

# ARMY CAPTAIN SLAYS FOUR, ROBS BANK AND KILLS SELF

## 23 KILLED AND HUNDREDS INJURED IN WORST SNOW STORM FOR MANY YEARS

Railroads Are Paralyzed and Several Cities Are Completely Isolated; New York Has Tropical Storm Which Floods City; South and Southwest In Grip of Zero Temperatures.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The severest cold wave of many years gripped the country today from the Rocky mountains eastward to the Alleghenies, and will move on to the Atlantic coast tonight and Sunday.

Twenty degrees below zero was the rule in Indiana and surrounding territory, while the cold extended southward as far as the Gulf of Mexico, with temperatures there ranging around 18 degrees above zero. Traffic throughout the middle west is greatly impeded and coal shortage causes much suffering.

To the extreme southern limit of the Florida main land temperatures tonight will fall below freezing and cold will be more intense all the way northward to the Canadian border. The cold will continue through Sunday.

### MANY KILLED.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 12.—With the south in the grip of its worst snow and sleet storm of the winter today, early reports showed that tornadoes which swept through eastern Alabama and central Georgia had taken a toll of 16 lives and injured more than 100 persons.

Wire communication over a great area was paralyzed, scores of small towns in the interior being isolated, while Savannah, Charleston, Jacksonville and other cities along the south Atlantic coast were cut off from outside communication.

### Many Deaths.

The deaths and injured reported early today were as follows: Cowarts, Ala., seven killed and 25 injured.

Dothan, Ala., six children killed and 40 injured in collapse of school house in country near Dothan.

Webb, Ala., one killed and estimated 70 injured in destruction of store and other buildings.

Troy, Ala., one killed and several injured.

Macon, Ga., one killed at Camp Wheeler and several injured.

### Low Barometer.

The cold wave that extended as far south as Florida was preceded by an unusually low barometric pressure, 28.98 being recorded at Knoxville, while thunder storms and lightning accompanied a heavy snowfall at Asheville, N. C.

It was thought today that sleet and high winds were the chief causes of the isolation of most of the towns and that little or no damage had resulted in the larger cities.

### Blows Down Tents.

The tornado, at Camp Wheeler blew down some 16 hospital tents, containing 150 patients, and heavy rains flooded other tents. One private was reported killed in the collapse of the corral of the 122d infantry, while the base ball and race track grand stand at the fair grounds were badly damaged and the winter quarters of a circus was demolished, many animals being killed.

### Traffic Tie-Up.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 12.—After the lowest plunge of the mercury in nearly 20 years, the southwest was hoping for a reaction to warmer weather today, based on weather bureau predictions of slowly rising temperature.

In the wake of the blizzard and the record cold weather that followed at many points came disorganization of wire and train communication, frantic calls for coal, failure of gas service in the Omaha-Kansas fields and much suffering everywhere, but especially in the oil districts, where many buildings were incapable of resisting such low temperatures.

### Worst Since 1873.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 12.—A blizzard that broke all records in St. Louis county since 1873 raged throughout the night, setting a low temperature mark in St. Louis of 19 degrees below zero. Temperatures ranged from (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

## The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair; slowly rising temperature.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Wind	Dir.
5 a. m.	-11	11	W
6 a. m.	-11	11	W
7 a. m.	-11	11	W
8 a. m.	-11	11	W
9 a. m.	-11	11	W
10 a. m.	-11	11	W
11 a. m.	-11	11	W
12 m.	-11	11	W
1 p. m.	-11	11	W
2 p. m.	-11	11	W
3 p. m.	-11	11	W
4 p. m.	-11	11	W
5 p. m.	-11	11	W
6 p. m.	-11	11	W
7 p. m.	-11	11	W
8 p. m.	-11	11	W
9 p. m.	-11	11	W
10 p. m.	-11	11	W
11 p. m.	-11	11	W
12 m.	-11	11	W

Comparative Local Record.

Year	Temp.	Wind	Dir.
Highest yesterday	1918	1917	1914
Lowest yesterday	1918	1917	1914
Mean temperature	1918	1917	1914
Precipitation	1918	1917	1914
Normal precipitation	1918	1917	1914
Deficiency for the day	1918	1917	1914
Total deficiency since March 1	1918	1917	1914
Normal precipitation	1918	1917	1914
Deficiency for the day	1918	1917	1914
Total rainfall since March 1	1918	1917	1914
Deficiency since March 1	1918	1917	1914
Deficiency for cor. period, 1918	1917	1914	1914
Deficiency for cor. period, 1918	1917	1914	1914

Deficiency for cor. period, 1918, 1.61 inches

## Buying Everything in Sight



## BRITISH SET UP RELATIONS WITH "REDS" LEGATE

Russ Continue Peace Negotiations at Brest-Litovsk; Trotzky Declares Against Secret Diplomacy.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 12.—The British government has decided to establish informal relations with Maxim Litvoff, who was appointed by the Bolshevik government as Russian ambassador at London, according to the Daily Mail. This step, adds the newspaper, has been taken with a view to obtaining useful information in regard to conditions in Russia.

### Remain at Brest-Litovsk.

Amsterdam, Jan. 12.—Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, at the conference at Brest-Litovsk yesterday said that in order not to leave any possibility in the fight for peace unutilized the Russian delegation accepted the German demand that the negotiations be continued at Brest-Litovsk.

The chairman of the Russian delegation said that, in full accord with their former resolution, the Russians desired to continue the peace negotiations quite apart from the fact whether or not the entente powers participated.

### General Peace.

Trotzky said he had noted the statement of the central powers that the basis of a general peace as formulated in their declaration of December 25 was null and void and added: "We adhere to the principles of democratic peace as proclaimed by us."

Referring to the objection raised by the central powers that the transfer of the negotiations to Stockholm or some other neutral point, as requested by Russia, might enable the entente nations to interfere, Mr. Trotzky said the Bolshevik government had been consistent and independent in its peace policy and that there was no reason to assume entente plots.

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## WAR SECRETARY GRILLED BY SENATE COMMITTEE; SHARP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

Baker Is Accused of Giving Country Wrong Impression of Departmental Conditions; U. S. Will Feel Secure When Facts Are Known, He Assures Investigators at Washington.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 12.—Secretary Baker came in for more sharp cross-examination today at the hands of the senate military committee conducting the war inquiry. The committee demanded to know what had been done about 1,200 Lewis machine guns held in storage, while cantonments and camps need them for practice.

### Secretary Baker promised that they immediately would be distributed, and Senator Weeks observed that the distribution had been delayed a month.

### TOO MUCH DELAY.

"That is the essence of this whole thing," said Senator Weeks. "There is delay, too much delay. Things that should be done at once are delayed when every day counts."

"Mr. Secretary," Chairman Chamberlain broke in, "your general statements of conditions are all calculated to leave the impression that all these matters are really in good shape."

The senator cited reports of clothing shortages at Camp Sherman and added:

### FEELING OF SECURITY.

"The effect on the country of your statements is to give it a feeling of security that everything has been done that should have been done. I don't think it has."

"I think the country is entitled to feel secure," Mr. Baker replied earnestly. "When the facts are known the country will feel secure."

Senator Hitchcock, another democratic member of the committee said: "But, Mr. Secretary, we have specific testimony of exact clothing shortages, while your testimony seems to contradict them completely."

Mr. Baker said the shortages cited might be of final and not initial equipment.

"I agree with the chairman," continued Senator Hitchcock, "that you seem to have the impression that everything is lovely, that there are no shortages and that these reports are unjustified."

### Conditions Not Perfect.

"Quite the contrary," Mr. Baker answered. "I want to give the picture as it is. There was a shortage of overcoats and other clothing. But I think the figures of shortages you have were at the climax of the shortages. I think the country ought to have the knowledge that since those discouraging days supplies have been very much increased. Conditions are not perfect, of course."

"The fault I find," the chairman replied, "is that if congress and the people get the impression, which your general statements give, that everything is all right, they will believe that no legislation to correct the department's system is necessary, and from our testimony I think it is necessary."

"But I must insist," said Mr. Baker, "that under facts as they are the country is entitled to reassurance."

### Early Mistakes.

Mr. Baker cited statistics of shortage early in December and how supplies had been increased during the month. Mistakes in distribution and (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

## SUICIDE FIXES GUILT FOR CRIME AT CAMP FUNSTON

Lewis R. Whisler of Salina, Kan., Found Dead in Office After Order Is Issued to All Officers to Have Finger Prints Taken; Leaves Note To Woman.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 12.—After murdering four men in charge of the army bank at Camp Funston with an ax and battering their bodies beyond recognition in an effort to obtain \$475,000 in cash which was believed to be secreted in the vaults, Captain Lewis R. Whisler of Salina, Kan., late today, took his own life.

His suicide followed a general order issued after the quadruple murder requiring all captains to report and have their finger prints taken.

### NOTE TO WOMAN.

Captain Whisler used a regulation service rifle, shooting himself twice in the head. The first bullet glanced and the second entered the brain.

He left a note addressed to a woman, which read: "I have been thinking of committing suicide for a long time but I never had a good reason. Yesterday I went out and made myself a reason."

His body was found in his office. Where Captain Whisler had washed himself last night there were found many splashes of blood. A table in the room was smeared with blood, and two soaked towels were found.

### Borrowed Two Hatchets.

Captain Whisler, it is said, borrowed two hatchets from a supply company late yesterday, and today he borrowed two more.

Four hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars in cash, the larger part of which would have been deposited in the army bank at Camp Funston, was sent from here yesterday and was scheduled to reach the bank late yesterday afternoon, it became known today. However, the shipment was delayed and did not arrive until today.

Kearney Wornall of Kansas City, the only survivor of the five men who were in the army bank here last night when the institution was robbed, told the authorities the robber was an army captain whom he recognized, it was announced this afternoon.

"The murders were committed by a captain," Wornall told the authorities. "He wore no mask. He came into the bank and said he was short of money and hated to do it. The man's face is familiar with me. Winters was well acquainted with him."

### Sees He Is Recognized.

Efforts on the part of Wornall's questioners to obtain further information were futile, as the injured man soon lapsed into unconsciousness. When he made the statement that an army captain committed the murders his mind seemed to be working clearly, it was said.

According to Wornall, an insistent knock at the door of the bank building about 8:30 o'clock last night, caused them to admit a man who immediately covered them with a revolver. He then commanded Wornall to tie the hands of the others, Wornall says, after which he tied Wornall's hands.

Wornall said he thought the robber realized that he was recognized by some of his victims and that he decided to kill them. The robber picked up a hand saw from the floor and began raining blows upon the heads and faces of the helpless men.

### Sentry Found Wornall.

C. F. Winters, vice president of the National Reserve bank of Kansas City and cashier of the army bank, was the first man attacked. He died early today. O. M. Hill and Carl Ohelson, clerks, were next struck down, after which the man attacked Wornall and John Jewell of Springfield.

Wornall, when found by a sentry, was taken to an infirmary. A detail was sent to the bank building. The four bodies were found and the military police notified. Wornall was removed to the base hospital at Fort Riley.

### Winters received four or five severe cuts on the head and forehead. Hill and Jewell were beaten about the head almost beyond recognition. Ohelson was apparently killed instantly by a blow on the forehead with the blade of the ax.

### Murders a Mystery.

Officials in charge of the case were asking themselves how it was possible the murders could have taken (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

## REDS BATTLE FOR HOURS WITH ARMY OF UKRAINIANS

Petrograd, Jan. 12.—Fighting lasting seven hours has taken place between Maximalist and Ukrainian troops near Rachnatch, in the government of Tchernigov, according to advices received here. The fighting is said to have resulted in severe casualties.

A Reuters Limited dispatch from Petrograd says it is reported there that the Ukrainian troops have occupied Rachnatch, in the government of Tchernigov, after severe fighting. Bolshevik detachments have seized the stations at Debalzovo, in Kiev, and Inovska and Semenov.

## Horse Draws Baggage Trucks At Union Station in Freezeup

That "necessity is the mother of invention" was proven for the millionth time Friday night when horses were used at the Union station to draw baggage trucks. Thin, heavily packed layers of snow blocking the runways was the cause.

At first the apparition of a shadow, a bony white horse among the sheds of the station platform caused a number of surprised and questioning glances, but as the reason for the people ceased to wonder, and their interest became quite casual.

This, however, was only one of the evidences of the extreme cold of last night. His majesty, the personage whose business is to heat the depot and outlying yard sheds, sauntered through the general waiting room at 10:30 and scattered his personal views broadcast among the common human beings assembled

there. The views concerned the weather, Rock Springs coal, and himself—mainly himself. "Why," he said, swelling out his chest with great importance, "I'll use 20 tons of coal tonight! Rock Springs coal, too. 'Tain't cheap; by no means, 'tain't. You know, when they tried to get me to take this job—? And so on interminably until late and a puff of cold air through a suddenly opened door brought him back to the original subject. "Twenty-eight below. Yeah, fact! Gettin' colder fast. By morning it'll be 30 below, or 11!—here the important chest puffed up dangerously—"or I'll know why!"