

CLARK, ADDICKS, CORBETT.

The senatorial election in Delaware, Montana and Oregon will attract unusual attention throughout the United States this year. In Montana, Clark, who bought his election from a democratic legislature, but was ejected by the senate after a thorough investigation, will again make the trial, and he has so detached that rotten borough by the corrupt use of his great wealth that it is believed he will succeed.

In Delaware, J. E. Addicks, popularly known as "Gas" Addicks, is again investing liberally in members of the legislature, and hopes to be able to buy enough votes to secure his election.

Addicks and Clark are both men of considerable ability and are in the prime of mental and physical life. But in Oregon the case is quite different. The millionaire candidate here is a feeble old man, who is seeking election to the United States senate, as he stated in a letter to the Oregonian, because he desires "vindication" of a charge of immorality and alienating a wife's affection preferred by some obscure person named Peterson. There are, then, so far as we have heard, three reasons advanced why Mr. Corbett should be elected senator:

1. He has been accused of being an immoral man.
2. He is known to be a very rich man.
3. He is a very old man.

They are all good qualifications for certain positions, and there are doubtless immoral and rich old men in the United States senate, but this is the first time the possession of these qualities has been presented as a reason for election. Mr. Corbett's letter to the Oregonian from Seaside presents the first reason, and the second and third are advanced by Senator Daly of Benton and Representative Pearce of Marion county.

In all of these cases, however, the sole hope of the aspirant is in the use of money. We freely admit and denounce this when alluding to Clark and Addicks, but it is no less true in the Oregon contest. Mr. Corbett would not be mentioned as a candidate were it not for his great wealth, and no representative who votes for him will ever be able to make his constituents believe that he was influenced solely by motives of public good.

In allotting two senators from each state, without regard to population, it was the intention of our forefathers to so distribute political power that the great centers of population should not be permitted unlimited control, and, as the cities had not become of such political importance as they are today, no thought was given to protecting the rural against the urban districts. The time has come, however, when this must be done, and in Oregon as in New York state it will be necessary for the legislature to curb the power of the metropolis, for it is Portland, and Portland's desire to rule, under the control of such men as Simon, Corbett, and their political tools, that threaten to make a rotten borough of Oregon and cause it to be classed with Montana and Delaware.

We hope there will be a farmers' congress at the state capital before the legislature goes into joint session, and that its members will personally interview the representatives from their respective counties.

Let It Be a Viva Voce Vote.

To THE EDITOR:— I see by the last issue of the Oregonian that there has been a simultaneous outbreak of several newspapers of the state which has caused a ripple of unpleasantness on this hitherto peaceful scene. The outbreak was in regard to the senatorial contest just now beginning to develop. The papers alluded to

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are in favor of a viva voce vote in the republican caucus to be held in the early hours of the coming session of the legislature. The Oregonian takes objection to this and claims it is at variance with the traditions of former caucus proceedings and thinks it is purely a matter for the republican members to decide.

It seems to me that the constituents of those members have a right to know how each member votes on so important a question as the election of a United States senator, and I further believe that any honest member will want the people he represents to know just how he voted in the caucus if he is to be bound by that caucus. I also believe Mr. Corbett will want every member's vote recorded with his name, as he well knows that the majority of the people of Oregon suspect him of using money in his behalf, and if he wants to set himself right before the people he wants to represent, he can find no better way than to insist on a viva voce vote in the caucus.

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