

which are the maximum standards specified by the advertising companies at the hearing before the Commissioners Sept. 5, but put no limit at all on the height above the ground. In this respect they fail to follow the advice of the legislative commission on whose recommendation the present law was enacted.

Second, the state rules (Section 6, paragraphs E and F) provide that no billboard shall be erected so as to obstruct the view of another billboard, or nearer to it than 50 feet unless the two are placed back to back; but there is no provision that a billboard shall not be erected so as to obstruct the view of or from a dwelling house. The Massachusetts Planning Boards, whose duty under the law is to look after the rights of the people in their housing conditions, have repeatedly asked the Highway Division of the State Department of Public Works to grant some similar privilege in their rules to the owner of a house that these rules now give to the owner of a billboard; but the Division has refused to allow even 25 feet protection to a householder who objects to the erection of a billboard abutting on his property.

Some town might wish to give the homes of its citizens as much protection in their surroundings as the state grants to the billboards; but in such a case apparently it would be futile to ask the approval of a Commission which submits, as a statement of local by-laws that it will approve, practically a repetition of its state-wide regulations. Such statement is in obvious contradiction to the statute passed in 1920, which gives local option of further restriction. Milton and Newton are now acting under more stringent regulations.