

A tale of two cities in war over IU location

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ready solution. He reasoned loudly enough for the press to hear him, that once students had expressed their approval of the move, "at the proper time certain wealth business men of this city (Indianapolis) would come forward and furnish all the funds necessary to carry out the undertaking . . ."

Meanwhile, some prominent Bloomingtonians were in Indianapolis to remind the legislators that Monroe County had twice bailed out the university in time of need. The delegation was made of Senator H.C. Duncan, Judge Robert W. Miers, Nat U. Hill, Edwin Corr, James Karsell, H.S. Bates and S.R. Lyons. Their message was that the financial assistance IU received from the county amounted to a solemn contract.

The *Republican Progress* found a way to get even with the Indianapolis faction that wanted to move the university. Surely with tongue-in-cheek, on Jan. 16, the newspaper's editor wrote a headline which said, "Indianapolis, a hay wagon town." Related the *Progress*, "One old Granger, who had not visited the capital city before for 15 years, was in the *Progress* office Saturday and was full of the sights of the city; but he said the one thing that made him feel most at home was the great broad loads of hay and straw that moved in almost constant procession up and down Washington Street . . . By the way, that is one of the most countryfied peculiarities of Indianapolis."

The *Journal* got even, in a more

subtle and potentially damaging way. On Feb. 20, the newspaper informed its readers of a lecture that had been delivered by an IU professor in Indianapolis. The sociology teacher, John R. Commons, who didn't last long at the university, had suggested that when someone died, the state confiscate half of the inheritance to "run the government, to erect stately public buildings for charities, establish universities, sustain yet unborn commissions, publish the papers of science and straighten out the Kankakee (River)."

The threat of removal of the university was temporarily at least dampened by the passage of an endowment bill by the Indiana General Assembly in March 1895.

Livestock