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FINE FOUNTAIN FOR O STREET

D. E. Thompson Makes Munificent Offer to City to Install a Splendid Piece of Architecture at the Eleventh Street Intersection to Be in Place by the First of June Next

Unvaried, unbroken, and monotonous, would be the verdict of the casual traveler who got a glimpse of the full length of O street. This objection D. E. Thompson has planned to efface by the erection of a magnificent fountain at the intersection of Eleventh with the main street of the city.

The gift will be donated to the people of Lincoln without money and without price. The municipal authorities must pledge themselves to furnish water without charge, care for the fountain and repair it when necessary.

The best possible material will be used in its construction and the estimated cost of the contribution will run up into the thousands. Mr. Thompson has no exact figures on the expense. George Campen, city engineer, will superintend the erection of the fountain.

It will be placed squarely in the center of the intersection, according to the present plans, and will be forty feet in diameter and over 120 feet in circumference. A statue of Neptune, "the old man of the sea," will occupy the center of the basin. Four marble figures of boys mounted on dolphins will adorn the outer rim.

At Eleventh and O, the street is 120 feet in width, seventy feet between curbs. Placing the fountain squarely in the center of the intersection there would be thirty feet of space. It has been suggested that the curbs on each corner be rounded and if this is done the space would be increased to over thirty-three feet.

Manager Humpe of the Lincoln Traction company has signified his willingness to take up the double car line and run a track in a semi-circle about each side of the fountain. In this way there can be much space reserved for traffic.

"I studied fountains while in Europe last summer," said Mr. Thompson to a Courier representative when asked concerning the first inception of the idea, "and could not help thinking how attractive one would look on O street. After observing the fountains in the foreign cities I visited I evolved a plan for one and had drawings made in New York city.

"Tall fountains do not look as well as structures which lack somewhat in height but are imposing on account of simplicity in design and excellence

in construction. At least this is my opinion in regard to the matter. Next I submitted a proposition to the council and now it depends on what the members think of the plan."

Mr. Thompson also stated that in case of a favorable decision on the part of the council work would be at once begun on the site to be occupied by the fountain and the construction would be pushed without any delay. The figure of Neptune will have to be made in New York as will also the ornamental figures for the rim.

Accompanied by Mr. Campen, the committee members visited the proposed site of the fountain and did a little scheming to secure more space. At first it was urged that the fire department could not dash around the fountain but the committee decided this difficulty could be avoided in part by rounding the curbs. In addition the firemen could make their hurry trips on some other street.

"As nearly as I can ascertain," said a member of the committee, "the councilmen are delighted with the propo-

"I believe from what I hear that it is safe to say that the committee will report favorably upon the offer and that the judgment of its members will be affirmed by the councilmen."

Property owners have so far expressed extreme gratification at the location of the fountain. While the structure will result in some curtailment of the street space it will be attractive and cannot fail to attract many people to that part of the city.

The committee having the matter in charge conferred with several of the business men in the vicinity of Eleventh and O and soon ascertained that the project delighted everyone. Accordingly the members were extremely well impressed with the idea.

The chief charm of European cities lies in street improvements such as parks, fountains, boulevards and trees. Quint architecture and the romance of the past lends some charm but the most attractive features for foreign visitors are the attractions on the public streets in the way of municipal works.

In America there is rush, hurry, commercialism. Everything must have some definite use as a money getter. For this reason the attractive features in many cities, especially in the west, are at a minimum.

Some objection has been made to placing the fountain in the exact center of the intersection, on account of the car tracks and the possibility of a congestion of traffic there. It

is possible that these may be weighty enough to induce its being moved off to one side, although it is doubtful if this would meet with Mr. Thompson's idea of the proper location.

Mr. Thompson has evidently been quick to analyze and discern the elements which constitute the charming points about much visited places on the continent. He studied the fountains and at once decided to introduce one as a novel improvement in the streets of Lincoln. Few realize from advance reports the advantage to the city, the immense cost and trouble required to erect the fountain. But one thing is sure. It will be a drawing card for strangers, will add to the beauty of the city and stimulate investment. And it will also encourage other citizens to emulate the generous act of Mr. Thompson.



Plan of Public Fountain to Be Erected by D. E. Thompson as a Gift to the City of Lincoln.

Unless there is some extremely bad luck experienced by the builders the fountain can be completed by the latter part of May. It would then be gushing throughout the warm weather adding greatly to the beauty of the city besides giving a pleasing appearance of coolness to the region adjacent to Eleventh and O streets.

The donation of Mr. Thompson has created a genuine sensation and has been the subject of much comment in all parts of the city. It is regarded as an advance stride in bettering the appearance of the streets which will lead to incalculable improvement.

The proposition of Mr. Thompson was referred to the water committee at the meeting of the council last Monday night. This body is composed of Messrs. Lyman, Frampton and Spears.

sition of Mr. Thompson. To say that his offer was a genuine surprise is to state it very mildly. The city is in need of just such improvements and we will do all in our power to encourage this sort of thing.

"The water consumed in the operation of the fountain can be utilized in sewer flushing and there will be only a slight loss from that source. The care of the fountain will devolve upon the present municipal employes and the police force.

"The committee will consider any suggestion regarding a location that is made but at present we have found no better site than the one proposed by Mr. Thompson. Postoffice square has been mentioned but that place is off the street line and besides there is hardly enough space on the corner of the square next to O street.