

Broken tooth turns lion into sourpuss

As days go, Dec. 14, 1905, was not a good one for "Pompi," the performing lion.

Fact was, he had been ailing for several days before he came to Bloomington as a major cast member in the road show production of *The Lion's Bride*. In a front-page article about Pompi, the Bloomington *Telephone* reported that upon his arrival he didn't like Bloomington any better than he had liked Bedford, his last stop.

Pompi, an African export, was suffering from a broken tooth and a resulting ulcerated jaw. Reacting like any red-blooded lion, he was cross and snariv. "... at Bedford he cut up all kinds of di-dos, only performing his part after much prodding," observed the *Telephone*.

Pompi's attitude was not enhanced by the fact that when his cage was unloaded from the railroad car, it was accidentally dropped. Upon his arrival at the Armorial, his owner, "The Great Lafayette," decided that some-



Looking back

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impromptu dentistry was called for.

Who takes kindly to having a tooth pulled? Pompi certainly didn't, but the Great LaFayette decided it had to be done, whether or not.

According to the *Telephone*, the lion was taken by surprise by a very determined keeper. "Soon the keeper got busy, and before the lion knew anything was doing he was lassoed and held fast to the floor of the cage. In an instant, the keeper was over his head, and with a long pair of nippers, a strong pull and a frightful roar that shook the

see Looking back, Back page