

Railroad brought condemnations

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ests." The newspaper readers discovered (if they didn't already know it) that James and W.N. Showers, Fred Matthews and Walter Bradfute, officers of the Midland and Tower Hill coal companies, were being bought out by a Chicago broker. The value of the mines had been enhanced by the nearby construction of the Indianapolis Southern Railroad.

In the days that followed the condemnation suits, the *Telephone* kept its readers posted on further developments. For example, they were informed that John T. Woodward, who occupied the Kirkwood Miers house, would not, after all, be displaced by the construction of the new Indianapolis Southern depot to

be located "on Kenwood between College Avenue and Walnut Streets."

As the tempo of the work increased, the *Telephone* reported that the railroad's general contractor was due to arrive in May. "There is an air of business about the company's office in this city that has not heretofore been noticed, and it is almost certain that within the next two weeks things will be rushing on the construction of the line."

An important milestone had been reached by the following November, when it was reported in the *Bloomington Weekly Courier* that "thirty-five miles of track from the ground near the old rolling mills, Indianapolis, to Shuffle Creek had been accomplished and tested with an engine run." Apparently some of

the track had to be "gravel ballasted." "On one side of the creek to Bloomington the grading is about completed, and were the bridge done, trains would be running between Bloomington and Indianapolis the first of December, but work on the bridge drags, and as it is a lengthy structure, it will be some time before the road is in a condition to run trains over. It is hoped that by January 1, all things will be in order."

A *Telephone* article was less optimistic. "No one who knows anything about building a railroad, after looking over the line, will tell you that the work can be completed during this winter," was the statement made by a contractor today."

Next Week: More Trouble With Laborers