# JOHN W. GATES, DEAD CAME SPORT AND NERVY FIGHTER

# Once Had the Nerve Even to A Few Characteristic Stories Buck J. P. Morgan.

linois farm in 1855. He had played talls up. but a brief term of schooling and early check book and wrote his check for embarked in the hardware business, \$40,000 to the leader of the party. starting a small hardware store at Then he bought all around." Turner Junction, Ill. He nimself has

time on. Here it is, as told by himself to a about him at a round table in the red room of the Waldorf-Astoria one evening just before he sailed for Europe several years ago.

"First I started traveling for Isaac in the state of Texas, hiring men to help me put it up to show the rangers wire. I had not traveled very long there was more money in the manufacture of barbed wire than in selling it at a salary of \$100 per month. I had a friend in St. Louis-I was living in Chicago at the time-named Alfred stranger. He made audible remarks Clifford. Clifford and I started in to manufacture barbed wire in a very small way. I think we had three barbed wire machines. Our total investment was less than \$8,000 to start with. The business proved very profitable, and we shortly increased, not in the same factory, but in an independent factory. We started an incorporated concern under the name of J. W. Gates & Co., into which eight of us put each \$2,500, making a total of \$20,-000. All these men are still alive. We declared dividends of about 50 per cent per week. Our profits for the first year were \$150,000. At the end of the year I suggested that I either buy out or sell out."

The evolution of that plant was the American Steel and Wire Company of New Jersey, with a capital stock of \$90,000,000, and the American Steel and Wire Company of Illinois, with a capital of \$24,000,000, with Gates as chairman of both. Gates sold out his interests to J. P. Morgan & Co. when the United States Steel corporation was formed, drawing down many millions in cash, bonds and stock.

## Only Bent, Not Broke.

Gates was hurt badly in the Northern Pacific raid in the spring of 1901. It was estimated that he dropped \$5,-000,000 at that time, and, while he admitted that he had been "bent," he was not broke. Early the next year he "butted" into Louisville and Nashville and, with his powerful Chicago following, twisted the control from the August Belmont people, who had for years been the dominating factors in the management of the railroad. Gates is said to have bought one-half the entire issue of stock at from 98 to 110. and then the stock jumped to 130, when a truce was declared through the influence of J. Pierpont Morgan, then in Europe

After the organization of the steel trust Mr. Gates continued in the iron and steel business for himself. One of his latest appearances in the limelight was as a witness in the steel trust investigation in Washington when he convulsed the nation by his description of Andrew Carnegie and his remarks on the trust's absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company.

There has probably never been a financier in America about whom so many good stories were told as John W. Gates. A good story teller himself, his sallies were alike popular in Wall street, at the race track, before the fare tables or wherever good sporis and spenders most did congregate. His popular name in those days was "Bet You a Million" Gates.

For the last few years Mr. Gates rather settled down and lived in Texas, or at least his home was there, although Gates lived pretty much all over the earth, especially in New York and Europe.

# Flipped Coin For \$40,000.

Galveston once admitted that he was a great friend and admirer of Mr. Gates and gave some of his reasons. In the smoking compartment of a train on his way to Asbury Park he regaled a group of men with a story about Mr. Gates.

"Mr. Gates is surely a dead game sport," he said, "and I have been much amused to learn that some of his Texas friends want to run him for congress. If he runs in that district he will be elected hands down. The other day he paid a short business visit a Texas town and endeared himself to the hearts of the local popu-

"Some of the gamesters of the town heard in advance that Mr. Gates was coming and prepared to furnish'a littie entertainment and excitement. They raised a poker pot of \$40,000.

"'All right, boys,' said Mr. Gates, "I really haven't the time to play poker for that roll of money, but I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll match you for it.

"There was a hasty consultation, and the delegation agreed to the proposal. Mr. Gates pulled out a half dollar and slapped it down on the table saying, 'I'm matching you."

"One of the members of the delegation fished out a quarter and covered

# of His Career.

OHN W. GATES, one of the most it on the table with his paim. Gates picturesque figures in Ameri- lifted his hand. He had heads up. can finance, was born on an II- The Texan lifted his band and dis-

"Gates just grinned, took out a

In the old, old days Gates used to told something of his career from this play fare at Saratoga, or at least so go the veracious tales of those gladsome times. His wagers were always little group of friends who gathered large, and as he played to give the house as little percentage as possible It is said that he succeeded in holding his own fairly well. One dar a noisy, bustling stranger made his way to one of the fare tables in Saratoga and L. Elwood. I erected the first corral bought five stacks of checks at \$100 a stack. He placed his bets on the layout and expressed the desire to get what use could be made of barbed quick action. The dealer showed an inclination to wait upon the convenwhen I came to the conclusion that lence of a quiet gentleman who frequently consulted a "tab" and bet four blue checks on various cards.

This delay went on for some time, to the undoubted annovance of the about a "piker" who would hold the and gold pieces up in the cir, catching

them again as they fell.
"What on earth are you donny i asked with interest.

"He tossed and dexterously caught a five dollar gold piece before he an-

"'All that stick on the bell cord belong to the Lake Shore, he answered.
'and the rest are mine!"

duly attested for settlement,
HOMER GREENE, Executor.

#### "Exclamatory Rheumatism."

While the oil excitement was at its height in Texas several years ago Mr. Gates put up at a hotel in Beaumont, where colored girls were employed as waitresses.

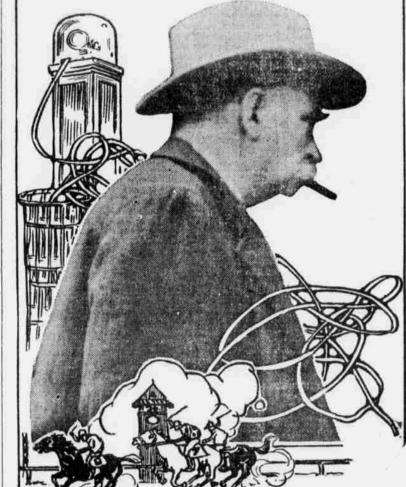
At the dinner table, on the evening of his arrival, wishing to be pleasant to the girl who had taken great pains to see that he had everything he wanted, he turned to her and said, not knowing whether she was married or not, "How is your husband, Eliza?" "He ain't much bettah, sah," replied

the girl. "Oh, then he's been sick. What's the matter with him?" asked Mr. Gates. "Why, de doctah say he got exclam-

story rheumatism, sah." "Exclamatory rheumatism? mean inflammatory rheumatism, don't you? Exclamatory means to cry out,"

said Mr. Gates. "Dat's jes' it, sah. Dat's jes' it. He do nuthin' but cry out all de time."

While Mr. Gates was down in Florida a few years ago he met a great many people, and it seemed as though every native had a military title, such as "major," "captain" or "colonel." One morning Mr. Gates said to a southern gentleman, "Say, Mr. Hillson, that gentleman you introduced me to last evening looked pretty young for a colonel, don't you think?" "Who -Colonel Leonard? Yes, he is kind of



JOHN W. GATES

game when other men desired to win or lose their money. Finally he pushed a stack of his checks over to the gentleman with the "tab," saying: "Here! Play those, and don't be so much afraid of losing your money."

# Betting \$2,000 on a Card.

The late James Canfield, the proprietor of the gambling house, who was standing by and who saw the incident, tapped the stranger on the shoulder and asked him to step aside with him. After getting out of hearing of the other players he said: "My friend, if you cannot carry yourself as a gentleman I should prefer that you play elsewhere. For your own information I will tell you that the gentleman whom you just insulted is J. W. Gates, president of the Illinois Steel company. The checks that he is playing. four on a card, are worth \$500 each. So you will see that your 'piker' is bet-Major Charles O. Birmingham of ting just twenty times as much as you

"Some women," said Mr. Gates, "not all women, but some of them, are very poor speculators, very poor gam-

"A young friend of mine has a pretty cousin. He was going to the races the other day, and she called him up on the telephone and asked him to put \$10 on Forest King for her.

"'Very well,' he said. 'I'll do it if you'll pay me back.' 'Of course I'll pay you back, you horrid thing!' exclaimed his cousin.

"'All right,' said he. 'You didn't last time. "'Oh, well,' said she, 'last time the borse didn't win, you know.'

Here is another typical Gates story: "I once knew a conductor whose run was out of Chicago for 200 miles eastward. He was noted for the regal manner in which when off duty he spent dollars where other railroad men

modestly laid out dimes. "One day I caught his train at a small station and, sitting in a coach, watched him pass through, collecting tickets and cash fares, the latter being most frequent. Thinking I would hunt him up and have a talk, I went to the next car a little later.

"He sat in one end, throwing silver

young." "Was he in the civil war?" inquired Mr. Gates. "No, I don't think "In the Spanish war?" "No." "Well, how does he get the title of colonel, then?" "Oh, he's a colonel by marriage. You see, he married Colonel Andrews' widow, so he's a colonel himself now, major."

Mrs. Gates told this one:

"I was so ashamed of my husband once in London," said Mrs. Gates. "Among the ordinary tourist stunts which we did on our last trip abroad was a visit to Mme. Tussaud's waxworks. One of our friends asked us how we liked it, and my husband replied, 'Well, it impressed me as very much like any English party."

Mr. Gates once told this tale about a friend of his who went into the Alps in an effort to escape from "all the modern improvements" of life:

"My friend began the ascent to the hospice of St. Bernard," said Mr. Gates. "When about an hour's climb from the pass he was stopped by a dense fog. He waited gleefully, expecting to be rescued by the dogs and so be able to come back to us with a thrilling story. The dogs did not come, however, and the fog partly lifted. So he resumed his climb and finally arrived at the hospice, where he was welcomed warmly by the brothers. His first question was:

"'Why did you not send the dogs out in so dangerous a fog?"

"He nearly dropped from his chair when one of the brothers said:

" You did not telephone us."

" 'Telephone you?' he ejaculated. " 'Yes,' was the answer. 'You see, shelters have been built all along the climb, and each shelter has been provided with a telephone. If a fog comes up all one has to do is to go to the nearest shelter and telephone. We immediately send a man and dog to that shelter. The dog carries bread, cheese and wine. As we know at just what shelter the climber is, no time is lost

in looking for him." Mr. Gates said his friend was so disgusted with having his romantic notions knocked in the head that he left Switzerland at once.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Anne Delezenne, late of the borough of Honesdale, Pa.,

deceased.

All persons indebted to the said estate are notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned; and those having claims against the said estate are notified to present them

Honesdale, July 10, 1911.

# NOTICE OF INCORPORATION.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of Pennsylvania, on the Governor of Pennsylvania, on the
4th day of August, 1911, by W. J.
Hopkins, W. J. Cramer, R. Wonnacott, Z. A. Wonnacott, F. R. Varcoe, W. W. Pierson, and D. W. Hull,
under the act of Assembly approved
April 29, 1874, entitled "An act to
provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations" and the supplements thereto, for the charter of an intended corporation to be called the "Waymart Improve-ment Company," the character and object of which is the purchase and sale of real estate, for holding, leasing, mortgaging, selling and improv-ing real estate, and for these purposes to have and possess and en-joy all the rights, benefits and privileges of the said act of Assembly and its supplements. E. C. MUMFORD, Solicitor.

Honesdale, Pa., July 6, 1911.

#### NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that appli-cation will be made to the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, on the 7th day of August, 1911, at 2 o'clock p. m. under the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of contains regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29, 1874, and the supplements thereto, for the charter for an intended corporation to be "Wayne Development pany" the character and object of which is for the purpose of erecting and constructing dams and reservoirs in the State of Pennsylvania, and for that purpose to acquire land, remove and dispose of any timber and do all other things necessary and incident to the construction of dams and reservoirs, and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy, all the rights, benefits and privil-eges, of said Act of Assembly and its supplements.

LAURENCE H. WATRES, Solicitor. 603 Connell Building, Scranton, Pa. 54eol 6.

#### NOTICE!

JOHN J. BAUMAN v. HONESDALE SHOE COMPANY: In the Circuit Court of the United States for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

No. 109, February Term, 1911. Notice is hereby given that on from a post and stones in the north-June 30, 1911, the Scranton Trust erly line of a tract of land in State company, Receiver of the Honesdale Shoe company, filed its petition for the sale of the equipment and per-sonal property of the said Honesdale tersect the middle line of the Honesshall be made for final confirmation, and that notice be given all creditors, stockholders and directors of the Honesdale Shoe company by mail by publication in two daily newspa-pers of general circulation published one in Scranton and one in Honesdale, in the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Notice is, therefore, hereby given that return of such sale as aforesaid will be made on the 26th day of that motions at that time shall be fied of the same.

> SCRANTON TRUST CO .. Receiver.

O'Brien & Kelly, Warren, Knapp & O'Malley, Attorneys for Receiver.

UDITOR'S NOTICE. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT OF WAYNE COUNTY. No. 305 Docket "N." Estate of C. H. WOODWARD,

The undersigned, an auditor appointed by said court to report distribution of said estate, will attend to the duties of his appoint-

ment on THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1911, at ten o'clock A. M., at his office in the borough of Honesdale, at which time and place all claims against said estate must be proved or recourse to the fund for distribu-tion will be lost. H. WILSON, Auditor Honesdale, Pa., June 26, 1911. 50w

# W. C. SPRY

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S HERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—By virtue of process issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne county, and State of Pennsylvania, and to me directed and delivered, I have levied on and will expose to public sale, at the Court House in Honesdale, on

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, AT 2 P. M. All the defendant's right, title, and interest in the following described property—viz:

#### FIRST.

All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Borough of Honesdale, county of Wayne and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point in the northwestern line of Hill point in the northwestern line of Hill street 150 feet distance from the intersection of the said line of West street; thence along the northern line of Hill street south 39 degrees west 50 feet to a corner; thence in a northwesterly direction at right angles with the aforesaid line of Hill street and along lands of said Reitnauer about 130 feet to Rock street; thence along Rock street 32 street; thence along Rock street 32 and % degrees east about 50 feet to a corner of land of Emma Tolley; thence in a southeasterly direction along the line of Emma Tolley about 140 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing more or less. Being lot No. 4, on the map made by Lewis Collins for Mary H. Wood. Upon the above described premises is a two-story frame dwelling house with modern improvements and a two-story frame shop, which can be easily changed into a dwelling house.

#### SECOND.

Also all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the village of Seelyville, township of Texas Wayne county, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: Beginning in the western line of a lane or alley to a post and north east corner of W. L. Ferguson lot; by land of W. L. Ferguson, August Smith and Charles H. Smith south 21 degrees west (old bearings) 200 feet to corner of a stone wall; thence | land of said Charles Smith and following a stone wall north 19 de-grees west 111 feet to a corner of a stone wall; thence by land of Jacob Mackley and following a stone wall part of the distance 68 degrees east 203 feet to the west line of said lane or alley south 19 degrees east 122 feet to the place of beginning, be the same more or less. With the right of way and use of in and to alleys and lanes from said premises to the Honesdale and Clarksville Turnpike

Upon the said premises is a one and one-half story frame dwelling house, wood-shed and other out

Also, all those lots or parcels of land situated in the village of Seely-ville, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: The first beginning at a point where a line running south 19 degrees east warrantee name of Sylvester Seely and the northwestern corner of land sonal property of the said Honesdate Shoe company, as appears by the said petition; and that upon the said date the Hon. C. B. Witmer, District Judge of the United States Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, authorized and directed the said the Scrapton Trust company to sell to supplied from the northwestern corner from the Scranton Trust company to sell to running from the northwestern corn-J. J. Bauman all of the property of er of Reynolds Cole land; thence J. J. Bauman all of the property of the Honesdale Shoe company, being all of the property described in the said petition, excepting real estate, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, for the sum of twentycumbrances, for the sum of twenty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$27,500); return of sale to be made on the 26th of Luky A. D. 1311 on the 26th of July, A. D. 1911, at feet by the westerly line of lot of 9:30 a. m., at which time motions land conveyed by Robert Westlake to Henry Winter and the continua-25 feet by a line parallel with and 218 feet northerly from said middle the Clerk of the said court and publication in two daily newspa-ville Turnpike road and westerly 218 feet by a line parallel with and 25 feet westerly from said westerly ine to Henry Winter's land and the con-tinuation of the same, be the same more or less. The Third: Beginning in the middle of the said Honesdale and Clarksville Turnpike road at the July, A. D. 1911, at 9:30 a. m. and southwest corner of a lot now owned and occupied by Henry Winter run-\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* made for final confirmation, and all ning thence northerly by the west persons interested are hereby notiline of the said lot 218 feet; thence northerly in a line parallel with the middle line of said turnpike road 25 feet; thence southerly in a line par-allel with said western line of said Winter (being the lot last hereto-fore described) 218 feet to the middle line of said road and thence by said line easterly 25 feet to the place of beginning, be the same more or Always excepting and reservless. ing therefrom the right to enter upon said land at all times when

necessary for the purpose of digging up and keeping in order pipe leading from a certain spring of water to a formerly owned by house All the above described property

being part of the same land Almeda Smith granted and conveyed to William H. Smith, by deed dated February 11, 1908, and recorded in Wayne County Deed Book No. 98,

Upon the three last described lots is a two-story frame dwelling house, barn and stable, carriage-house, open shed, chicken-house and cow-barn. Selzed and taken in execution as

the property of W. H. Smith at the suit of Charles J. Smith, trustee of Almeda G. Smith. Judgment, \$17, 000. No. 69, January Term, 1909. Attorneys, Kimble and Simons.

TAKE NOTICE-All bids and costs must be paid on day of sale or deeds will not be acknowledged. M. LEE BRAMAN, Sheriff. Honesdale, July 18, 1911.

# Piles! Píles! Piles!

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F. P. KIMBLE, Office over the post office Honesdale. Pa.

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Hopse Hopesdale Office in the Court House, Honesdale

DETER H. ILOFF, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR-AT-LAW,
Office-Second floor old Savings Brul
building, Honesdale, Pa.

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CHESTER A. GARRATT, Office adjacent to Post Office, Honesdale, P

## Dentists.

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