

A tale of two cities in war over IU location in 1895

The intermittent tug of war between Bloomington and Indianapolis over the location of Indiana University couldn't exactly be compared to the Hundred Years War. But it did have its lighter moments for interested bystanders.

Take for example the months when the pages of an 1895 calendar were still intact. If Bloomingtonians had relaxed their vigilance about having the university whisked away, a headline in the *Bloomington Republican Progress* of Jan. 2, 1895, certainly got their attention.



Looking back

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The headline read, "Goss and his Big Job! He has a large contract at home that may keep him guessing! Better men have lost a job by being too smart alecky." So what did whatever somebody by the name of Goss said have to do with the

removal of IU from Bloomington?

It seems that the ink wasn't yet dry on the election returns of D.K. Goss as superintendent of schools in Indianapolis, when he wrote to IU students suggesting that they "hold a meeting favoring removal." Whatever the sentiments of the *Indianapolis Journal* editors may have been on the subject, it was too much, even for them.

In a *Journal* article quoted in the *Republican Progress* the Indianapolis editor commented, "Indeed, it will occur to some that as he has

just been elected to the important position of superintendent of schools in this city and is yet new to his duties he could profitably devote his time to their performance and to devising plans for the betterment of the schools. A faithful discharge of these duties would not leave him much time to be organizing a movement for the removal of the state university."

Actually, the university was undergoing another of its periodic financial crises, and Goss had a

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