

The Liria Post-Intelligencer Company wishes all a joyous and plentiful Feast of Tamborous!

In a speech given by Her Majesty Queen Lira VII, the Crown has made public news of the most extraordinary import: a new continent, previously unknown to the modern world, has been discovered across the ocean to the west of Talus. A little over five years ago, a combined fleet of steamships and airships was organized under the strictest secrecy and departed on an exploratory journey. The news of their findings have only just now been made publically available. Little was revealed about the land itself or its native inhabitants in Her Majesty's remarks; an account of the remarkable journey will be published by the Royal Geographical Society of Liria.

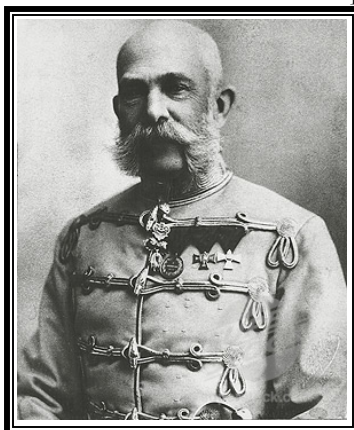
Following a closed session of Parliament, the legislature has chartered the formation of the Lirian Overseas Mercantile and Colonial Company. The Company is to have authority over the establishment of trade and settlement of the new territory. Oversight and leadership will be provided by a board of five directors, who are to be appointed by Her Majesty and confirmed by Parliament. Candidates have not yet been proposed.

Captain William Marley, the leader of the expedition which discovered the new land, was formally recognized by Her Majesty as a national hero and awarded the coveted Sovereign's Cross during a ceremony in the capital.

Several military engagements between Venkestran forces and the Lirian army have not yet yielded a decisive victory for either side. The conflict, which begun with the Venkess' unprovoked invasion of the Acrian territories, has not lessened in magnitude or ferocity since the onset of winter. The passes between Venkess and the Acrian

territories have been temporarily blocked by heavy snows, slowing the flow of Venkestran reinforcements and supplies from over the Spine. Aiming to take advantage of this and dislodge the Venkess troops before they entrench, the Lirian military is coordinating a series of winter offensives, with Lirian forces augmented by Dolvanni mercenaries and Jhandihari troops. Declarations of support have been received from the Foreign Ministry of Khenti, the Jhandihari Emir and the Lasai Foreign Council.

Acrian refugees continue pouring north in the hopes of finding protection and shelter. Food and medical supplies in the territory are drastically low. Numerous charitable organizations in Liria are coordinating subscriptions to provide relief to the victims of the conflict. All citizens of means are encouraged to donate for the sake of the good people of Acria.



Lord General Henry Pemberton, Commander of the Lirian army in Acria.

Jhandihari quartermasters have been requisitioning prodigious quantities of heavy blankets, gloves and winter tents to supply their forces deployed in Acria, who have been poorly equipped for the winter conditions found in the southern regions of Talus. Military demand has

driven the price of textiles and foodstuffs in the region to astonishing levels, further exacerbating the difficulties of the Acrian

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populace, who can scarcely afford the staple goods necessary to make it through the winter, in addition to the other evils brought on by the Venkess invasion.

The value of stocks, bonds and other financial instruments on the Central Lirian Securities Exchange has surged in recent months, spurred by tremendous advances in industry, the opening of new markets to Lirian goods and a strengthening Queen's Ounce.

A diplomatic and commercial mission has been dispatched to the Xingsol capital in the hopes of establishing more regular trade with the ancient empire.

In honor of the Feast of Tamborous, a celebration will be held in Copper Brook, a small township and Lirian cantonment on the southern edge of Iron City's province. The feast has been organized in a spirit of peace and cooperation by the Lirian authorities with assistance by Jhandihari, Khenti, Ogwehoweh and Aniyonema emissaries, in addition to donations by Acrian and Lasai representatives. Furthermore, in the spirit of the festival, Khenti and Jhandihari trade authorities have declared a commercial holiday and have pledged to guarantee safe passage and free lodging to all citizens of good standing awaiting transit through Iron City.

Copper Brook is being considered as the site of a rail-

road terminus to be constructed by the Northern Railway & Locomotive Company, following the recent consent of local Ogwehoweh chieftains. Lead Barrow and Sulfur Springs are also under consideration as the site of the terminus. Objections by Jhandihari and Khenti diplomats have thus far gone unaddressed.

A biography of the late Malaki Tapprio has been published in Liria City. In honor of the renowned explorer's memory, all profits from the book's sale have been pledged to the Royal Lirian College of Ethnological Studies.

Exchange Rates

All prices in Queen's Oz.

Alder (LA)	0.229
Emir (JE)	1.253
Emperor (XE)	0.009
Kaiser (DK)	0.077

A group of independent psychologists from Liria have announced plans to build an asylum for the treatment of the mentally unstable in Lead Barrow, a township East of Iron City. Though the majority of funds come from an unnamed benefactor, it is said the Crown offered an additional subsidy for establishing the asylum in the Ogwehoweh territories.

Iron City Threat Index,
a comprehensive and scientific
measure of the city's hazard.
Scaled 0 to 10.

This month's Threat Rating:

3.39

Plentiful supplies and stocks of foodstuffs presents little risk of shortages in Iron City for the duration of the winter. Heavy snowfalls and the active presence of the Lirian military strongly mitigate bandit and Luen activity, but sudden inclement weather, frost-wolves and Mannequins still present a danger to those travelling without escort or adequate preparations.

The Feast of the Honored Emir, A Traveler's Account

By A.P. Corvinus,
Chief Editor of the Iron
City Post-Intelligencer

Celebrating the glory of another year of the Emir's reign, the Feast of the Honored Emir is a lavish spectacle, especially by the standards of the modest traders of this oasis village. Two hundred camels have been ordered from the capitol to the small caravan town of Wadi-al-Riyadh for a procession in the Emir's honour, as well as the largest gathering of dancing girls and boys in local memory. Wild music and the shouts of revelers can be heard from every street corner; the sweet smell of spices and cooking fires pervade the air. In the traditions of hospitality and friendship common to all peoples of Talus at this time of year, extensive banquets are open to all comers across the vast Jhandahari holdings.

It is also the occasion of donations to the Emir's treasury by local potentates. Vast caravans laden with precious commodities are set to begin the trek back to the capitol from the furthest reaches of the empire.

The ceremony also has a grislier aspect. Tradition dictates that on this day the local magister will pardon one criminal. The remainder will be subjected to a diverse range of horrifying tortures, involving boiling oils, molten lead and flaying. Dismemberment and decapitation are perceived as merciful punishments. The bloodthirsty common folk of Jhandahar consider this to be the height of entertainment.

Sicherland, Part II

By Ernest Lawsley
Foreign Correspondent

Thorfin is a legend.

During the first Lirian push into Venkess lands, circa the reign of Lira VI, a young Thorfin Skarsgaard and his unit killed hundreds with axe and

shield, resisting the occupation, laughing in the face of gunfire. His name was sung from one end of the Spine of Talus to the other by the men of the Cold Wastes. Now we sit on the edge of Iron City on a fallen tree trunk, watching the weak sun sink into the lake. His long white hair and beard blow in the winter wind.

We take turns drinking from a bottle of fine Ogwehoweh whiskey, the name barely visible on the faded label. "Glentrossach" - roughly translated to "Woodland Valley of Peace." Whenever he takes a swig, he places his pipe down on the log so he can drink. In between, Thorfin blows smoke rings.

For almost five years he has lived on the outskirts of the City, living a quiet life. Every few months, he comes to town to trade skins and other goods, before disappearing. Locals call him Mr. White.

He catches me staring at the stump of his right hand and laughs.

"This?" He holds it up so I can see in detail. The arm ends just below the wrist, wrapped in dark blue cloth, gold runes stitched into the fabric, incongruous amongst the more traditional furs he wears.

"My wife's idea of a joke. It reads - 'Some sacrifices must be made.'" He chuckles as his fingers trace the letters. "You Lirians got better with your guns near the end there. A new type of ammunition that cut through our armor. Went through my shield and shattered the hand. After a few days, it got infected - my clansman took it off with my own axe."

These are not angry words. Just words. I pass the bottle back to him, and he stares through the glass for a while, catching the light as if it were something to drink.

I say, "You miss it, don't you?"

"I do," he says. "Not the

Stock Listings	
Latest quotes provided courtesy of Dawkins & Emberwell Brokerage. All prices listed in Qoz.	
Equity Market	
D&E Composite Index	9.35
Dornham Royal Teas (DRT)	7.2
Lirian Steamship & Foundry (LSF)	17.0
Amalgamated Coal & Galvacite (ACG)	11.0
Yoban Agricultural (YA)	4.3
Farthingham Tool & Leather (FTL)	6.9
National Bank of Liria (NBL)	12.4
Royal Tonics & Distilling (RTS)	7.6
Northern Railway & Locomotive (NRL)	9.2
United Lirian Textile (ULT)	2.8
First Galvanic & Semaphore (FGS)	20.6
Bosswink and Bosswink Assay & Mining (BBM)	8.1
Fourth Age Shipyards (FAS)	5.5
Bond Market	
90 Day Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	98
One-Year Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	90
"Victory o'er Venkess" War Bond (10 Qoz).....	8.7

blood, nor the gore, nor the death. I miss having a purpose."

He knits his brow and presses his lips together.

"Each clan is different, and has their rules and beliefs. When a leader strong enough to unite the clans appears, we follow."

His pipe smolders on the log beside us. The smoke is taken by the wind and disappears into the nearby woods.

"What the horde is doing now... I hear about the great Warlord and the atrocities in Acria. Cannibalism. This is something new, something different, as if there has been a change and all the darkness in my people has come rushing out to lead them. As if their shadow leads them, devouring the light. It is the End Times. Again."

He has not passed the whiskey back. The Venkess drains the bottle and tosses it away.

"I'll bring the next one," he says. "Tomorrow. Venkess Cloudberry Spirits. You'll like it."

I show up at our usual time and find his axe buried in the log we used as our bench. Blood covers the blade. It has pooled in a hollow, dripping to the ground beneath the fallen tree, staining the snow a

deep crimson. A bottle of Cloudberry Spirits leans against a nearby tree.

Not a mark shows in the pale snow around our meeting place. There are no signs of a struggle, just my footprints leading up to the clearing.

His home in the woods is empty. No wife has ever lived there, nothing appears disturbed. He has simply vanished.

Thorfin was a legend. Mr. White is a mystery.

Wanted

The following persons, believed to be in the demesne of Iron City, are sought by the authorities, for which capture or information leading to their capture will be appropriately remunerated. (Prices listed are for capture or proven death.):

Rashid Mahret — **200** Qoz
Heket Ahm Kha — **100** Qoz
Adalai Wooster — **200** Qoz

Correction:

Blair Shizzar has not, in fact, left Iron City, nor has he expressed such intentions. Iron Inquiry, however, remains disbanded.

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