

BECOMING SERIOUS.

THE OHIO RIVER LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE KNOWN.

Sandbars Are High and Dry—All the Large Steamers Have Quit Running—Many Roustabouts Are in a Pitiabie Condition.

Yesterday THE LEDGER published an article on the condition of the river, and today we present another one on the same subject, taken from The Cincinnati Post:

"Not one Southern steamboat has left Cincinnati since the latter part of June," said Captain J. C. Dorman Monday. "The first boat that went out last year after the low stage had caused a suspension of traffic was the ill-fated Longfellow, which left for New Orleans on December 8th."

Many old rivermen contend that a navigable stage will not be reached until after the first heavy snow. The first snow last year was on November 11th.

The Public Landing is deserted except for few homeless roustabouts who cluster around the driftwood fires near the water's edge. There is no blowing of whistles and no indication of life on the half score of steamers moored to the wharves.

In the center of the river, rising several inches above the water, is a big, sandy bar running up the Licking river. The latter stream at its mouth is scarcely fifty yards wide.

At Craig's Bar, near Carrollton, Ky., one of the most dangerous impediments to navigation, the stage is only eighteen inches and the falls at Louisville are dry.

The Indian's head, sculptured in a great rock nearly a quarter of a century ago when the river was so very low near Portsmouth, O., can now be clearly seen, as old rivermen declare, for the first time in twenty five years.

Opposite the Public Landing in this city, a few feet from the shore, the wreck of the ill fated Big Sandy rears its ungainly shape several feet out of the water.

Near this desolate scene the Broadway sewer is exposed for the first time in many years. A few squares below the Walnut street sewer pours its refuse and slime from the neighboring factories into the sluggish stream.

The Government dredges opposite the Licking still continue in operation, and work on the new bridge piers has again been resumed.

Captain Joseph Slusser, one of the old pioneers among the rivermen, says he has not seen the river so low since 1837, when men were able to blast in the channel by wading, and many of the most prominent rivermen declare that the Ohio has never been so low.

The big, sandy bar at Dayton, Ky., stretches back fully a mile from the water's edge to the shore proper. The only boats now leaving this port are the J. C. Hopkins, H. K. Bedford, Frank Preston and Andy Hatcher, and they ply only to the small river towns in the immediate neighborhood. None of these has a draught of more than twenty-one inches.

Moored at the Public Landing are the steamers Lizzie Bay, Buckeye State, Courier, Hercules Carrel, Bonanza, City of Vevay, and below, at Riverside, are the John K. Speed, Scotia, B. S. Rhea, Sidney Dillon, Al Martin, while at the East End Docks are the Tacoma, Crown Hill, New South, Beaver, Congo, City of Louisville, Hudson and Sherley.

There is no immediate prospect of a navigable stage, and in the meantime hundreds of homeless, unemployed roustabouts are bordering on the very verge of starvation.