

New 'hoop' factory spurs Bloomington growth

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had been a fire. "The fire early in March made the building of another block, on the west side, almost a necessity, and hardly had the smoke left the heap of ashes until workmen were busy clearing away the debris and making arrangements for the erection of better and more substantial buildings than were destroyed."

It was inevitable that both newspapers would draw comparisons with other cities. Boasted the *Progress*, "These figures, which do not

lie, justify our oft-repeated assertions more emphatically than we anticipated when we began to look up the facts, that few other towns in Indiana, if any, can show an equal proportionate increase of wealth, and material growth. Who will name the town?"

The retort from the *Bedford Magnet* was not long in coming. "The Bloomington papers are blowing a great deal about the ninety thousand dollars that has been invested in new buildings in that two-cent city during the past year, evidently trying to convey the impression

that these figures represent an increase in size and population. The real facts are that the carpenters and bricklayers have been trying to keep pace with the incendiaries, and the fire-bugs have given them a hard race."

The *Telephone* had the last word, at least for the time being. Under the *Magnet's* remarks, the Bloomington newspaper added, "Oh, green-eyed jealousy, that art a monster. By the way, the Bedford papers have not given us the amount of building done in that little village yet."