

Oregon City Courier.

A. W. CHENNEY, Publisher.

OREGON CITY.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

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

Sheepmen in Southern Colorado are losing thousands of sheep by snow and extremely cold weather.

The Northern Pacific Railway Company has reduced wages of car repairers at Superior 25 cents a day.

The schooner Ballora Loherman, Captain Plummer, from South River, N. J., for Boston, foundered without warning Sunday morning off Highland Lights. No lives were lost.

Charles W. Winkler, a brakeman on the Columbia & Puget Sound railway, was run over by a coal car and killed in the Seattle yards. Winkler formerly lived in Butte City, Cal., where he has relatives.

A bomb, made of gas pipe and filled with powder, was exploded in the German theater, in Olatue, Monrovia. Little damage was done, but the incident caused great excitement among the German residents.

The Turkish government, replying to the representations of Greece, has explained that the firing upon the Greek gunboat Actium by the Turks at Perivassia, on Saturday last, as the vessel was leaving the gulf of Ambracia, was due to a misunderstanding.

Aunt Judith Moore, the first colored woman admitted to membership in Henry Ward Beecher's church, is dead at her home in Brooklyn, aged 74. It is said that Mr. Beecher in his will requested that she be cared for. She is one of the original members of the Christian Endeavor Society.

Jacob Sarig, of Oran, Persia, now in Cincinnati, giving talks on Persia and Armenia, has just received a letter from friends in his Persian home, informing him that a band of robbers from Koordistan had massacred all the inhabitants of a Persian Christian town, 800 souls, near Salmas, Persia.

Peter French, a prominent cattleman and landowner of Harney county, Oregon, was killed by a man named Oliver. It is reported that the deed was a cold-blooded murder. The victim was shot in the back of the head, the bullet coming out between the eyes. A land dispute is said to have been the cause of the trouble.

The Overman Wheel Company, of Chisopee Falls, Mass., has made an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. Henry B. Bowman, president of the Springfield National bank, has been appointed trustee. Albert H. Overman is president of the company, and the principal owner and has given out a statement showing that, on November 10, last, the assets were \$1,318,000 and the liabilities \$539,000.

Frank G. Farley was accidentally shot and instantly killed by Ed. Alford, in Tekoa, Wash. Both men were O. R. & N. conductors. At the coroner's inquest, the evidence showed that Alford was turning the cylinder of a revolver so the hammer would not rest on a cartridge. The weapon was discharged, and Farley fell and expired without uttering a word. The jury exonerated Alford.

The long-continued cold and heavy snow of the past month are beginning to have a serious effect upon sheep in Wyoming, and it is feared that, unless there is a break in the weather soon, the losses will be heavy. Sheepmen report that a number have already perished.

Mr. Coffin, the acting controller of the currency has called attention to the fact that the retirement of national bank notes during the first 20 days of December reached the sum of \$8,000,000. This is said to be the first time during the last 10 years that the voluntary retirement has reached this amount in any one month.

After a week of conference in Boston, Justices Putnam and King, the commissioners for the United States and Canada, respectively, in the arbitration of the Behring sea claims, have completed their work for the present, and it is understood will soon begin the preparation of their reports to their respective governments.

The first meeting of the National Building Trades Council was held at St. Louis, and was marked by a scathing denunciation of the American Federation of Labor for having passed a resolution at Nashville opposing the formation of the national council. The Federation of Labor opposed the new organization as tending to create a further division in the ranks of labor.

Freeman Martin J. Oakley was killed at a fire in a five story tenement on East Forty-fourth street, New York city. Oakley was suffocated by smoke and escaping gas. Assistant Fireman Thomas Head, James Davis and Peter Connelly, of the same company, were rendered unconscious by inhaling smoke and gas, and were with difficulty revived. They are in hospitals, and their condition is serious.

Secretary Alger has cabled to William Akellman, chief government reindeer herder, who is now in Norway, to inform the war department immediately how soon 600 reindeer can be shipped to this country. These are wanted for use as draft animals in getting supplies to the miners in the Klondike region. They must be transferred at New York to railroads, and in that manner carried across the continent, and again by sea from the Pacific coast up to Dyea, or some other point that may be selected as a base of operations.

REINDEER WILL DIE.

Dr. Nansen's Views Upon Alger's Klondike Relief Plan.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, was asked what he thought of the plan of bringing reindeer for taking relief to the Klondike miners. He said if the reindeer were taken overland across the country they would probably reach Alaska in time to accomplish the desired object, and if they could reach Alaska they would be of great assistance in the relief work. The difficulty would be to get the deer transported.

Dr. Nansen said the moss on which the deer fed was about the only food they would eat, and they would starve before they would eat much of anything else. They had sometimes been trained to eat bread, but not very successfully. While there was an abundance of moss in Norway, he thought it would be impossible to gather it in such quantities as would be necessary for the feeding of 500 deer in transportation from Norway to Alaska. The deer themselves seemed to know how to gather it better than human beings. He believed that if 500 reindeer were shipped from Norway it would be impossible to keep more than a small percentage of them alive until Alaska should be reached.

According to his opinions, Iceland horses would be better for this work, for they would subsist on the moss of the Arctic regions and also on hay or other provender. They were also hardy, and would do the work after they reached Alaska almost as well as the deer. It would be much easier to transport them, he said.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

Recent Events in the East Will Probably Hasten the Event.

Washington, Dec. 30.—"Affairs in China and the East generally," said Senator Cullom, "have put an entirely different complexion upon Hawaii's prospects for annexation. Since congress adjourned for the holidays there has been a marked change of sentiment concerning Hawaii, and it would not surprise me if the pending treaty should be ratified by the necessary two-thirds of the senate."

"It would be the height of folly to let such an opportunity slip as Hawaii presents to the United States at such a critical time. Here is a most desirable piece of property only waiting for a nod from Uncle Sam to become his own, without firing a gun or precipitating any trouble."

"As soon as congress meets we will get at the treaty, and my impression is that a number of senators who have hitherto been against ratification will be found on our side. It has always been my opinion that we ought to have Hawaii, and I am confirmed in this belief more than ever by the recent course of events in the Orient."

FIRST COLONY READY.

Progress of the Salvation Army's Work in California.

New York, Dec. 30.—Commander Booth-Tucker has started for California to complete the work of founding the first of the Salvation Army colonies in this country at Soledad near Monterey. Most of the cottages have already been built and the work of cultivation is well installed on the farm of 500 acres, but numerous applicants are ready to start the moment Booth-Tucker reaches San Francisco.

The commander said that there was no doubt that the experiment would prove a great success. Claus Spreckles, he said, is erecting a million dollar beet-sugar factory in the immediate neighborhood, which will be able to consume all that the colonists can produce, and the product of as many farms as they may care to start in the neighborhood.

"I shall spend several weeks in the West and take a look at our Colorado farm in the Arkansas valley before I return," said the commander. "A delegation of men connected with a tinning establishment in Chicago recently came to me and asked that I establish a farm near that city. They were not out of work, but said they would rather go into something that promised a permanent occupation than to remain where they were."

Dan Daly's Bad Fall.

Boston, Dec. 30.—Dan Daly, the popular comedian, and one of the leading lights in the "Belle of New York" company, received probably a fatal injury at the Park theater last night. At the close of the first act Daly makes a "flying entry," sliding in on an inclined wire. In some way either the wire or handle broke, Daly falling to the stage, striking on the shoulders and back of the head.

Two physicians were summoned from the audience, and worked over him half an hour, but could not bring him back to consciousness. He was then sent to the Massachusetts general hospital, and at an early hour he was still unconscious, the physicians believing he was suffering from concussion of the brain.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 29.—A special from Amsterdam says that one of the engine houses of the Sanford carpet mills was wrecked by an explosion, presumably of dynamite, at 10:30 o'clock. Only two walls were left standing. Few facts can be ascertained.

Liberty, Mo., Dec. 29.—A wreck occurred at the Memphis road depot here last night. Local train No. 55 broke in two on the down grade coming into town, and the two sections came together in front of the station. Five persons were injured, two seriously. The injured are: Miss Tilly Smith, of Liberty; Mrs. Shelton, Colonel Jesse Poore, of Golden City, and Floyd Quinhard. Miss Smith is still unconscious. The conductor and brakeman were slightly injured.

FOOD RUNNING SHORT

Dawson City and Fort Yukon on Reduced Rations.

SAYS JOHN LINDSAY OF OLYMPIA

Yukon Piled High With Ice, Making Teaming by the River Route an Impossibility.

Port Townsend, Dec. 28.—John Lindsay, of Olympia, Wash., who has just arrived here from Dawson, says that there will surely be starvation there this winter.

He examined into the food situation in a thorough manner, he says, and after satisfying himself that there would be starvation, he sold his outfit and, in company with Frank Ballaine, of Olympia; Tom Stoney, of Victoria, and Bob Glynn, of Seattle, started out on foot, each man drawing a sled carrying about 140 pounds of provisions.

Lindsay says the Dawson people declare that there is no great amount of food at Fort Yukon, as has been alleged. The river rose sufficiently and remained open long enough to enable food supplies to have been brought from Fort Yukon, had there been any there, so the majority of the people at Dawson refused to go down to the camp, preferring to remain in Dawson. Not more than 300 or 400 people took advantage of the transportation company's offer to take the people to Fort Yukon free of charge.

When the miners at Dawson found that no more provisions would reach the town by the river route, they announced that a meeting would be held to take steps for an apportioning of the provisions in the town. Those that had plenty, they said, must share with those who had not.

Captain Constantine, of the Northwest mounted police, interfered, and told the miners that no such thing would be permitted. The meeting was not held.

Lindsay says the output of the mines will be greatly curtailed this winter because of the scarcity of food and light. Coal oil sold for \$45 a gallon, and candles as high as \$150 per box of 100. Even if men are able to work their claims, they cannot get light to do so.

These statements are borne out by all returning Klondikers, quite a number of whom have reached here in the past week. Few of them, however, take as gloomy a view of the situation as does Lindsay.

Dr. B. L. Bradley, of Roseburg, Or., says that food is scarce, but he does not think that there will be actual starvation. Neither do W. B. King, of Merced, Cal.; P. J. Holland, of Butte, Mont.; Thomas Stoney, of Victoria, or Robert Glynn, of Seattle, all of whom arrived this week from Dawson. Most of them left there November 2.

As an evidence of the scarcity of food in Dawson, Lindsay relates the case of Dr. Van Sants, formerly of Spokane. Van Sants is an elderly man, and being without provisions or money, he offered a gold watch for a sack of flour. He could not get it, and he remarked to Lindsay:

"God only knows how I am to keep body and soul together."

Lindsay says 200 or more miners are prospecting at the mouth of Stewart river, but as yet, it is not known what success they have achieved.

Henderson creek, five miles below Stewart river, and 40 miles from Dawson, is a promising stream that is being developed this winter. The weather about the Stewart and Big Salmon rivers has been bitterly cold, 70 degrees below zero being recorded at Major Walsh's camp, 12 miles below the Big Salmon, on November 17.

The Yukon river between Dawson and Fort Pelly, froze completely over November 18. The river is piled full of ice in great ridges, as high as an ordinary house, and a roadway will have to be cut through it before the dog or horse teams can operate upon it. The outlook, therefore, for taking supplies down to Dawson in the immediate future is not good.

Inspector of Mines McGregor left here a week ago with a number of dog teams and horses to make the attempt to reach Dawson with about 20 tons of provisions, but nothing has since been heard of him.

Peary's Next Trip.

New York, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the World from Washington says: Lieutenant R. E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, who returned from England on the St. Paul, immediately upon his arrival in New York, took the train for Washington. Lieutenant Peary tonight was enthusiastic over his reception in England, and the gift to him by Alfred C. Harnsworth, the wealthy Englishman, of the Windward, a fine ship, which the explorer will use in his trip to the Arctic next year. Mr. Harnsworth also furnished funds for the expedition. Lieutenant Peary said the Windward will be sent to New York early in the spring, and he will start north the latter part of July. Lieutenant Peary started for New York tonight to finish work on his narrative which is in the publisher's hands.

Heavy Fog in England.

London, Dec. 28.—Heavy fogs prevailed in the district of London and over the British channel, the Mersey, the Clyde and the Tyne. There have been numerous shipping accidents, and much inconvenience has been caused to traffic by delays and stoppages. It is feared that several lives have been lost.

Muskets were first used in 1414 by the French army.

ACTUAL STARVATION.

Thousands of Cubans Are in the Direst Distress.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The most profound distress prevails among many thousands of people in Cuba. Starvation not only impends, but is an actual fact. The president has been informed of the facts from sources whose reliability cannot be doubted. He has gone to the length of his constitutional power in calling the state of affairs to the attention of the American people. The state department has used all of its authority to mitigate conditions, and the letter to the public sent out by Secretary Sherman the day before Christmas pointed out the way to further alleviate the miserable condition of the concentrados. Today the sum of \$5,000 was received by Assistant Secretary Day from certain charitable disposed persons, whose names are not disclosed, and this sum will be remitted by telegraph tomorrow morning to Consul-General Leo for disbursement among the more pressing cases.

It is hoped by the department of state that the American people will come to the relief, and promptly, by subscriptions of money, clothing and supplies of various kinds. The newspapers are expected to lend a generous aid in carrying forward this movement. The machinery for distributing has been provided by the state department, and Consul-General Leo has undertaken, with the aid of the American consular agents in Cuba, to give personal attention to the alleviation of distress by the distribution of the gifts of the American people. One line of steamers plying between New York and Havana—the Ward line—it is said, has undertaken to forward any contributions of goods to General Leo, at Havana, and it is believed that the American railroads will do their part by carrying the goods to the seaboard.

The Spanish authorities have consented to remit all duties on relief supplies so forwarded. The state department directs that they be sent direct to Consul-General Leo, either money draft, or check, or goods. Consul-General Leo tonight cabled the state department just what is wanting at this juncture, and his list is as follows:

Summer clothing, second-hand or otherwise, principally for women and children; medicines for fevers, including a large proportion of quinine; hard bread, corn meal, bacon, rice, lard, potatoes, beans, peas, salt fish, principally codfish; any canned goods, especially condensed milk for the starving children. Money will also be useful to secure nurses, medicines and for many other necessities.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Terrible Fate of a Woman and Her Aged Mother.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—During a fire at New Haven, a suburb of this city, in the residence of Mrs. Mary Ann Browdy, this evening, Miss Nancy Browdy, aged 46, was burned to death, and the mother, aged 76, was so badly burned that she cannot survive the night. Miss Browdy, who came here about a month ago from Butte, Mont., to visit her mother, lost her life in trying to save some personal property. She went to the upper floor after the flames had made good headway on the structure, and was suffocated. When the house had been gutted, the body of Miss Browdy was seen hanging over a joist, and, in the presence of about 500 people who had gathered at the scene, was literally burned to a crisp. The mother threw herself into the burning building twice in an endeavor to save her daughter, but each time was dragged back, not, however, until she was so badly burned that the physicians say she cannot recover.

THE CZAR ADVANCING.

Kinchau, a Remarkable Point of Vantage, Now Occupied.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—The Russians have occupied Kinchau, north of Port Arthur.

Can Defy the World.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—E. L. Shephard, who recently returned from China, where he had an official position, commenting upon the reported occupation of Kinchau by Russia, said today:

"Kinchau is an important walled city (not an open port), at the head of the gulf of Lu Tung, and it commands the mouth of the river Yalu, where the battle between the Japanese and Chinese was fought, and the other important rivers which flow into the gulf. It is about equally distant between the mouth of the Yalu river and the terminus of the great wall of China. It commands the railway system recently constructed from Tien-Tsen to the capital of Manchuria, and is of pre-eminent importance as a strategic post."

"The seizure of the point shows that Russia has practically taken possession of Corea, Manchuria and the gulf of Lu Tung, and possesses a significance which will cause consternation among the diplomats in the Old World. Its situation is such that its possession practically places Russia in a position to defy the world."

The gizzard of a hen recently killed at Covington, Ga., contained 21 brass tacks, 31 birdshot, two pins, a tiny brass ring, a bit of steel and some crushed brass caps.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—Captain G. B. Hayes, aged 68, on Friday night while walking from Osborne to Haysville, was overcome by the cold and fell and was rapidly freezing to death. He was found by John and Harry Bishop, and carried to their stable, where he remained all night. Later he was removed to his home. At New Orleans in 1861 Captain Hayes hauled down the Pelican flag of Louisiana and ran up the Stars and Stripes. This act cost him his steamboat.

THE SEALING AWARD

Findings of the Commission Reach State Department.

TOTAL NEARLY HALF A MILLION

Damages for Prospective Catch Were Not Allowed—Congress Will Be Asked to Pay It.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The findings of the British-American commission chosen to assess the damages for seizures of British ships in Behring sea have been received by the state department and the British embassy. The strictest reticence is maintained, however, on the general character of the findings, though it is admitted the total award against the United States is 464,000, which includes principal and interest. The finding against this government is no surprise.

The controversy has occupied the attention of the authorities here and in London for the last 11 years. At the outset the tone of the controversy was belligerent, suggesting a possible resort to arms. This was following the seizure by the United States steamer Corwin, of the British sealers Carolina and Thornton, on August 1, 1886. The facts of the seizure were not known until some time later, and in the meantime, the Corwin had taken the Onward and Favourite. The same policy of seizure and confiscation occurred during the next sealing season, despite the protests of Great Britain, the United States steamer Rush taking the Sayward, Grace, Anna Pack, Dolphin, Alfred Adams, Triumph, Junita, Pathfinder, Black Diamond, Lilly, Arctic and Kate and Minnie, and the cutter Bear taking the Ada.

The claims for these seizures took a wide range, beginning with the value of the vessels and outfits, and including not only the value of sealskins confiscated, but also the skins which might have been taken if the ships had not been seized. This last feature of prospective damage caused the main contention. In the case of each British ship, the largest item of the claim was for estimated future catch. For instance, in the case of the Carolina, the claim for the ship was only \$4,000, while that for skins which might have been taken that year it she had not been seized was \$16,667. Each ship estimated a prospective catch of from 3,500 to 5,000 skins, the value being from \$3.50 per skin in 1887 to \$12.25 in 1889. The total of the claims, without interest, amounted to \$439,161, and with interest at 8 per cent and other charges, the total reached \$786,166.

The only official statement that could be secured here of the judgment reached by the commissioners is contained in the following announcement given out at the state department:

"The award of the Behring sea claims commission has been filed in the department. The claims as presented by the British government on account of British vessels seized in Behring sea, aggregated, with interest, \$1,500,000. These included several cases not embraced in the settlement proposed by Secretary Gresham. The award now made amounts to \$294,181.91, to which will increase the total about 50 per cent. The award is final, and disposes of all cases before it. Payment under the treaty must be made within six months."

The departmental officials, it is assumed, will proceed at once to prepare a bill or an amendment to one of the appropriation bills for submission to congress, covering the necessary appropriation to pay the judgments, for, being bound by treaty not only to pay any judgments rendered, but to pay them promptly, the government is in honor bound to take the remaining steps toward a settlement in short order.

There appears to be little doubt that the United States carried its point on the question involved, as the prospective damages were evidently scaled down to an insignificant amount, or rejected entirely. While the department officials will make no definite announcement to this effect, intimations are given that the smallness of the award precludes the possibility of any allowance having been made on account of prospective damages. The American claims commissions established the precedent that no prospective damages could be included in a claim, and the present award is evidently on the same line.

General J. W. Foster, who is now in general charge of Behring sea affairs, said tonight, as to the award, that he was not surprised at the result. President Cleveland having officially declared that \$425,000 was a just and equitable sum in settlement, and having appointed as the American commissioner to adjudicate the claims a close personal and political friend, it could hardly be expected that the latter would strenuously contend for an award of a less amount. Mr. Foster was absent from the country in Japan when congress took action on President Cleveland's recommendation, but he regarded the commission as the proper method of reaching a settlement, and the only one which would satisfy the country.

Slain by Congo Natives.

Lisbon, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from St. Paul de Loanda, Portuguese Lower Guinea, says that the natives of the Humbo plateau, in the Portuguese colony of Angola, have massacred a Portuguese officer, a sergeant and 12 men. Reinforcements have been sent from St. Paul de Loanda. Angola is south of the Congo Free State. The colony has been held by the Portuguese since 1482, and they have a number of forts and commercial establishments.

SENSATION AT THE CAPITAL.

Spain's Wrath Over Woodford's Note Unceasing.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Officials here are somewhat surprised at the exhibition of feeling at Madrid over the latest note of Minister Woodford delivered to the Spanish foreign office the day before Christmas. While the note itself will not be made public at present, it is said that there is no reason whatever why it should be withheld, save the fact that preceding steps in the negotiations have not yet seen the light of newspapers and it is desirable when publication is made to preserve a complete chain of events in their natural order. Possibly the correspondence will be shortly called for by congress, in which case it is not likely to be withheld on the ground of public policy.

The last note presented by Minister Woodford was in answer to the Spanish note, called forth by Woodford's very first note upon his arrival at Madrid. In his initial note the United States minister pointed out the interest of his country in the early termination of the present struggle in Cuba and asked when such conclusion could be expected. The Spanish government in its reply acknowledged our interest in the matter, but suggested after stating what it intended to do to ameliorate the conditions in Cuba, that the United States could best exercise its good offices by stopping filibustering. To this Woodford responded with his note of last week. It is said to be a purely argumentative statement of the position taken by the United States, and the facts set forth are those so strongly drawn in the president's message to congress, of which it was supposed the Spanish public had been fully advised through newspapers.

The most forcible statement in the note is based upon facts collected, and published recently by the United States treasury department, exhibiting the great expense to which the United States had been put by reason of its efforts to patrol the enormous coast line in pursuit of a few filibustering expeditions and the remarkable success of government officials in stopping these expeditions as contrasted with the feeble efforts of the Spanish authorities to maintain a patrol around the island of Cuba. All these facts were included in Woodford's note, and while he put them in his own language in presenting them to the Spanish foreign office, it is said the statements concern only the events which have already been touched upon.

FOOLHARDY PROJECT.

Captain W. C. Oledrive, of Boston, to Walk Across the Atlantic.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—A special to the Times-Herald from New York says: Captain W. C. Oledrive, of Boston, has planned to walk across the Atlantic ocean. He will begin his journey July 4 and will be accompanied by Captain W. M. Andrews, famous by reason of his voyage across the Atlantic in a small boat. It is nothing new for Captain Oledrive to promenade the waves. That has been his pleasure and profit these ten years. Captain Andrews, who is to be the companion of the water pedestrian, will journey in a brand-new 14-foot small boat and in this merely repeats a feat performed in 1878 and again in 1892. Captain Andrews is the man who has brought about the whole affair. Here is his own statement:

"Incredible as it may seem, next year we are really going to walk and sail down Boston harbor, out onto the ocean and over to Havre, France, through the great bore of the river Seine and up to Paris, to be there to attend the exposition of 1900 in our new seagoing shoes and the smallest, fastest and best boat that ever crossed the Atlantic ocean, the Phantom ship. Every vessel we speak on the ocean will report one of us walking and sometimes towing the boat in calm weather."

"The seagoing shoes of Mr. Oledrive are the most wonderful part of the whole affair. They are a pair of cedar boxes five feet long with fins on the bottom and sides. They are very light and capable of sustaining 140 pounds, and as Oledrive weighs only 130 pounds they are as good to him as a steamer's deck."

PENSION OFFICE ORDER.

Its Design to Expedite Disposition of Pending Claims.

Washington, Dec. 29.—A new order, the enforcement of which it is believed will expedite the disposition of pension claims now pending has been issued by Commissioner Evans. It is as follows:

"Hereafter claims for increase of pensions will not be considered within 12 months from the last action, allowance or rejection."

"The necessity of the new order," said an official today, "grows largely out of calls made on the office for statement of the status of pending cases by means of congress. These calls have been answered to the exclusion of other claims pending, which, it is said, have been taken up in their order. It is only fair to these cases which have not had any consideration that they should be taken up as promptly as possible."

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 29.—As a result of a Christmas debauch, Lagora Molina, a Chilean woodchopper, met a terrible death near Los Gatos. He drank deeply and with three fellow-workers caroused in his cabin until far into the night. Then he took a lighted lamp and went into the yard. He stumbled and fell, the lamp exploded and the burning oil ignited his clothing. He was burned to death, but his fate was not known until morning, when his charred body was found.