## Oregon City Courier.

A. W. CHENEY, Publisher.

OREGON CITY.....OREGON

sting Collection of Current Events In Condensed Form From Both Continents.

While skating on the ice near Gardner, Miss., three young people suddenbroke through, and before assistance could reach them were drowned.

At Tonawanda, N. Y., while a party were skating, the ice gave way and precipitated four young people into the water. Three of them were drowned.

China approves of the Russian fleet wintering at Port Arthur, being per suaded that this action is taken in the interest of China, and necessitated by the German occupation of Kiao Chou. General Blanco reports to Madrid traffic.

that negotiations with several influential insurgent leaders are progressing favorably; that he hopes to detach from the rebellion important forces which are willing to accept autonomy.

A rate war is on between the various river transportation lines running to The Dalles. A reduction of fare from The Dalles to Portland is the result. This cut in rates has been looked for by the public since the opposition line was put on, some two months ago.

The statement of the collections of the internal revenue show that for the month of November last the receipts amounted to \$13,959,296, an increase as compared with November last year, of \$1,257,927. For the last five months, however, there is shown to have been a decrease of \$5,912.

F. M. Gideon, the clerk of the general land office, who was referred to by Thomas Reddington in the testimony before the senate Pacific railroad committee, Saturday, as having changed the land-office records so as to throw 5,000,000 acres of government and to the Southern Pacific, has made a clear denial of the charge.

A dispatch from Christiania, Norway, to the London Chronicle, says the political situation, since the failure of the united committee on foreign affairs. has become critical, and it is feared that Sweden will seek an occasion for semed intervention in Norway. The dispatch adds that the Swedish press not duly exported. The articles hopes for assistance from Emperor William.

The committee appointed at the house civil service conference 10 days ago to draft modifications of the civil service law have met and gone over the various bills pending before the house. The committee expects to have to the revenue. He further says: a measure framed by the time congress reconvenes. Its members are opposed to the present law as including too many offices within its scope.

A freight train of 21 loaded cars, traveling down the mountain to Altoona, Pa., became unmanageable in consequence of the slippery condition of the tracks, making the 12 miles from Galltiz into Altoona in as many minutes and crashing into a freight train directly in front of the passenger station. About 50 cars were completely broken up, and the Holidaysburg passenger train, which was standdag on the track near the passenger shed, was thrown over on its side. Three of the train crew were fatally in-

An effort is on foot to reduce the production of cotton.

Gold has been discovered at Skagway which goes \$4 to the pan.

Mormons have secured 3,000,000 scres of land in Mexico for a colony.

John Cross, of Cove, Or., was arrested for having counterfeit money in his possession.

Bates Soper, who murdered his wife and two children at Aschie, Mo., in 1891, and who was recently arrested in Oregon, where he married again, was contended in Harrisonville, Mo., to be hanged on February 4.

About 100 wholesale druggists from the cities of the Central West held a conference in Chicago for the purpose of considering the cut rates at which drugs and patent medicines are being sold by the department stores, as well as by many retail druggists, and to take steps to stop the practice if possible.

The Dingley tariff law will not be changed in any of its custom features at the present session of congress. A general understanding to this effect can members of the ways and means committee, who feel that it is most desirable to avoid what is generally known as tariff tinkering.

The subcommittee of the senate committee on Indian affairs, appointed to consider the problems, presented in Indian territory have practically decided to recommend amendments to the prescat law, providing for the apportionment of all the lands held by the five civilized tribes among the members of these tribes, and aslo an amendment providing that all valid leases shall be recognized by the government of the United States, and the money paid on account of them covered into the treasury of the United States for the benefit of the various tribes as such.

A Birmingham, Ala., dispatch says: The Tennessee Coal & Iron Railroad Company and the Sloss Iron & Steel Company have shipped 5,000 tons of Alabama pig iron to Pensacola, from whence it will be forwarded to Kobe and Yokohama, Japan. A trial shipment of Alabama iron made to Japan several months ago gave such satisfaction that extensive orders are resulting, this shipment being the first of a series. Japan heretofore was supplied by European furnaces, but Alabama has supersoded these.

BONDING MINERS' OUTFITS.

Canadian Customs Commissioner Gives Out Regulations.

Washington, Dec. 22.-A response has been received to a recent letter from Secretary Gage to the commissioner of customs, requesting information as to the bonding of miners' outfits through Canadian territory on the route from Juneau by way of the Chilkoot pass and the Yukon river to Circle City. The commissioner says that the following regulations have been prepared to meet the case:

Imported goods, as above described, shall be reported to the Canadian custom-house at Tagish, and may be entered for exportation there in the usual form, "in transit," in duplicate. The goods may then be delivered without payment of duty to be carried to their destination out of Canada by any transportation company which has duly executed a bond in the form prescribed by the minister of customs for the due and faithful delivery of all packages carried by such company and for the general compliance with the customs laws and regulations governing such

A duplicate of the entry in transit, duly signed and marked with the proper customs stamp, shall accompany each shipment of goods conveyed by a bonded carrier, so that the same may be returned to the custom-house at Fort Cudahy with a certificate thereon as to the landing of the goods in the United States, or of their having passed outward from Canada, within six months from the date of the entry.

If the goods, when entered in transit for exportation, are not delivered to be forwarded by a bonded carrier, as provided in the last proceeding section, the duty thereon is to be deposited with the customs officer at Lake Tagish, subject to a refund of same at the port of Fort Cudahy, when the goods pass outward thereat, or upon the certificate of an officer of the United States, or of the Canadian customs, that the said goods have been landed in the United States within six months from the date of entry. The duty deposited on such is to be indorsed on the entry and certified by the customs officer in charge. and the duplicate of the entry, duty certified and marked with the customs stamp, is to be delivered to the person making the deposit.

A report of such entry in transit shall be forwarded by mail without delay by the customs officers at the sending port to the collector of customs at Fort Cudahy, for the collection of duties on the goods entered in transit and ususally classified as travelers' baggage are to be passed free, without entry. Commissioner McDougall, in a letter accompanying these regulations, says that they are framed with the desire to afford the utmost facilities for traffic in question, compatible with security

"Responsible transportation companies will be soon in operation for the conveyance of goods over the Chilkoot and other passes down the Yukon river and its tributaries, in which case United States goods may go forward into Alaska without payment of duties."

OVER A PIECE OF GROUND. Dispute Between the United States and and the State of Texas.

Chicago, Dec. 22 .- A special to the Chronicle from Fort Worth, Tex., says: The state of Texas and the United States government are in conflict over a piece of ground on the east end of Galveston island, on which is located the state quarantine station and which has been taken possession of by the federal authorities, who intend crecting a torpedo station thereon.

The United States claims it under the terms of the Texas annexation treaty, which requires the ceding to the government by the republic of Texas of all lands used for the purpose of military defenses or upon which fortifications were standing. The state will dispute the claim on the ground that there were no available fortifications in existence on the ground in controversy at the time the treaty was made,

Leedy's Modest Scheme.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 22,-Governor Leedy announces that he will present scheme to the Nebraska irrigation convention which, if carried out, will cause the arid plains to blossom as the rose. A one thousand seven hundredmile canal from Montana to Texas is the startling proposition to be formally made by Governor Leedy to the coming irrigation congress. The purpose of the canal would be to divert the flood of waters of the Missouri and Mississippi valleys and let them down when wanted. The canal would tap the Missouri river at Milk river in Montana and empty into Red river in Texas. The governor maintains incidentally that the cost would be only \$360,000,-

Lost Her Deck Load. San Francisco, Dec. 22. - The river. The vessel had 112,000 feet of lumber as a cargo when she started, but when she reached here she was 10,000 cember 3 to 14 inclusive, heavy gales were encountered, the seas washing completely over the schooner. It was during an unusually heavy gale that with food for the animals at these stathe lumber was washed away. A sea- tions." man was at one time carried over the side of the schooner, but was caught by a wave and carried back on board again.

Wages Are Reduced.

Manchester, N. H., Dec, 22 .- Notices of a 10 per cent reduction in wages on January 1 have been posted in the Amore, Stark and Jefferson cotton mills, in this city. The Amoskeag mills, employing 9,000 operatives, posted similar notices last week. The Amore, Stark and Jefferson mills employ 11,000 operatives.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

World Destroyed.

Lost-Another Bad Blaze In Grand Forks.

the basement of the building occupied by the Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Company, at the corner of Locust and Broadway, early this morning, and in an almost incredibly short time the five-story building was completely The total loss will reach \$335,000, fully covered by insurance.

The fire had been burning some time before it was discovered at 4:40 o'clock. and at 5 P. M. the south wall and all the floors began falling, making one of the fiercest and quickest fires in the annais of the city. Next to the boiler room in the basement was a room used for packing. It is thought that the fire started in the boiler room, communicating to the packing-room, and shooting up the elevator shaft, quickly spread over the building. W. A. Rutledge, the engineer, and his family, lived on the fourth floor. They barely escaped with their lives. The firemen dragged them, unconscious, from their beds and carried them down the fire escape. Five minutes later the floors Several other tenants in the building had narrow escapes, but there were no fatalities.

The Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Company is one of the largest in the world, and it being Christmas season, they carried an immense stock. Onehalf of the stock had been placed in the two large vaults and was saved.

The Model Cloak Company, in the northeast corner of the building, was wiped out, sustaining a loss of \$50,000, on which there is insurance of three-

The Mermod & Jaccard Company occupied but two floors and basement of the structure. On the fifth floor was the repair shop. A large amount of the repair work had been finished, and most of it was saved by the salvage corps. The corps also saved a dozen or more grandfather clocks, ranging in value from \$500 to \$1,800 each, and many old Vienna vases and valuable pieces of pottery. The silverware, melted by the heat, will be found under the debris of fallen timbers. On the first floor, left out of the vaults, were clocks, silverware, china, art pottery, cut glassware and other articles. of which will be a total loss, There were over 40 tenants in the building, whose losses range from \$500 to \$4,000. They were partially in-

The jewelry firm carried insurance to the amount of \$400,000, which, if the stock in the vaults is found intact, will amply cover the loss sustained. The building was owned by the estate of the late Luther M. Kennett, but under lease to the Mermod & Jaccard Company. The firm estimates the value building at \$125.0

which there was insurance of \$105,000. Late tonight the burned-out firm decided to continue in business, and tomorrow will take possession of the store and stock of another leading jeweler of this city, which they have bought. The firm that goes out of business is that of A. Kurtzborn & Sons.

Another Fire at Grand Forks.

Grand Forks, N. D., Dec. 21.-The business portion of the city was threatened by another fire tonight, which might have been more destructive than that of Friday, when the Hotel Dakota and the Mercantile Company and Nash Bros.' buildings were burned. Shortly after 6 o'clock, smoke was seen issuing from the floor of the department store of Benner & Begg, and in less than 15 minutes the building was in flames, and the fire had crept into the Stanchfield clothing house and the H. A. Stone jewelry store, in building adjoining. After three hours work the fire was subdued. The damage to the building and stock of Benner & Begg will be \$55,000. Losses to the other firms will be small.

JACK DALTON'S ADVICE.

Says Horses Would he Better Than

Reindeer for Relief Expedition. Seattle, Dec. 21 .- Jack Dalton, the well-known Alaskan prospector, after whom the Dalton trail is named, in an interview tonight, speaking of the proposed relief expedition of the gov-

ernment to Alaska, said: "The proposal to use reindeer teams does not strike me as being the right thing. Horses can be used to much better advantage. Instead of reindeer, the department ought to get together a schooner Mayflower, Captain Olsen, ar. large number of hardy horses, and rived today, 15 days from the Coquille sufficient food should be taken along to feed them. They can do much better work than reindeer. I would use sleds for carrying the food for the men and feet short of that amount. From De- provender for the horses. To handle a reindeer expedition successfully it would be necessary to have relay stations established a day's journey apart,

Mr. Dalton, speaking of the best route by which to take relief, said that he would go over the Chilkoot pass and then down the lakes and the Yukon river over the ice.

Plate-Glass Strike Ended.

Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 21.-The plateglass strike is over, the 1,600 men in the Kokomo and Elwood plants having accepted the company's proposition for polishers to be paid for piece work. Both factories will resume operations this wook.

EDICT OF THE TRADES UNION

Members Are Asked Not to Serve in the

Chicago, Dec. 22. - The Times-Herald Largest Jewelry Store in the says: Trades unionists are required by the Chicago Federation of Labor to leave the National Guard at once. This was the unanimous decision reached by the delegates at their week-MERMOD & JACCARD, IN ST. LOUIS ly meeting. It was said without contradiction that a union man could not consistently serve in the militia and An Immense Stock of Costly Goods incur the risk of being called out to Two More Filibustering Expeditions shoot down fellow trades unionists who were on a strike for the betterment of their condition. So, every trades St. Louis, Dec. 21.-A fire started in unionist who is now a member of the National Guard will be required to secure a discharge from military service at once.

> Delegate P. J. Hassett started it all with a motion to compei trades unionists to leave the National Guard. An amendment by McPhee was offered to have every workman enlist and learn how to handle a gun. This was lost, and a less warlike substitute was offered by Delegate B. P. Williams, "that a request be made to all union men now in the militia to get out of the service." A second motion was offered by Delegate Williams and passed, urging all union men who are not members of the militia to refrain from enlisting. General Miles' suggestion of guns for the postoffice was denounced as a shadow of coming events. The tocsin was sounded that capital was organizing and that labor should be prepared. The delegates later declared their opposition to the creation of the proposed new cabinet position of secretary of commerce and industry. The adverse report of the committee to which the subject had been referred was sustained.

A motion was passed favoring the creation of a cabinet department of la-

Reports from Nashville indicating the triumph of a movement for an eight-hour working day evoked much enthusiasm.

A STEAMER ROBBED.

Strong Room of the City of Washington Burglarized.

New York, Dec. 22 .- The World says: The Ward liner City of Washington, that sailed from Vera Cruz December 1, has arrived in this port, carrving in her strong room \$600,000 in Mexican coin. This was not an nnusually large shipment of treasure for the Ward line to handle, and no one in authority dreamed of danger,

Nevertheless, during the voyage the strong room, built to withstand the attacks of almost everything but dynamite, and located so as to be under constant observation, was broken into. Only \$3,000 was taken by the robbers, but the general impression is that the scheme of the thieves was to seize the entire treasure.

Every effort has been made to keep the matter quiet, so that the strong force of detectives put upon the case by the company might work to the best advantage.

A. G. Smith, the company's secretary, admitted that the robbery had been attempted.

TO USE PNEUMATIC TUBES. Proposed Innovation for the Chicago

Postoffice.

Chicago, Dec. 22.-Pneumatic tubes for the mail service of Chicago will be in operation between the depots, substations and the general office before long. This is the word Postmaster Gordon brought with him from Washington. After a month's absence in the East, Mr. Gordon arrived in Chicago last evening, after having conferred with Senator Mason, Congressman Foss and President McKinley.

In addition to the tubes, Mr. Gordon will also establish a special delivery service, which he promises will be a great help to the business men of this

Mr. Gordon investigated the pneumatic tubes in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. He was much pleased with their operation.

Mr. Gordon is sure the corner-stone of the new postoffice building will be laid either July 4, or October 9. If the latter date is chosen, the famous society of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Boston will attend, as well as President McKinley, Postmaster-General Gary and Secretary Gage, who will lay the corner-stone.

The Fighting Germans.

Berlin, Dec. 22.-The Arbiter Zeitung reports an unprovoked attack by a party of officers, including Chevalier d'Ansel and Lieutenant Witschin, on a number of civilians in the Cafe Raphael, at Krema, Austria. Three civilians were badly wounded with swords before the police stopped the fray. When asked to pay the bill, Lieutenant d'Ansel struck the waiter with his sword. The officers were not arrested.

Czechs and Soldiers Fighting London, Dec. 22.-A dispatch from Vienna to the Telegraph reports there have been sanguinary conflicts at several barracks in Prague during the last few days between Czechs and German soldiers. Twenty-five men have been seriously wounded. The authorities confiscated the Czech newspapers that reported the affrays.

Walla Walla, Wash., Dec. 21,-The committee of citizens that has been soliciting funds for the purpose of sending two representatives to Washington to look after Walla Walla's interests in the matter of the alleged report regarding the abandonment of Fort Walla Walla will complete its labors Monday. The committee has been very successful, and has secured sufficient money to defray the necsesary expenses. The delegates will probably leave for Washington after the holidays.

NEGLECTED WARNING

Cubans Hang Colonel Ruiz, a Spaniard.

HE CARRIED AUTONOMY PAPERS

Are Safely Landed-Major Fernandez Was Murdered.

New York, Dec. 20 .- A Herald dispatch from Havana says: Much anxiety is felt for the safety of Lieutenant-Colonel Joaquin Ruiz, aide-de-camp to General Blanco, who, it is said, has met death as the penalty for bearing a proposition for surrender to a rebel camp. It seems that Colonel Ruiz is a personal friend of Colonel Aranguen, who was employed by him before the war, when Colonel Ruiz was engineer in charge of the Vento water works.

Recently, under orders from General Blanco, Colonel Ruiz opened correspondence with Colonel Aranguen, with the object of arranging an interview. Colonel Aranguen wrote that he would meet the colonel if the latter only desired to talk on personal affairs, to which the colonel replied that he wished to talk about political matters. Colonel Aranguen wrote that he would absolutely refuse to receive him on these condition, and called his attention earnestly to General Gomez' order that all persons entering insurgent camps to offer terms of surrender should be put to death. He assured Colonel Ruiz that he was prepared to carry out Gomez' orders to the letter, and that while he esteemed him highly as an old friend, he would hang him if he neglected the warning.

In spite of this, Colonel Ruiz started alone on Sunday for Colonel Aranguen's camp, deterimned to risk all in the attempt. On leaving he said if he had not returned by Tuesday night he might be given up as dead. So far nothing has been heard of him, and there is little room for doubt that the insurgent leader has put his threat into execution.

If this be true, much regret will be felt even in Cuban circles in Havana, where Colonel Ruiz was well known as a gallant soldier and an accomplished his death will have a good effect as showing the indomitable spirit animating the insurgent leaders.

sponsible for the murder.

The battle of Guisa appears now to plished under the act. have been a more important insurgent success than was at first supposed. Advices received by the junta state that the insurgents captured 270 Mausers, 220,000 cartridges and 116 prisoners. General Calixoto Garcia has sent word to General Pando that he will only re- o'clock this morning. The mail-catch, lease the prisoners under solemn pledge signed by General Blanco that they will be sent back to Spain. He complains that after the capture of Las Tunas the prisoners released on parole were sent back to the ranks

The insurgents in Santa Clara province have more than 6,000 men well armed, and are confident of ultimate success. They are also well provisioned with medicine and other necessaries. General Gomez is at La Reforma,

where he has been for nearly a year. V thin the last four days two large filibustering expeditions have safely reached Cuba, one landing in Matanzas province and the other at Baracoa, only five leagues from Havana. They brought clothing, medicines and dynamite. The rebels are now using large

able effect. General Pando, who is operating in the east against General Garcia, has asked for reinforcements, which have been sent, several battalions being withdrawn from Pinar del Rio.

General Bernai has started across Pinar del Rio to Cape Antonio, where a large body of rebels is congregated.

Reports from Guira de Melena state that the rebels fired on the town almost every night.

Rebels under Colonel Colazzo and General Rodriguez surrounded a Spanish column yesterday at the Carmen estate. Havana province. Spanish reinforcements arrived from Guines and a fierce engagement occurred. The detalis are suppressed, but the loss is admitted to be heavy on both sides. Another engagement is reported to

have occurred December 14 near Guira de Melena between Morroto and Colonel Arango's forces.

New York, Dec. 20 .- The Herald correspondent in Rio Janeiro telegraphs that the government authorities have seized a letter written by Vice-President Peirera which proves beyond doubt that he was at the head of the revolutionary movement which led to the recent attempted assassination of President Moraes. Brazilian authorities still have cause to fear a revolution, and the government has requested Uruguay to prevent the gathering of revolutionary groups along her frontier.

NO MORE SEALSKINS.

Important Clause in the Bill That Has Just Passed Congress.

Washington, Dec. 21 .- It has been developed that the bill relating to pelagic sealing which has just passed both branches of congress, and is before the president, contains a provision of far-reaching character which has thus far escaped attention. This is an absolute prohibition of the bringing of sealskins into the United States. As the United States is the largest market in the world for sealskins this complete stoppage of the trade in this country will be a severe measure against the British and Canadian industries which take and cure the skins and then dispose of them largely in the United States.

When the bill was proposed it was generally supposed that its only purpose was to prohibit American citizens from carrying on pelagic sealing. This feature was the only one to attract attention during the discussions. At the adoption of the bill, however, a section was discoverd which was not restricted to Americans, but applies to sealskins in general, "taken in the waters mentioned in this act," which include the whole Pacific ocean. The provisions is as follows:

Section 9. That the importation into the United States by any person whatsoever of fur sealskins, taken in waters mentioned in this act, whether raw, dressed, dyed or manufactured, is hereby prohibited, and all such articles imported after this act shall take effect shall not be permitted to be exported, but shall be seized and destroyed by the proper officers of the United States."

Those who are thoroughly familiar with the bill say this provision is of far more importance in its effect than the prohibition against pelagic scaling by Americans.

RELIEF BILL SIGNED.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to Aid Starving Yukoners.

Washington, Dec. 21.-Both houses of congress today passed the joint resolation for the relief of miners in the Yukon valley, Alaska, and in a short time it had received the signature of the president.

The bill appropriates \$200,000, to be expended under direction of the secretary of war in the purchase of supplies gentleman, but it is pointed out that for the relief of the people in the Yukon country or other mining regions of Alaska, and for the transportation and distribution of such supplies, provided Major Fernandez, better known as that, if the consent of the Canadian Pitore, the insurgent leader, who, ac- government be obtained, the secretary cording to official reports, was slain in of war may extend the relief into Cancombat with Spanish troops, was really adian territory. The resolution furkilled while ill and helpless awaiting ther provides that the supplies may be an opportunity to surrender to Thomas sold in that region at such prices as Garcia, recently autonomist alcalde of may be fixed by the secretary of war, or Guines, an old friend. Pitore being donated to those unable to pay for dangerously ill, applied to him to ar- them. The secretary of war is authorrange terms for his surrender. Garcia ized to use the United States army in caused him to be taken to the Cancio carrying into effect the provisions of estate, where he made him comfortable the act, to import reindeer and drivers and arranged to have a detail of Spanish for the transportation of supplies, and troops sent to bring him to the hospital to adopt such other provisions as are in the town. Instead the troops went practicable. The secretary is directed, to the country and butchered the man. when the work shall have been com-Senor Garcia is infuriated at this pleted, to sell the reindeer or turn breach of faith, and has declared his in- them over to the secretary of the intertention of coming to Havana to lay the ior, in his discretion, and to make a matter before General Blanco and de- detailed report to congress at the bemand the punishment of the officer re- ginning of the next session of such disbursements made and results accom-

A Northwestern Wreck. Vail, Ia., Dec. 21.-The overland limited on the Chicago & Northwestern, which left Chicago last night, ran into an open switch near here at 6 it seems, flew out of the mail coach, which was next to the engine. The eatch struck the switch lever, broke it off and opened the switch. The train was going at the rate of 60 miles an hour. The engine and mail car remained on the track, but the buffet car, two sleepers and two coaches were completely overturned on the prairie. Everybody on board was knocked about considerably, and many were scratched and bruised, but no person was killed or apparently seriously injured. A wrecking train was sent to the wreck, and within a short time the passengers were on their way to Omaha.

Report Blames Indians.

Denver, Dec. 21 -D. C. Beaman, Josiah Walbridge and Charles E. Noble, the commission appointed by Govquantities of dynamite with considerernor Adams to investigate the recent Indian troubles in the vicinity of Lity Park, filed their report with the governor this afternoon. The report is an almost complete vindication of the game wardens, and shows that the Indians were alone responsible for the bloody conflict in Routt county last month, in which several of their number were killed.

A Boston Rumor.

Boston, Dec. 21 .- A prominent German-American merchant of this city has received a private cipher cable from German capitalists advising him to sell out all his holdings in Boston immediately. It is rumored that the cable disclosed a startling coup planned by Germany, and exposed the secret destination of the mysterious German fleet. According to the dispatch, the fleet is really being sent to threaten the United States, and secure absolute supremacy of the Pacific by seizure of

Hawaii and Samoa. Earthquake in Italy.

Rome, Dec. 21.-Strong earthquake shocks lasting twelve seconds were felt this morning. In central Italy the walls of houses split, many chimneys fell, bells rang and a panic prevailed among the inhabitants.

New York, Dec. 21.-While Mrs. Margaret Spencer was cooking on an oil stove tonight, her pet dog upset the stove. An explosion followed, and the woman was so badly burned that she died.