

LINCOLN'S JAGGED SKY LINE

(Continued From Page 1)

Environment is concerned there is need for dignity, purity, or distinction of any kind. In Berlin and Paris no one is allowed to erect any pole or post on the public streets that does not contribute to the beauty of the city. Street lamps in Paris are objects of beauty. Of graceful shape and carefully made, they bear no resemblance to the ugly poles and slovenly wires with which city lighting companies disfigure the cities they are allowed to operate in. In Lincoln a traction company, a lighting company and a telephone company have done their worst to the city without any restriction from the elected or appointed agents of the city.

The down-town part of Lincoln is hopelessly ugly. A walk through the city streets is the most dispiriting experience. Unless the heart is very light indeed the sight of the dirty streets, the blackened poles, the rows of dirty, lazy loafers that line every convenient lounging place spitting tobacco and making their neighborhood repulsive to the sight and smell, the telephone and electric-light wires fastened to the buildings by bits of

about the rights of the commonest citizen to a clean place to walk, to unpolluted air and to a landscape undisfigured by staring signs of patent medicines. Respect for decency and for appearances characterize the streets of most of the large cities of France and Germany. Over here in the home of democracy, such natural but constantly alienated rights are ignored. In the cities of Germany and France where over-head wires are used, they are attached to graceful, slender iron poles curved at the top and made as inconspicuous as possible. Every company which has applied for a franchise to the exclusive occupation of the streets of Lincoln is pirate-rigged. They operate here for the purpose of making money out of the people and they care for the appearance of the city nothing whatever and there is apparently no city representative who has ability to make them bear their share of the taxes, notwithstanding the fact that they occupy the streets and conduct their business on the people's property without paying the rent which the merchant or lawyer or real-estate man must pay. Therefore as the amount to be raised annually is a fixed sum the merchant or lawyer or real-estate man must pay,

properly be considered a part of the architectural effect as they are in America.

In the last ten or fifteen years city improvement societies have been organized in many cities of this country in a more or less futile attempt to improve the appearance and sanitation of the American city. It is futile because the movement is organized and directed by women. The mayor, council and various city officials whose business it is to keep the city clean and personable, take only a patronizing interest in the women, their despair and their efforts to mitigate it. It is bad politics to pay any attention to the requests of a class who have no influence whatever upon nominations or elections. If the same number of influential men were to become interested in the improvement of this city in a few months there would be some vital changes for the better. There are some hundreds of Lincoln women who have tried from year to year to induce the street commissioner and the health officer to perform the functions they are directed to perform. The sum of their efforts is inconsiderable. If the health officer is notified of an offensive alley his efforts end with a request to the abutting householders to clean it. If he went further and compelled them

returned from Alaska, filled with enthusiasm over the chances for agricultural development which he has found. Three agricultural experiment stations have been established there, the principal one at Sitka, another on the Kenai peninsula and a third in the interior at Rampart, on the Yukon river. The last year was considered very successful as the stations succeeded in maturing winter rye; for, although the temperature fell to 50 degrees below zero, this hardy grain was protected by several feet of snow, and when this melted it came out in perfect shape. A new agricultural region was discovered between the Yukon and Prince William sound, covering a belt thirty miles wide and containing about two million acres, all excellent pasture land. More than half could be broken up and put in cultivation at small expense. The grass grows in some places as high as a man's shoulders, and high grass is very common. Oats, barley and spring wheat also mature. This authority believes we have sufficient agricultural territory in that possession to feed three million people, or a population larger than that of Massachusetts.—Boston Transcript.

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board, at varying and untidy angles, all this is sufficient to quench the cheerfulness of the most hopeful.

The residence part of Lincoln is dignified by some noble homes, although the pole fiend is still not absent. But business is not so concentrated and beauty is not wholly obscured. At least in the summer and spring-time beauty is irrepressible, indestructible. Yet even here on a man's sacred home demesne from the axes of the men who erect poles and fasten wires to them for the telephone or electricity or traction, the trees are not safe. If a limb essential to the symmetry of the tree interferes with the wire or the hideous pole which is always a blot on the landscape, the workman, without consulting the owner of the tree, promptly cuts it off. Such vandalism is encouraged by the absence of all care for the appearance of the city on the part of the city authorities, who have the right but not the will to insist upon reciprocal duties from the men to whom the city has granted the middle and the sides of the street without rent or anything but an inconsiderable occupation tax.

The cities of Europe which fatuous Americanism affects to despise hedge

notwithstanding the grant of the streets and alleys, the tax of the man who occupies them.

A monotonous background is desirable but it should be clean and self-respecting. Everybody who goes to Paris is enchanted with the appearance of the city. The dull grey tone of the houses and blocks and their regular outlines baffle the first investigation into the source of the enchantment. Finally it develops that the Parisians consider their city a background for the men and women who live in it and they have given it a background's color and function. Occasionally the city blossoms into a park or place, sometimes the streets, like the spokes of a wheel radiate from a beautiful monument, or a noble vista is closed by a cathedral, a civic building, or a palace. Or take a smaller town, the size of our own small city. There are small parks, the architecture is simple but dignity is not lacking, and vulgarity, if there is any, has been introduced by an American. There are no spitting, lolling groups of natives. The municipal police keep this spectacle uneasy. They do not remain long enough in one place to become an architectural feature of the streets and thus can not

to comply with the ordinance the officer might lose his appointment on complaint of a dirty but influential politician. There is, to be sure, no architecture to speak of in Lincoln, but we could ennoble our surroundings by refusing our municipal permission to corporations and to individuals whose methods are mutilation, and by insisting that every citizen keep the premises over against his own house or block clean.

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Alaskan Resources

Gold has been the touchstone of development in many of our national possessions, and but for its glittering lure some of the most productive sections of the country might still be waste territory. When Alaska was secured by our government about all the resources with which it was credited were fish and forests, and even those though abundant in themselves, were not thought to be particularly available. But the discovery of the precious metal in large quantities drew thousands to that region, among them men who had eyes for other possibilities than the treasure stored in the earth and the streams. The agrotologist of the department of agriculture has just