

COLDEST DAY FOR SEASON SINCE 1876.

Thermometer Reaches Thirteen Degrees Below Zero—Fourteen Is the Record.

WARMER WEATHER PREDICTED

Switchman Is Found Frozen to Death—Streets So Slippery Fire Engines Are Unable to Save Big Store.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—This was the coldest day in Chicago for this season of the year since 1876. Early this morning the temperature began to go down until at 8 a. m. it had reached 13 below. The only time that this mark has been passed in the history of the Weather Bureau was December 3, 1878, when it below was registered.

During the day it began to moderate, and to-night the mercury is hovering around the zero mark, and the indications for tomorrow are for warmer weather with snowfalls.

On account of the cold and the heavy condition of the streets owing to the heavy fall of snow yesterday, the three-story department store of Bodiniski & Co. in West Twenty-second street, was destroyed by fire.

A special call for engines was sent in, but before they could reach the scene of the fire through the drifts of snow the building had been completely destroyed, causing a loss of \$85,000.

So far but one death, that of William Duffy, a switchman, who was found frozen to death in the Chicago and North-western Railroad yards, has been reported.

COLDEST OF THE SEASON.

Thermometer Varies From 4 to 24 Degrees Below in Northwest.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 13.—The Northwest to-day experienced the coldest weather of the season, the thermometer ranging from 4 to 24 degrees below zero at the various stations of the Weather Bureau. There is apparently no prospect for immediate relief.

Trains on all railroads are delayed because of the intense cold. In this city the minimum was 22 below, reached early in the morning. The maximum for the day was minus 5 degrees. Toward night the mercury again began to settle in the tube and at 9 o'clock was 12 below.

COLD AT DETROIT.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 13.—Detroit is tonight having its first zero winter weather. At 9:30 o'clock to-night the thermometer in the United States Weather Bureau registered 3 degrees below zero. The thermometer has hovered between 9 and 5.

TRAINS ARE DELAYED.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 13.—A terrific wind and snow storm has been sweeping over the upper peninsula to-day, and all trains are delayed. Some trains have managed to pull through and others are completely stalled. The cars at Mackinaw is held up on account of the storm, and roads through the country are impassable. It is one of the worst storms in years.

LEOP OF FORTY DEGREES.

Burlington, Ia., Dec. 13.—There has been a forty degree increase in temperature here within eighteen hours. To-night the mercury stood at 10 below zero.

WARMER AT KANSAS CITY.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 13.—The temperature at 11 o'clock to-night was 17 degrees above zero and rising. The lowest temperature reached during the present cold spell was 1 above zero, at 7 o'clock this morning. There is no snow on the ground.

SIXTEEN BELOW AT MILWAUKEE.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 13.—The minimum temperature reported in Wisconsin to-day was 36 degrees below zero, at Unity, in the northern portion. The cold wave is general throughout the State. Street thermometers in Milwaukee registered 16 below. Eighteen families applied to the Associated Charities to-day for assistance, but no fatalities are reported.

TRAFFIC IMPEDED.

Houghton, Mich., Dec. 13.—A terrific snowstorm, with temperatures below zero, has prevailed here since yesterday. Both steam and electric railroads have been unable to maintain schedules. Rock trains were moved with difficulty yesterday, and it is feared that all stamp mills cannot accept a supply of rock to-morrow.

ICE EXPECTED ON OHIO.

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 13.—The coldest weather of the season is being experienced to-night and ice is expected in the Ohio River before morning. The pleasure boat "Cruiser," while trying to make Green River this afternoon, struck a log and a large hole was made in her hull. Many boats have gone into winter quarters in Green River.

FOOTPADS MAKE VICTIM RUN.

Charles Orr Robbed by Three Highwaymen Carrying Pistols.

After robbing Charles Orr of \$25 at Butler street and California avenue about 8 o'clock last evening, three highwaymen leveled their revolvers at Orr's head and forced him to run from the scene of the hold-up.

Orr was walking west on Rutger street, when the men, who were standing at the corner of California avenue, stepped in front of him and demanded that he raise his hands. With their weapons pressed against his forehead, the footpads searched Orr's pockets, taking his pocket-book and contents.

Orr went to the Lafayette Park subsection of the Third District and reported the robbery. He lives at No. 422 St. Ferdinand avenue.

QUICKER THAN HIGHWAYMEN.

Dan Gleason Shoots at Thieves Before They Could Rob Him.

Dan Gleason of No. 2522 Scott avenue, about 10:30 o'clock last night, fired at and frightened away two highwaymen who attempted to rob him.

Gleason was passing the corner of Compton and Chouteau avenues when the two men stopped him and demanded his money.

Though the robbers displayed pistols and flashed them in Gleason's face, the latter brought his own weapon into play so quickly that the hold-up men ran north on Compton avenue. They were not captured by the policemen, attracted by Gleason's shout.

Gleason has a considerable sum of money in his possession and was congratulated upon not losing a cent.

LACY CRAWFORD'S DOG WINS.

Rector Captures the John Grace Cup at San Francisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 13.—In the course of the valuable John Grace Cup was won by Rector, owned by G. Lacy Crawford of St. Louis. The consolation stake was won by Troublesome, owned by E. Kellough of Iowa.

GAVE LOUISIANA TO KING OF SPAIN.

Louis XV, King of France, Casually Ceded Vast Territory to Cousin as Friendly Act.

BRITAIN REFUSED THE GIFT.

Interesting Documents Bearing on History of Domain to Be Celebrated by World's Fair Are Found.

Paris, Dec. 13.—Under the authority of M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. Spencer Pratt, former United States Minister to Persia, who is now residing here, is making extensive researches in the archives of the Foreign Office relative to the transfer of the Province of Louisiana by France to the United States. The investigation has brought to light all the circumstantial details of the transaction, including the confidential letters of the French Minister at Washington advising his Government as to the various stages of the negotiations, and the letters and documents signed by President Jefferson and Secretary of State Madison.

Many of these hitherto have been unavailable, owing to the rules of the Foreign Office, which have prevented the copying of documents in the archives.

In speaking of his investigations to the Associated Press, Mr. Pratt said: "One of the most curious documents found is an autograph letter of Louis XV, giving away the vast Louisiana Territory to his cousin, then King of Spain, as a present. The fact of this gift has hitherto been known only in a general way. The letter discloses the casual nature of the gift, and also the fact that Louis XV, previously offered Louisiana to Great Britain, which refused to accept it."

DEPRECATED THE GIFT.

The text of the letter relating to the gift is as follows: "I have caused the Marquis de Grimaldi, subject to your Majesty's pleasure, to sign a cession of New Orleans and Louisiana to Spain, had offered it to the English in Black Florida, but they refused it. I would have ceded them other possessions to have spared Spain having to cede this latter one, but I fear that any accession in the Gulf of Mexico might lead to serious consequences. I feel that Louisiana is a poor compensation for your Majesty for the losses you have sustained, but in ceding you this colony, I consider less its value than the good accomplished in uniting the Spanish and the French nations. Union is alike necessary for our subjects and our house."

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Budweiser's Greatest Triumph

Declared superior to the best Bohemian beers by the Imperial Experimental Station for the Brewing Industry at Prague, as announced by the following Associated Press cablegram:—

American Brewer Makes Best Beer in the World. (Special to the Associated Press.)

Prague, Bohemia, Dec. 1.—The Imperial Scientific Commission investigating the different kinds of beer of the world has awarded the highest honor for superiority to an American product.

A correct translation of the results of their examinations is given below, with the Imperial and Royal Notarial and United States Consular verifications.

Upon subjecting a sample of BUDWEISER Beer, brewed by the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Ass'n, St. Louis, U. S. A. to a thorough examination, we declare it to be a fully matured lager beer. Its whole nature bears witness to the fact that only the very best materials were used, and that the greatest cleanliness prevailed in its manufacture. The product is not only similar to the highest grade of Bohemian Pale Beers in all its properties, but surpasses our best beers in keeping qualities, which is of the utmost importance.

Experimental Station for the Industry of Brewing, Prague, Bohemia. JAROSLAV SULA, Supt. and Manager.

I hereby certify that Mr. Jaroslav Sula is personally known to me as the Official Chemist of the Experimental Station for the Brewing Industry of Bohemia, and has this day executed and signed the above document in my presence. J. U. DR. JOHANN SLAMENIK, Imperial and Royal Notary, Prague.

I certify that the foregoing authentication is under the official seal of J. U. Dr. Johann Slamenik, Imperial and Royal Notary, and is entitled to full faith and credit. In testimony whereof I, Arnold Weissberger, Vice and Deputy Consul of the United States of America, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of this consulate to be affixed. Done in this city of Prague this third day of November, 1903. ARNOLD WEISSBERGER, U. S. V. & D. Consul.

Budweiser Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Is bottled only at its home, the Anheuser-Busch Brewery St. Louis, U. S. A.

BULLET WOUNDS SLEEPING BABY.

Child of Louis Tendick Shot as Result of Scuffle Over Pistol at Party.

A scuffle for the possession of a revolver resulted in the shooting of 7-month-old Elsworth Tendick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Tendick, of No. 214 Blair avenue, last night. Edward Wiese, of No. 122 North Sherman street, and Harry Tendick, a brother of the child's father, were arrested pending an investigation.

At the time of the shooting the revolver, which belonged to the child's father, and which was a .32-caliber weapon, was in the hands of Wiese, who had called to borrow the pistol.

The shooting occurred about 8:15 o'clock. Wiese called, it is said, and asked for the revolver. He was refused at first, it is claimed by Tendick, but was invited to join a little party of several guests, who were enjoying a pitcher of beer in the parlor. The child was lying on a bed in the same room, sleeping.

Several minutes later, according to the father, Wiese spied the pistol under a bureau and extracted it, placing the weapon in his pocket.

Wiese then went downstairs, but came back in a few minutes. Upon his return, according to information obtained by the police, some one in the party made a remark which Louis Tendick did not approve of, and he asked Wiese for the pistol. Wiese reached in his pocket and drew the weapon, whereupon Harry Tendick reached for it in order to keep it from his brother, and a shot was discharged. It is believed that the bullet struck the child on the left side of the head and came out of the back of the skull.

Wiese ran for Doctor John Kern immediately, and the parents of the child sent for Doctor Charles Lewis of No. 192 Monroe street.

It was stated that the ball had passed through the child's brain.

Wiese went to the Fifth District Police Station, where he gave himself up. He is married and works for the Kregel Casket Company.

The father of the child denies that there was any scuffle, and declares that Wiese is not guilty of any malice in the affair. The child was still alive at an early hour this morning.

POLICE EXCHANGE SHOTS WITH NEGRO HIGHWAYMEN.

Three Thieves, After Breaking Shop Window, Are Felled in Attempt to Rob Store.

Three negroes were felled in an attempt to rob Mrs. L. Markman's store, No. 212 North Fourteenth street, at 10 o'clock last night, and escaped after exchanging shots with Patrolman McCarthy and Private Watchmen McIntyre and McDaniels, who pursued the robbers for several blocks.

The negroes while pretending to examine glass displayed in the window broke the glass.

Patrolman McCarthy, who was standing in a hallway watching the men, started toward them, but they ran.

In the chase along Fourteenth street in the direction of the railroad yards, McCarthy fired several shots. The negroes also drew their weapons and returned the fire.

An inventory of the stock in Mrs. Markman's window showed that nothing had been taken.

Increase in Gross Earnings.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 13.—The gross earnings of the Chicago Great Western Railway for the first week of December 1903, show an increase of \$3,174 over the corresponding week of last year. The total increase from the beginning of the fiscal year over the previous year is \$167,742.

Half Rates to Texas, December 15.

Cotton Belt, 309 Olive and Union Station.

HAPPENINGS IN EAST SIDE CITIES AND TOWNS.

FROZEN MAINS DELAY FIREMEN.

Swift & Co's Fertilizer Plant in East St. Louis Burns; Loss, \$30,000.

Swift & Co's fertilizer plant, north of the packing-houses at the National Stock Yards, burned last night. The loss was complete and is estimated to be \$30,000. The greater part of the loss was on the building and the machinery.

According to officials, there was comparatively little stock in the building. No fire was reported in the plant, but the cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion, and the entire northwest corner was ablaze before it was discovered. The Stock Yards Fire Department and the East St. Louis Fire Department were called out. There was very little pressure in the water mains, several of which were frozen, and the firemen suffered a handicap which they could not overcome when later the pipes thawed out from the heat of the fire.

The fertilizer plant was a wooden structure, about 200 feet square. It was two stories in height and contained, besides the machinery, an office and storeroom. The greater part of the fertilizer, which had been made during the summer, was shipped out in the early fall. The loss on stock is, therefore, not considered very great.

The flames from the fire illuminated the city for several miles, and persons from St. Louis and other places were attracted to the scene. The fire was extinguished by the Swift fertilizer plant burned a month ago. It has since been rebuilt of brick.

INSPECT STREET RAILWAYS.

Officials of the East Side Electric railway toured the lines on an inspection trip, which lasted all day yesterday.

They boarded the special car, "The Bluffs," at East St. Louis and went to Collinsville by way of Monk's Mound, thence to Edwardsville, returning to Collinsville and from there to French Village, thence to O'Fallon and Lebanon, Edgemoor to Belleville and then back to East St. Louis. Dinner and luncheon were served aboard the car.

In the party were: President C. M. Clark, Philadelphia; Vice President L. C. Haynes, East St. Louis; General Superintendent J. M. Brammick, East St. Louis; Secretary and Treasurer G. L. Eastbrook, Philadelphia; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer T. W. Gregory, Superintendent of Transportation W. H. Guyton and J. A. Campbell, Superintendent of Power John Kelley, Superintendent of Overhead Construction R. W. Bille, Passenger and Excursion Agent F. H. Thomas, Freight Agent C. S. Darrach, Superintendent Electric Light Department H. B. Suser, East St. Louis, and M. W. Schaefer, Belleville.

Jerseyville Notes.

Senator T. S. Chapman and Judge A. M. Riley of Jerseyville have returned from Nebraska.

The pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church in Jerseyville was occupied yesterday by the Reverend J. H. Stock, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Vidon, Ill.

The Reverend Doctor Jay A. Ford preached at the First Baptist Church in Jerseyville yesterday morning on "The Purpose of the Church," and last evening on "How to Be Loved."

Charles Powers of Chicago is the guest of his parents, Sheriff and Mrs. William Powers, in Jerseyville.

The special evangelistic meetings at the First Baptist Church in Jerseyville, conducted by the pastor, the Reverend J. O. Heister, and the Reverend J. H. Stock, concluded last night. The meetings will continue through the present week.

SAY FEES ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR.

Alton City Council Orders Investigation of Comptroller's and Investigator's Books.

The Alton City Council at a meeting Saturday night appropriated \$750 and employed the firm of Jones, Caesar & Co., expert accountants, to examine the books of the city administration for eight years preceding last April. The appropriation was made by a vote of 8 to 4.

The Finance Committee of the Council, consisting of Aldermen Gibson, Dahlstrom, Fitzgerald and Noonan, made a report to the Council that after examining the books of former Comptroller Otto Gosrau and former Police Magistrate B. C. Fees, they were unable to find some of the fees which were supposed to have been collected by the officials. In the office of Comptroller Gosrau the committee reported that a sum in excess of \$29,000 in fees belonging to the city was \$28,150. This amount was made up, according to the committee's report, of fees which Comptroller Gosrau had collected and which had also been collected by Alderman Dahlstrom, who made the report for the committee.

Alderman Dahlstrom, who made the report for the committee, reported that Comptroller Gosrau denied that there was any shortage in his office and that if any were found by the committee it was the result of a mistake in the books made by others. Comptroller Gosrau offered to reimburse a check for \$24 to cover any mistake that might be found. Alderman Dahlstrom reported that the committee refused the tender.

The Council accepted the report of the committee and ordered that suits be brought against the two former officials for the amounts alleged to be due. The Council also ordered the matter brought to the attention of the Grand Jury of the January term of the Madison County Circuit Court at Edwardsville.

The death of Mr. Dickey occurred at the National Soldiers' Home at Quincy, Ill., on Thursday. He was 65 years old. Death was due to drinking a quantity of poisonous liniment, he mistaking it for coffee.

Alexander Black of Alton, 83 years old, was buried yesterday afternoon from the First Baptist Church, officiated, and the burial was in the City Cemetery.

The death of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Holton occurred on Thursday evening at her home in Madison street. Mrs. Holton was 72 years old. The funeral will take place at the First Baptist Church in Upper Alton, officiated, and the burial was in the City Cemetery.

The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Holton took place yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of John Huebner in Market street. The services were under the auspices of Alton Post, No. 41, of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Reverend W. H. Bushnell, pastor of the Twelfth Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, officiated, being assisted by the post chaplain, James Pack. The burial was in the City Cemetery.

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STEEL SCREENS ON JAIL.

Sheriff Thompson Determined to Stop Smuggling of Guns to Prisoners.

Sheriff Thompson of Belleville will ask the St. Clair County Board of Supervisors at its next meeting to install a series of steel screens about six inches apart so as to effectually prevent the passage or smuggling of any article into the County Jail.

The request is the result of the discovery of the revolver which Ben Page, an East St. Louis negro prisoner, had smuggled into the jail. Page was released from the "solitary" yesterday, but he refused to tell Sheriff Thompson where or how he came into possession of the revolver. Sheriff Thompson believes that the revolver was hidden in the act of smuggling whiskey into the jail.

Thompson also will urge the necessity for an increase in the accommodations for prisoners at the jail. That institution now contains 147 prisoners, seventy-four more than there are accommodations for. An entire new wing, it is estimated, would cost \$100,000. The number of prisoners in the jail is increasing.

SECTION MAN FATALLY HURT.

Alois Geier Sustained Broken Neck by Being Struck by Locomotive.

Alois Geier, 59 years old, a section hand on the Illinois Central Railroad, was struck on the head by a passing train while at work near Belleville yesterday morning and killed. His neck was broken.

Geier was married and lived at No. 721 West Second street, Belleville. The inquest resulted in a verdict of accidental death.

Geier was cleaning snow and ice from between the switches when a northbound freight train whistled at him. He stepped from the track, but Geier went under the impression that he had plenty of time to get out of the way. The locomotive struck him on the side of the head. The engine of the train resulted in the death of the section man.

RAILS WERE NOT SEPARATED.

C. P. & St. L. R. Changes Course of Track Under Difficulties.

A feat in railroad engineering under difficulties was performed at Edwardsville yesterday. The C. P. & St. L. has been shortening its line through the city, cutting out reverse curves and reducing the grade. The work would have been completed last week but for a hard rain storm, froze the track in a solid mass. It was decided to proceed in the face of the situation, and Roadmaster J. W. Sweeney and Engineer Welch marshaled a force of 100 men at daylight Sunday morning and started to work.

Hydraulic jacks were placed under the track and rails, ties and ballast, cemented by the frost in a mass hard as rock, were raised a few inches. With crowbars, picks and axes the men then picked the ballast loose. So hard was the mass that frequently pieces of the ties came away with the frozen lumps of dirt and rock.

When freed of this weight the track was then, by bars, forced across twenty feet to the new location. A quarter-mile was laboriously changed in this manner without breaking the rail connections, and at 9 o'clock last night the first train passed over it.

East St. Louis Items.

Mrs. E. F. Gough will entertain the Women's Guild of the Episcopal Church this afternoon.

Mrs. and Mrs. E. L. Woodson entertained friends at dinner yesterday.

The funeral of Gustav L. Wilhelm, aged 23 years, of No. 1120 Illinois avenue, will take place at 2 o'clock to-morrow.

PREVALLET IDENTIFIES ALLEGED SALOON ROBBER.

Charles Havens, a Waiter, Accused of Putting Bartender in Ice Box and Hiding Cash Drawer.

Charles Havens, a waiter, was identified yesterday afternoon by Thomas Prevallet, bartender in John Busenbart's saloon, No. 187 North Broadway, as the man who, with "Dick" Kerley and Hugh Landy, robbed the saloon and put him in the ice box a week ago.

Havens was arrested at his home, No. 103 Market street, Saturday night by Special Officers Cremins and Finan. When "swabbed" by Assistant Chief Keely, Havens denied connection with the robbery. Prevallet was notified and came to the Four Courts yesterday afternoon. He declared that he was sure of Havens, and told Chief Keely that the suspect was the first to come into the saloon.

According to Prevallet's account, Havens spent nearly half an hour in the saloon before he was joined by Kerley and Landy. When several patrons had departed, Kerley and Landy came into the saloon. Prevallet says, was standing at the bar. As Kerley and Landy, he says, reached the bar they both drew revolvers and, covering the bartender, forced him to crawl into the ice box after permitting him to don his overcoat.

Havens went behind the bar. Prevallet says,