

## FINDS LAND GRANT BLIGHT ON OREGON

### Terms Violated From the Very First.

### USED TO CHECK DEVELOPMENT

### Sole Purpose to Exclude Railroad Competition.

## TOWNSEND MAKES REPORT

### History of Oregon & California Railroad Fall of Deeds Broken Faith—Abundant Ground for Bringing Suit.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—The substance of the report of H. D. Townsend on his investigation of the Oregon & California Railroad land grant was made public today for the first time, and shows in a general way the facts on which the Government will base its suit to compel the railroad company either to comply with the law of forfeit its title to the grant. The report is so full and explicit as to require no explanation. The following extracts are made:

"The provision of the grant restricting the number of sales have never been respected. Lands have been sold to any person, whether settler or speculator, in as large quantities as possible and at the highest price possible. In making sales the railroad company has always observed the law of supply and demand and has never obeyed the law of Congress. Substantial violations of the terms of the grant occurred from the very beginning. Among the first conveyances executed in 1872 several instances occur where land was sold at prices largely in excess of \$50 per acre, sometimes as high as \$10 per acre. In 1874 three instances are found of conveyances to a single purchaser of quantities exceeding 1000 acres each. These violations continued throughout the history of the grant.

**Sells to Timber Speculators.**  
"When the Southern Pacific system secured control of the land grants the first thing they did was to organize an effective land department. Land examiners and timber cruisers were employed and a force set to work to ascertain and appraise the value of each specific tract of land contained in the grant; this had never been done before.

**Only Gives Quit-Claim Deeds.**  
"In 1891 it changed all its forms of deeds and contracts and has ever since refused to execute anything but the quit-claim form of deed, except where it had by prior contract obligated itself to do otherwise. This is a most unusual circumstance. The title of the railroad company consisted simply of a grant from the United States. It immediately determined to take advantage of that opportunity, wholly ignoring the conditions of the grants and sought protection against responsibility for these violations of law by the adoption of the quit-claim form of conveyance. This policy was pursued by the company without restriction until 1902, during which period approximately 490,000 acres of land were sold to timbermen and speculators, in quantities exceeding 1000 acres to each purchaser.

**Stops Sales Entirely.**  
"Late in 1902 the railroad company adopted a new policy and permanently withdrew all of its lands from sale. There then remained in its hands approximately 800,000 acres, most of it in violation of the terms of the grant, it resolved upon the plan of asserting an absolute, unqualified and permanent estate in the balance of grants in its own favor. Various excuses for this step have been given from time to time. In a public speech at Oakland during September, 1907, Mr. Harman admitted that this policy was intended to be permanent.

**Used to Retard Development.**  
"The grants placed in the hands of a single proprietor nearly one-half of the lands of Western Oregon, subject to conditions, however, intended to insure distribution of land in small quantities among the producing class. Notwithstanding these conditions, the greater portion of the land still remains in the hands of a single proprietor, which refuses to sell it, develop it or improve it, simply holding it to share the benefits which shall result from the labor of others. The greater part of the land sold went into the hands of speculators of the same class.

**That the present railroad interests**

are deliberately using the land grant for the purpose of retarding the development of Western Oregon cannot be asserted as a fact; but it is certain that its policy has this direct effect, and it is not difficult to understand that a selfish purpose may be subserved thereby. In this connection it is proper to consider that the Oregon & California Railroad Company is now part of a well-organized transportation system which controls the commerce of approximately one-third of the United States. So far as Western Oregon is concerned, this railroad system not only holds an absolute monopoly of transportation, but, through manipulation of the land grant, practically controls production.

**Checks Railroad Competition.**  
"The following facts are significant: The present transportation facilities of Western Oregon are taxed to their full capacity in handling the products of the country. If the railroad company should abandon its present policy and dispose of



B. D. Townsend, the Special Attorney for the Government, who exposed the violation of the Land Grant Laws by Harman Roads.

its land grant to those who would develop it and subject it to productive industry, it is certain that the increased production of the country would be so great in excess of the present transportation facilities that competing transportation lines would be attracted to the state. It is equally certain that, with the Southern Pacific interests controlling substantially one-half the land, no other transportation company, however formidable, is likely to venture into that territory to engage in competition with a system which virtually controls not only transportation, but also production.

**Great Increase in Value.**  
"The total assessed valuation of the land grant for the year 1907 was approximately \$18,000,000, whereas prior to the year 1902 the assessed valuation had never exceeded \$2,000,000. Of the total taxes paid by the railroad company on account of its land grant, from 1890 to the present time, more than one-half has been paid since 1902.

**Blow Aimed at Engineers.**  
"An official of one of the big railroad brotherhoods declared tonight that a fight

## CLASH MENACES BIG RAILROADS

### Move for Wage Reductions Resisted.

### FEDERAL COURTS INVOLVED

### Great Western Receiver Gives Unions Notice.

## THEY REFUSE CONCESSION

### Other Roads Move to Cut Wages and Strike on Buffalo & Susquehanna Is Likely—Engineers Prepare to Fight.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—A general clash between the railroads and their employes all over the country is said to be threatened, if certain attempts at retrenchments by the railroad managements in various sections, are resisted. The retrenchments involve reductions in salaries of employes of all classes.

The first move has been the notice served by the receivers of the Chicago Great Western to the organized employes that a change must be made in existing wage schedules. Engineers, firemen, trainmen and conductors have determined to stand together and resist any wage reductions, and as the roads are under the jurisdiction of the United States Court, serious complications are likely to arise.

**Employees Intend to Fight.**  
A conference between officials of the road and representatives of the employes has been set for March 9 in the general offices in St. Paul. The employes are determined to fight the issue, as they believe only by a fight can they preserve their schedules on other roads in the West.

**Blow Aimed at Engineers.**  
The Southern Railway has called a conference of the general committees of all the railroad brotherhoods, to be held in Washington February 21, for the purpose of making a general reduction in wages. The movement is aimed especially at the locomotive engineers, and Grand Chief W. B. Stone has called a hurried meeting of his advisory board to prepare for a general fight.

**Alfonso Not Blown Up.**  
MADRID, Feb. 18.—There is no truth in the report current in Paris last night that King Alfonso had been assassinated. The rumor probably was an outgrowth of the bomb explosion at Barcelona yesterday, which now appears to have been the work of anarchists. In addition to killing one woman and dangerously wounding another and a child, the explosions caused much damage to buildings.

## ULTIMATUM FROM ENGINEERS

### Will Strike on Steam Schooner Unless Owners Withdraw Demand.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—The executive committee of the Marine Engineers' Association decided tonight to notify the Steam Schooner-owners' Association of San Francisco, that 48 hours from midnight tonight they will refuse to work any member of the association to allow on any steam schooner owned by a member of the Owners' Association unless the ultimatum sent them today by the owners is rescinded.

The steam schooner-owners, in their communication sent by Secretary A. E. Hammond to Secretary J. J. Seary, of the engineers, say in effect that from this time on they will formulate their own rules and that while they do not propose to lower the wages, they will not be forced to abide by rules which compel them to carry more men than they were obliged to carry when the lumber business was good and prices for cargoes were much higher than they now are.

The engineers demand that three engineers be carried on vessels of more than 500 horsepower plying further south than San Diego and further north than Portland. This was a partial concession from a former rule laid down by the association.

There seems to be no doubt in the minds of shipping men tonight that a strike will take place, which may be long-drawn-out and far-reaching.

**May Tie Monument Works.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Wholesale monument dealers in this city predict a general strike of the cutters and allied unions against the quarries, beginning March 1, which will extend throughout the New England marble and granite district and affect the trade all over the country.

## MULKEY GETTING BUSY

### REPORTED TO HAVE YEARNING FOR FULTON'S SEAT.

Circulated in Capital and Is Accused of "Knocking" Fulton and Seeking Bourne's Aid.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 18.—Ex-Senator Fred Mulkey, of Portland, is here on a mysterious mission, at least he says mysteriously about it. It is understood that he is offering criticisms of Senator Fulton and endeavoring to spread the opinion at the Capitol and among Government officials that Mr. Fulton is attempting to prevent the bringing of suit against the Southern Pacific and adjust the Oregon & California land grant.

Senator Tillman, whose resolution Mr. Fulton today introduced, has received similar complaints from Oregon and is today answering that Mr. Fulton is really the only man in the Senate who is earnestly endeavoring to have suit brought.

Mr. Mulkey had a conference with Senator Bourne today and it is believed that he is feeling out the junior Senator to ascertain whether or not he will give Mulkey support should he (Mulkey) reconsider and become a candidate against Mr. Fulton.

**Storm Paralyzes Chicago Traffic.**  
By 4 o'clock in the afternoon seven inches of snow had fallen and it was still coming down heavily. The wind at frequent intervals blew with a velocity of 50 miles an hour and it hurled the snow through the streets in such blinding clouds that it was impossible to see for a greater distance than a half square.

## STORM PARALYZES CHICAGO TRAFFIC

### Worst Windy City Has Seen for Years.

### GENERAL IN MIDDLE WEST

### Snowfall Is Heavy and Gale Blows at 50-Mile Gait.

## WOMEN KEPT OFF STREETS

### Force of Gale Such That They Are Swept Off Their Feet—Snowplows Are Inadequate to Keep the Tracks Clear.

**WORST STORM IN 20 YEARS.**  
Extent.  
General throughout the Middle West, where snowfall is very heavy. In the East rains have caused danger from floods.

**Snowfall During Day.**  
In Chicago—Seven inches.  
In Omaha—Fourteen inches.  
In Kansas—Five inches.  
In Des Moines—Eight inches.  
In Peoria—Eight inches.

**Results.**  
Trains stalled and traffic on street of many cities completely tied up.  
Several deaths occur in Chicago.  
Fishing-boat wrecked; two lives lost.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Several deaths, many injuries and much suffering followed today in the wake of one of the worst blizzards experienced in this section in several years. Traffic on surface and suburban lines is practically tied up tonight and downtown hotels are filled with residents of outlying districts, who found themselves unable to reach their homes.

The storm, which broke early in the day, raged with increasing fury until midnight, subsiding somewhat toward midnight. One of the most tragic occurrences in connection with the storm was the wrecking in the harbor at Waukegan of the fishing boat Ansonah, in which two men lost their lives and six others had narrow escapes from death.

## WORST IN SCORE OF YEARS

**Storm Paralyzes Traffic in Chicago and Causes Suffering.**  
By 4 o'clock in the afternoon seven inches of snow had fallen and it was still coming down heavily. The wind at frequent intervals blew with a velocity of 50 miles an hour and it hurled the snow through the streets in such blinding clouds that it was impossible to see for a greater distance than a half square.

## SALEM EXTENDS THE GLAD HAND

### Portlanders Guests of Capital City.

## CELEBRATE ROAD OPENING

### Completion of Oregon Electric Occasion for Felicitations.

## BOOSTERS TELL TRIUMPHS

### How and Why Oregon Has Made Rapid Strides in the Past Five Years—Still Greater Increase in Prosperity Is Predicted.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Two hundred visitors from Portland and other cities of Western Oregon joined with Salem tonight in celebration of the completion of the electric line which connects the metropolis and the capital. Hearty welcome was extended to the guests, warm congratulations were showered upon the people of Salem, and both guests and hosts joined in discussion of methods of further promoting the industrial and commercial welfare of this section of the state. The occasion was one long to be remembered in the history of Salem, for it was not only a time of rejoicing, felicitations and good cheer, but was also the beginning of a new era in local industrial enterprise and public spirit. While listening to the pleasing compliments voiced by their guests in speaking of the achievements of the past, the people of Salem resolved to make greater and more systematic efforts in the future, to the end that this city shall be outdone by none in enterprise, but shall hold her own as second city of the state.

## Hundred Portland Guests.

The Salem Board of Trade planned and carried into successful execution this enjoyable event. Over a hundred of the leading business men of Portland came to Salem on the Oregon Electric cars this evening as special guests of the Board of Trade. Another hundred came from towns in Marion County and from cities south and on the west side of the Willamette. These visitors were entertained at dinner at the Willamette Hotel and later they joined the business men of Salem in a smoker at the Elks' Hall and Illine Clubrooms, where the formal exercises were held.

No effort was spared that could add to the pleasure of the occasion, and that the officers and members of the Board of Trade were highly successful was evident from the many expressions of appreciation heard among the guests.

## Alight on Paved Streets.

The people of Salem were proud of their paved street this evening when the Oregon electric cars rolled in and more than a hundred residents of Portland alighted at the corner of Court and High streets with a deluge of rain falling. Instead of the muddy streets and crosswalks of a year ago, there lay before the visitors a pavement as smooth and clean as any in Portland. The crowd made a short cut down the street to the Illine Clubrooms where an hour was spent in conversation, and personal introductions. At 6 o'clock dinner was served and then another hour was spent at the club.

At 8 o'clock the beautiful hall of the Lodge of Elks was crowded to its full capacity by the assembled "boosters." President F. G. Deckerbach, of the Salem Board of Trade, called the assemblage to order and presided over the meeting. After a few appropriate expressions of gratification over the large attendance and the enthusiasm manifested, he introduced Mayor George F. Rodgers, who, in one of the exceedingly witty addresses for which he is famous, welcomed the visitors to the city. He brought down the house by his solemn regrets over the absence of Mayor Lane, of Portland, who had been detained "by pressing legal engagements."

## Pledge Support to University.

Turning to serious discussion of the occasion, which had brought together this crowd of representatives of nearly every industry in the state, he declared that Salem is a progressive city, that its people have learned that it is worth while to get together and put down the almighty dollars necessary to advertise the city to the world and promote the development. Speaking particularly to the visitors from Eugene, he declared that "the people of Salem are your friends and also friends of that magnificent educational institution located in your midst, of which friendship we shall give evidence at the election in June." Mayor Rodgers' approval of the University appropriation bill was heartily applauded.

## President C. W. Hodson, of the Portland Commercial Club, spoke upon the need of organization, saying that "success cannot be achieved if a few men bear the expense of spasmodic development work. There must be organized effort by which a large number of citizens contribute to a fund large enough to employ a competent promotion manager, with a staff of assistants who carry on systematic work for the pur-

## Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

## Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

## Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

## Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

## FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.

GALLIOPOLIS, O., Feb. 18.—The crest of the flood has passed.

Rivers Rapidly Rising Drive Out Many Families.

HAZLETON, Ind., Feb. 18.—While River today has risen nine inches in 12 hours. Reports from St. Francisville, Ill., say the Wabash is rising there. Hundreds of families are living in hastily improvised boats in the flood district. A cold north wind blowing, rain and sleet, are increasing the suffering of the flood refugees.

Sleet Adds to Suffering.

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

FLOOD NEARING CINCINNATI

Not Believed Conditions Will Grow Much More Serious.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow and Thursday the crest of the flood is expected here, having passed Parkersburg today. The inundation of lowlands has been reported all along the river, and thousands have been driven from their homes, but it is now believed that conditions will not grow much more serious.

Boats Sunk in Ohio.

HENDERSON, Ky., Feb. 18.—The big towboat B. B. Williams, of Pittsburgh, and four barges heavily loaded with coal, were sunk here today.

Crest of Flood Passes.