

## EX-GOV. J. P. ALTGELD DEAD

### Stricken Down at Close of Pro-Boer Speech at Joliet, Ill.

#### Cerebral Hemorrhage Was the Cause of Death—Fears that Mrs. Altgeld Will Not Survive the Shock.

Joliet, Ill., March 12.—Former Gov. John P. Altgeld died at Hotel Munroe this morning at 7:09 o'clock. Mr. Altgeld was the principal speaker at a pro-Boer mass-meeting last night in the Joliet Theater. Just at the close of his speech a sudden dizziness seized him, and he was assisted from the stage. The meeting proceeded, the audience not realizing what had happened. Physicians were summoned, and Mr. Altgeld was carried to the hotel across the street. He retained consciousness and urged the newspaper men to keep the affair quiet for fear of alarming his wife. Shortly before midnight he became unconscious. He remained in this condition until death. The cause of death is given as cerebral hemorrhage, there having been an apoplectic seizure of the brain.

Mr. Altgeld came to Joliet yesterday afternoon. He confessed that he was not in the best of health, having been troubled with some apparently simple stomach ailment. He was not willing to allow that to interfere with his speech, his great interest in the South African struggle having been heightened by the announcement of the Boer success in the capture of Gen. Methuen.

It was noted during the address that the ex-governor threw an unusual amount of energy and feeling into his words, and the collapse, the physicians think, resulted from overstraining his already weakened physical powers. He had not been in good health for several years.

Clarence Darrow, a lifelong friend and later a law partner of the ex-governor, reached here this morning. He said that the governor died as he had lived, pleading the cause of the lowly.

Mr. Altgeld, in the speech which was fated to be his last, declared that all friends of humanity owed a debt of gratitude to Gov. Yates for issuing a proclamation soliciting assistance for the Boer women and children in their concentration camps which the British are maintaining in South Africa.

The speaker said that the people of America had raised a large sum of money with which to relieve the distress of the Boer women and children, but were unable to send it to them because Lord Pauncefote, the British Ambassador at Washington, objected to it. He further charged that Lord Pauncefote had for years meddled in American affairs.

There were eighteen counts and specific charges in Gov. Altgeld's indictment. He said in substance:

"Just before the beginning of the Spanish war Lord Pauncefote, representing the aristocracy, meddled in our affairs and tried to unite the governments of Europe in making a joint protest against America's interference on behalf of Cuba. But when the American people asserted themselves and our government was compelled to go to the rescue of Cuba, England issued a strong neutrality proclamation, forbidding all of her subjects everywhere from furnishing us any aid or doing anything that would in any way be a violation of strictest neutrality."

It was a speech typical of the old governor who had risen from the towpath to the chief office of the State.

It was Gov. Altgeld who pardoned the three Chicago anarchists, and whose views were frequently called anarchistic, yet his sincerity was questioned by few.

No post-mortem will be held, as the family does not wish it, being content with the statement of the physicians that he died from cerebral hemorrhage.

Chicago, March 12.—Mrs. Altgeld, widow of the former governor who died to-day, was prostrated by the shock of the news from Joliet. Grave apprehension for her welfare is felt, as she has been in delicate health for two years. The decedent leaves no children.

John Peter Altgeld was born in Germany in 1847, and was brought to this country in infancy. His parents settled near Mansfield, Ohio, and he was educated in the public schools. He started life as a laborer at the towpath, but at the age of sixteen he entered the Union army and served until the end of the war. Then he taught school for a time in Missouri, studying law the while. He was admitted to the bar in 1869.

To a man of Altgeld's temperament the quiet of a barrister's office was not to his liking, and he soon turned for relief to politics. From 1874, when he was elected State's attorney for Andrew County, Mo., until the day of his death, he was one of the most prominent men in the political arena of the Middle West.

In 1875 he went to Chicago and began the practice of law. He had then a capital of \$50,000. Soon he had built up a lucrative practice and was in comfortable financial circumstances. Ten years afterward his wealth was estimated at \$1,000,000. Later, by speculation in real estate, he was said to have lost the bulk of his property.

In 1884 he ran for Congress in the Fourth district, but was defeated. In 1886 he became judge of the Superior Court of Cook County, but suddenly resigned in 1891. Next year he was nominated for governor, and was carried into power on the crest of the wave which landed Grover Cleveland in the White House for a second term.

During his term as governor Mr. Altgeld had ardent champions and bitter enemies. One of his acts that caused much dispute was the pardoning of the anarchists Fielden, Schwab, and Neebe, who were in the Joliet Penitentiary for participation in the Haymarket riot.

His action during the Pullman strike in Chicago in 1894, when he failed to call out the troops, and President Cleveland himself ordered them to the scene, was also a subject of much debate.

For years Mr. Altgeld was an ardent advocate of the free coinage of silver and the municipal ownership of public utilities. In the municipal campaign of 1899 Mr. Altgeld bolted the nomination of Harrison for mayor and was defeated as an independent candidate.

Mr. Altgeld was married in 1877 to Miss Ford, of Richland County, Ohio.

Mr. Altgeld was one of the most prominent orators in the country. His oratory was not conventional, but in its very ruggedness lay its strength.