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**Charlie Chaplin, 88**, master comedian of silent films such as "The Gold Rush" (above), "The Kid," and "City Lights," and an early satirist of Hitler in the 1940 sound film "The Great Dictator," died early Christmas morning in his Swiss villa — "of old age," said his doctor — with his wife, the former Oona O'Neill, and seven of their eight children at his bedside. British-born Sir Charles, who had been knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1975, was best remembered for his often-repeated role of the shuffling, cane-twirling Little Tramp who had been part of the world's comic folklore for more than 50 years.