daly fumed and swore and a day or two later sent his man back to pay the price, and then Clark wanted $100,000. This was offered next and Clark asked $125,000, at which price Daly got it. I don't say the story is true, though I have always heard it, but I think there is no question as to the $125,000 part of it. In any event it was a plump knock-out for Clark and Daly swore vengenance. He bided his time till 1888, when Clark ran against Tom Carter for Congress. He feared Daly's enimity and sent a delegation to Anaconda to see him. Daly was holding a conference with Carter when the delegation arrived, and telling him to step behind the curtain of an alcove to hear what he was going to say to the delegation, he received the callers. The spokesman said they had merely come to learn where he stood. He told them that he hated Clark from centre to circumference, but that he was a Democrat first, last and all the time, and would instruct his mine bosses to see that the men voted 'to bury that little sun of a gun, Tom Carter, in the middle kettle of h——' Then the delegation departed delighted. Carter came from behind the curtain. Mr. Daly left next day for California, and at the election every one of his men voted for Carter and Clark was knocked clean out.

"As an evidence of Mr. Daly's power in politics, I may mention one result at Bonner, where there were several hundred men at work in the sawmills, giving for years an overwhelming Republican majority. In fact there were only three or four Democrats in the whole vote. Immediately after the Daly interests bought the mills, the majority was as overwhelmingly Democratic. At Anaconda last year the combined vote of the Republicans and Populists, with good men on the ticket, was about 10 percent the whole vote cast.

'Daly and Clark were compelled to patch up a peace in 1889. Senator Hearst of California wanted a Democratic Senator from Montana, and the 'Big 4' Houser, Clark, Daly and Broadwater, representing Maginnis—agreed to support the Democratic ticket and take chances for the Senatorship. Two hundred thousand dollars were spent in the campaign and there were two Legislatures and no election of Senator. The Governor appointed Clark and Maginnis, but they were not seated. In 1893 the Legislature was Democratic by a small majority and Daly held nine men out of the caucus and Clark missed it again. In 1894 the last capital fight occurred, the contestants being Helena and Anaconda, and Daly tried to get Clark to favor Anaconda by offering to trade him the Senatorship. This Clark refused to do on the ground that it was dangerous to put the Legislature so near the influence of Daly. In 1896 there was a Republican Legislature and no fight. In 1898 at a Democratic convention, held in Anaconda, Daly nominated A. J. Campbell for Congress, and feeling that the situation was safe as far as Clark was concerned, went to New York city to live. Mr. Clark did not any longer want the Senatorship, but there was a strong feeling against Daly, and such a great pressure was brought to bear upon Clark that he finally consented to run, and was elected. It was for alleged corruption of the members of the Legislature to secure this election that J. B. Wellcome's case for disbarment is now before the Supreme Court.

'It is said that Daly has had a half-dozen agents travelling over the State for evidence against Wellcome, and Clark's friends claim that the proceedings were brought to get evidence to be used in the contest in the Senate.

'In the meantime, it is reported out here that Mr. Daly has rented Mr. Astor's house in Fifth avenue, New York, and that, at last account he was dangerously sick there.'

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