

ALTMAN WANTS \$15,000 DAMAGES

Owners of Bon Voyage Threatened With Heavy Suit.

CORONER'S JURY RESPONSIBLE

BEREAVED CLAIMANT INFLUENCED BY THEIR VERDICT.

Vessel Men Advise Reservation of Judgment Until Steamboat Inspectors Report.

It is reported that B. Altman, whose wife, mother-in-law, and two daughters were lost at the time of the destruction of the steamer Bon Voyage, will sue the White Line Transportation company for \$15,000 damages on the strength of the verdict returned by the coroner's jury. Vessel men who have been familiar with the manner in which the White Line boats were equipped and manned say that people should reserve their decision as to the responsibility for the loss of the boat and the incidental loss of life until the steamboat inspectors, who are investigating, have made their report. This report may put an entirely different phase on the case. One vesselman in discussing the matter yesterday said:

"The coroner's jury which investigated the loss of life on the Bon Voyage left itself open to criticism on account of its failure to summon members of the crew of the boat. Certainly the boat people had a right to be heard. The report of the jury will not have the weight it would otherwise have had if members of the crew had been called in to testify. I understand that the coroner's jury had a druggist for foreman. Unless he is a steamboat man as well he would hardly be in a position to determine many questions that might arise. The steamboat inspectors have taken the testimony of the crew, as well as of the passengers. They, therefore, have the story from both sides and this, in connection with their technical knowledge of steamboats and how they should be equipped and handled in case of emergency, will give their findings weight and standing."