

# WORLD'S GREATEST PLUNGER LOSES IN WAGER WITH DEATH

## John W. Gates Defeated in Grim Fight to See America Once More; Dies in Paris of Pneumonia.

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Paris, Aug. 9.—John W. Gates, the millionaire Wall street plunger and mining man, died here this morning at 6:15 o'clock. Mrs. Gates and her son Charles G. Gates were present at the end.

Gates' body will be brought back to New York for burial on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which sails August 15. Services over the body will be held in the American church here on Saturday.

Gates' physicians say his fight against death was the gamiest they ever saw. Inspired by the desire to see America once more, the man whose iron will forced the Wall street magnates to back down in many a financial fray battled grimly to the last. His stern determination to live kept him up to the last possible moment, and only when his bodily functions were absolutely gone did he resign himself to the end.

After the death of Gates, his wife and his son Charles collapsed, and this afternoon both are under medical attendance. The funeral arrangements were made by Harry Black of New York, one of Gates' closest friends. It is declared that Gates left \$40,000,000, most of which goes to his son, although Mrs. Gates is liberally provided for.

**Was Picturesque Character.**  
One of the most picturesque personalities in American financial annals was John W. Gates. The predominating characteristics of his nature, energy and speculation, particularly in the latter, earned him the sobriquet of "Bet-you-a-Million" Gates, under which cognomen he was celebrated on two continents. He was a big man and did only big things and in a big way.

At the time of his death he was one of the most striking figures in the money world, fighting, as he was, the Standard Oil company and holding an imposing position in the affairs of iron and steel. Prominent in his spectacular career was the distinction of being the first and biggest wire magnate in history.

**Gates' Metal Shows.**  
"He is a bundle of wire nerves and steel energies," was once said of him. "He can go to his office and work like a fiend until 5, then play poker all night." That epitomizes the story of his life and, at the same time, the story of his death. The constitution of few men could have borne up for 56 years under the strain, the rush and swirl and tension of his daily activities.

As a boy, Gates grew up on the Illinois farm, near Junction, Illinois, west of Chicago, where he was born in 1855. He was energetic and precocious. Two years before he had become a voter, in 1874, he had fallen in love with an Illinois girl and married her. At the time he was "Johnny" Gates, manager of a little hardware store in the farming village.

**Sold Barbed Wire.**  
Gates heard of a man named Isaac Ellwood in DeKalb, Ill., who was trying to sell a new commodity called barbed wire. His trouble he found was not in making barbed wire, but in selling it; it was a novelty and cattlemen considered it too flimsy to be of any use. So, when young Gates came along with his geniality and readiness of speech, Ellwood gladly took the chance Gates suggested and sent him out to sell barbed wire in Texas on a salary of \$25 a week.

This trip made Gates. It also made barbed wire. The Texas cattlemen had never seen barbed wire before, and they ridiculed it.

"That stuff wouldn't hold a Texas steer a minute," they said.

Gates was put on his mettle. "I'll show you," said he, and he did.

**Played Against Future.**  
Ever playing against the future, Gates thought he saw a bonanza in wire. Somehow he gathered enough money to have a barbed wire factory of his own in St. Louis. Then Gates had built another plant at Braddock, Pa., and Gates conceived the idea of pooling all the wire factories in the country. That time it failed, but in 1892 Gates brought about a merger of the St. Louis, Braddock, Joliet and Allentown plants as the Consolidated Steel & Wire company.

"Johnny" Gates and "Moonshine" Gates had now become John W. Gates, citizen of Chicago, where he moved in 1892—man of the world, follower of the race track for diversion, and with an ever increasing passion to risk his money on anything and everything where a bet would quicken his pulse. But he was not yet a plunger in the grain or stock markets.

To acquire the money that enabled him to become an interloper in Wall street, feared even by its biggest men, John W. Gates had only to bring to realization his early dream of a wire trust.

**War Scared Morgan.**  
J. Pierpont Morgan agreed to finance the undertaking, but was scared out when the Spanish war started. Lloyd I. Smith, a Chicago capitalist, jumped into the breach, and he, Gates and Ellwood floated the \$90,000,000 wire combine.

But, with all this tremendous money power behind him, Gates could not get a start in Wall street. So he played the game from the outside. He came to New York with his bankroll and sat up his son, Charles G. Gates, in the brokerage business, under the name of the firm, who had been admitted to the exchange. From that time father and son were inseparable, both in business and pleasure. The brokerage house soon made the high record for a day's business on the New York exchange, \$45,000,000, and the brokerage commissions were approximately \$50,000.

# Famous American King of Finance and His Wife



John W. Gates and his wife, who was with him when he died. Mrs. Gates is ill from worry over her husband's illness and death.

Carnegie's name brought forth indignant statements from the latter. Throughout his entire life John W. Gates never asked a favor, his acquaintances say; he expected none. He paid all his debts and insisted that everybody should pay him, to the uttermost farthing. He was no snob. He would not have walked round the block to win all the social prestige in the world.

At the time of his death John W. Gates was interested vitally in many of the largest enterprises in the country.

**School Chalks to Be Analyzed.**  
Salem, Or., Aug. 9.—Recognizing the dangers lurking in the ordinary chalk

box, Superintendent of Public Instruction Alderman has appointed a committee to investigate all the chalks on the market and file a report. The information collected will be for the benefit of all teachers and school officers of the state. Dr. Calvin S. White of Portland will head the committee and have the assistance of W. R. Rutherford, city superintendent of McMinnville and H. C. Seymour, superintendent of Polk county. While no specific diseases have been traced to chalk, Superintendent Alderman says many teachers are inclined to bronchial troubles from breathing chalk dust. Chalk being made from sea shells and like materials is in danger of being germ laden.

# POPE TOO ILL TO TAKE PART IN CELEBRATION

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Rome, Aug. 9.—Too ill to participate in the celebration of his elevation to the pontificate, Pope Pius X today began his ninth year as head of the Roman Catholic church.

So serious is the condition of the pontiff that only a few of the thousands of congratulatory messages from all over the world which streamed into the Vatican were read to him. Even that excitement had a bad effect and this afternoon it was announced that his holiness was feverish, his hands and feet badly swollen and he was suffering much pain.

Cardinal Merry del Val presided at the celebration of the pope's anniversary, which was attended with great pomp.

# KENNEWICK CREAMERY READY NEXT MONTH

(Special to The Journal.)  
Kennewick, Wash., Aug. 9.—Work has been started on the Columbia River Valley creamery plant which will be ready for operation next month. The new creamery is being built in connection with the Twin City Ice & Cold Storage company's plant which will supply the necessary cold storage and refrigeration.

The creamery company has been conducting a campaign throughout the valley and has 300 dairy cows signed up among the farmers. In cases where the farmer has no cows of his own and is not financially able to purchase them outright the company is stocking his farm on the installment plan.

A Missouri man has invented a camera that also is a dark room to permit a person to develop his plates wherever he may happen to be.

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