

THE CITY THAT IS OFFICIALLY IN BASEBALL

Trenton's Novel Undertaking and Its Excellent Results

So far as known, Trenton, N. J., is the only city in the world that is officially in baseball.

It maintains a municipal league for boys who are between 10 and 18 years; it provides playing grounds, uniforms, balls, bats, gloves—in fact, complete outfits for the enthusiastic youngsters.

The mayor, members of the city council and almost every municipal official is actively interested in the movement to promote baseball among the boys. The whole movement, in fact, is official.

More than 2,000 Trenton boys are enrolled in 200 clubs, playing a daily schedule of games on fields maintained for this purpose only. The entire expense is met by a liberal appropriation made by the city council.

Beneficial effects became apparent early in the season. Boys who have usually spent their summers in the streets are better behaved; not one has been arrested for violation of ordinances; morals have been improved, and the youngsters are happier and healthier than ever before.

Early in the present season a wave of baseball enthusiasm swept over Trenton, resulting in the organization of scores of clubs among the boys. These clubs multiplied so rapidly that there were not enough public fields on which the games could be played.

Necessity for fields on which the boys might play, without being molested by the police soon became so apparent that officials of the Y. M. C. A. brought the matter to the attention of the common council. The lawmakers of the city responded with an appropriation, and the scheme of organization was at once begun.

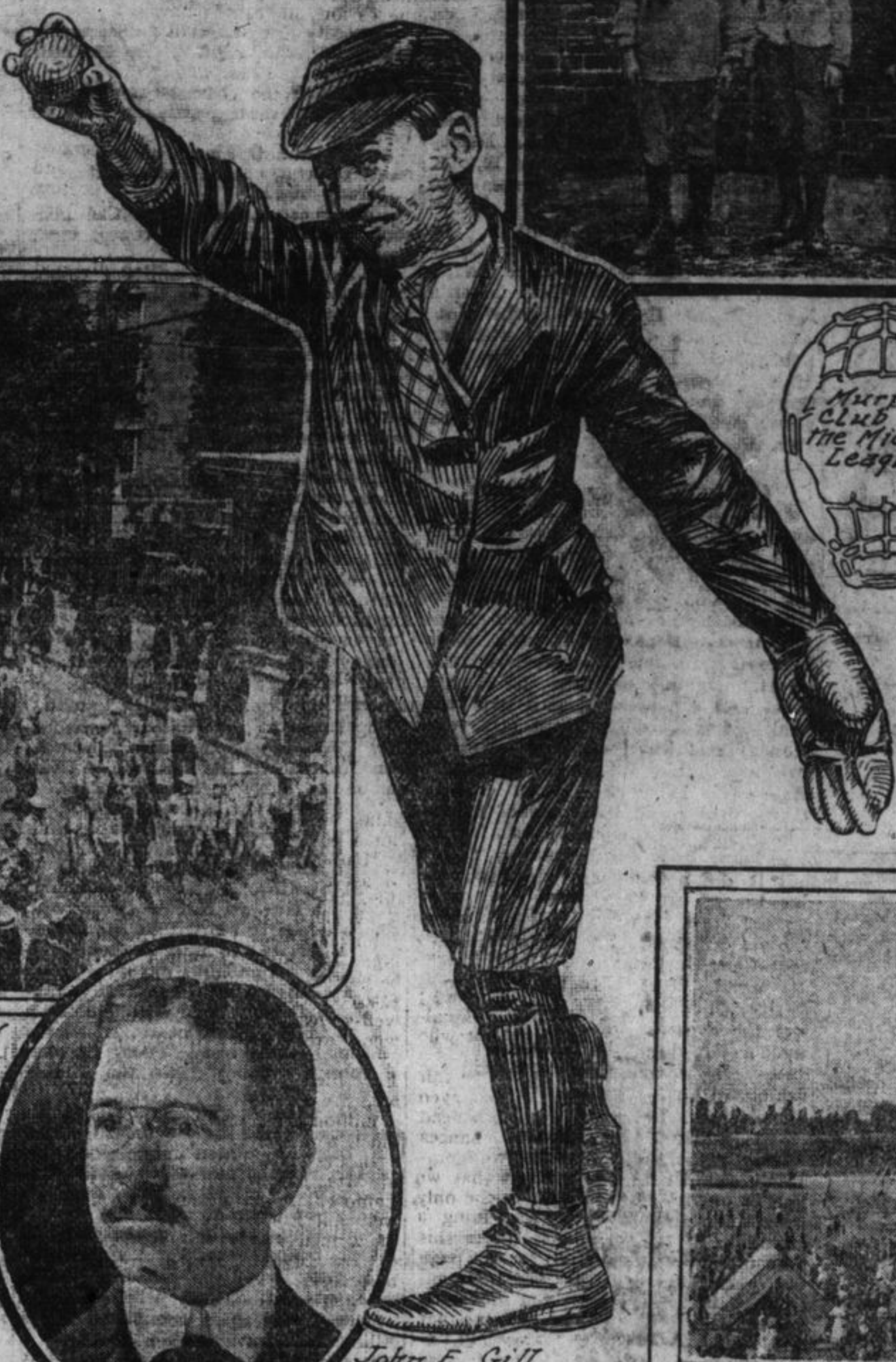
The boys were organized into three sections. The Midget League, composed of little fellows of from 10 to 14 years of age; the Intermediate League made up of boys between 14 and 16 years, and the Junior League, with a membership of boys up to 18 years.

A canvass of the city officials developed more than 100 clubs eligible to membership in the three sections, and before the organization was completed, 200 clubs had applied for membership and had been accepted.

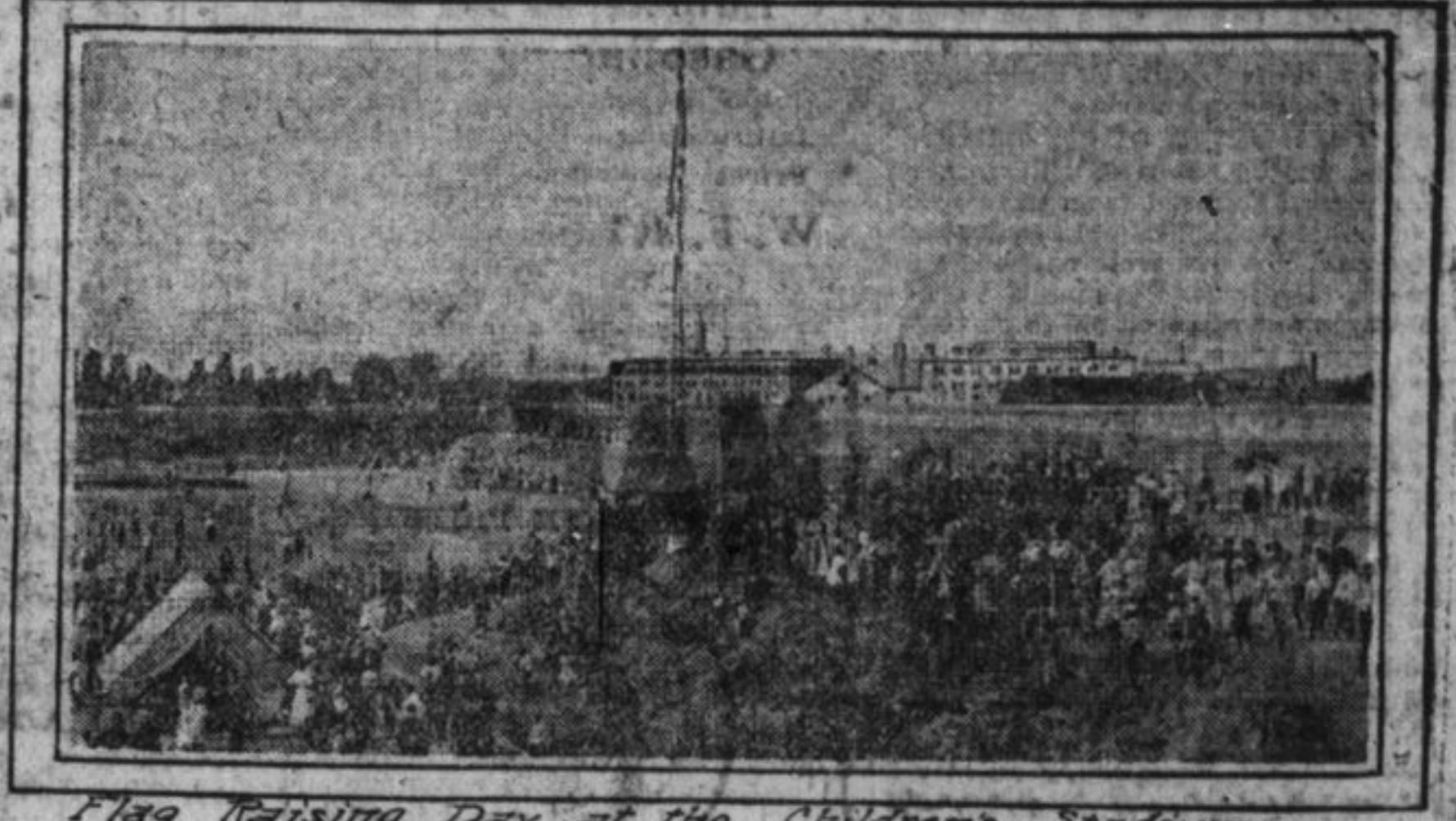
Each age division was then subdivided into four or more sections, and



Parade of Boys' Clubs on Opening Day



John E. Gill, President of the Boys' League



Flag Raising Day at the Children's Stadium



Midget League, Beginning the Season



Broad Street Stragglers, Midget League

at the head of each section was placed a member of common council as president of that league.

In addition to this, the city officials named a set of officers and a board of directors for the general association of clubs from among the most prominent men of the city, without regard to politics. The officers of the City Association of Baseball Leagues are: President, John E. Gill, president of the Trenton Republican Club; vice-president, C. Harry Baker, county clerk of Mercer county; second vice-president, R. A. Messler, one of the Democratic leaders; secretary, Kendrick C. Hill, assistant postmaster of Trenton; treasurer, Philip Freudenmaier, chairman of the finance committee of common council; board of directors, General C. E. Murray, F. W. Roebing, Jr., county engineer; Frank J. Eppelle, state road commissioner; Frederick Gillyson, prosecutor of the pleas for Mercer county; William J. Crossley, police commissioner; Harry Maddock, playground commissioner; E. C. Hill, mayor; Walter Madden, civil service commissioner; James F. Kerney, police commissioner; Francis B. Lee, former mayor; Frank S. Katzenbach, former tax receiver; E. F. Hooper, H. G. Stoddard, general manager of the Trenton Iron Company; Dr. Nathan Stern, Dr. William Wetzell, principal of Trenton High school, and counselor Samuel G. Naar, a former councilman.

Members of common council were assigned positions as league presidents as follows:

John D. Howell, president of common council, president of the Central Midget League.

Dr. Charles Mitchell, member from the Third Ward, president South Trenton Midget League.

Dr. Dunbar Hutchinson, Tenth Ward, president Chambersburg Midget League.

Dr. Paul Cort, Second Ward, president Cadwalader Midget League.

William McClain, Eighth Ward, president East Trenton Midget League.

(Edward C. Bullock, First Ward, president North Trenton Midget League.

Joseph Logan, Sixth Ward, president South Trenton Intermediate League.

John T. Wayman, Eleventh Ward, president Chambersburg Intermediate League.

Thomas P. Wriggins, Thirteenth Ward, president Cadwalader Intermediate League.

Fred P. Endebrock, Twelfth Ward, president East Trenton Intermediate League.

Charles Reichert, Fifth Ward, president East Trenton Junior League.

Peter Backes, Fourth Ward, president South Trenton Junior League.

Walter Fox, Fourteenth Ward, president Cadwalader Junior League.

Dr. Charles S. Thatcher, Ninth Ward, president Chambersburg League.

The councilman president of the fourteen leagues at once ordered 2,000 uniforms for the boys, and engaged three playground experts to supervise the work of arranging the games and booking after the boys while they were playing.

From its inception the movement found favor in the eyes of Trentonians generally, and the day after it was formally announced that an appropriation had been made by council to maintain baseball for the boys, Governor Fort notified Mayor Madden, that he had instructed state custodian John Wessening to lay out several diamonds on the State House property, immediately in the rear of the capitol buildings, and that these ball fields were to be handed over to the general committee to be used by the boys all summer.

Playground commissioner E. C. Hill donated a large field belonging to him, on which he caused to be placed playing diamonds, clubhouses and a bath. This was also turned over to the baseball committee.

Playing fields were also given by the Bowman Pottery Company, the American Bridge Company, the Hamilton

Rubber Company and the Trenton Oilcloth Company. The ball grounds in connection with the Trenton High school, State Normal school and State school for the Deaf, and Dumb were also secured for the boys' games.

A large piece of land formerly used for a reservoir was obtained by the city and fitted up as a stadium, with diamonds, clubhouses and baths.

The athletic committee of the Young Men's Christian Association turned over its handsome field for the cause, and the city turned a portion of its public park into ball grounds. In all, more than two dozen ball grounds were available in less than a week.

In addition to furnishing uniforms and playing grounds for the boys, the city purchased balls, bats, gloves, catching masks and body protectors—complete outfits, in fact.

The opening day of the league season was a memorable one in the history of the city. Not even a presidential parade or the dedication exercises of the famous Trenton battle monument attracted the thousands to the streets that turned out to witness the 2,000 boys in full baseball uniforms marching proudly behind a delegation of 500

of Trenton's most prominent citizens.

Almost without exception the business houses in the centre of the city were lavishly decorated with flags and bunting. Men, women and children wore buttons and badges, on which were inscribed, "For Trenton's Boys" and so great was the enthusiasm that after the parade had literally plowed its way through the mass of humanity in front of the city hall hundreds of people cheered and in the back of the boys' parade, to the keen delight of the boys, and marched out to the new children's stadium, where the first game of the league was played by the two smallest clubs in the Midget League.

At the stadium there was a flag-raising, with addresses by Mayor Madden and playground commissioner Irwin Marshall and E. C. Hill.

President Gill and Mayor Madden bated out fly balls for the two midget clubs before the game, and in the opening battle Mayor Madden acted as umpire, to the keen delight of the boys, who showed in a dozen little ways that they appreciated the honor of having the chief executive of the city make the decisions for them.

Since the opening day an average of twenty games have been played every day, and on Saturday there have been as many as forty-five contests.

The smallest boys have their games scheduled in the morning and in the early afternoon, while those boys who work during the day play what are known as "twilight games," beginning about 7:30 and finishing about 7 o'clock.

The boys almost live in their baseball uniforms, for when they are not playing, a regularly scheduled game they are out on the fields practicing. In fact, the boys in Trenton are now so busy with their baseball league that it is a rare sight to see a crowd of little fellows loafing on the street corners or in front of saloons, as has been the case always in former years.

The city officials have secured a staff of more than 100 umpires, made up of ministers, doctors, lawyers and business men, who are so enthusiastic over the scheme that they give liberally of their time every day. Mayor Madden is one of the most popular umpires, and Prosecutor Crossley is another umpire who can go through a game after game without any kick coming from the boys.

The success of the experiment has already prompted the city to make the scheme a permanent one, by providing public playgrounds, from all parts of the country are arriving in Trenton every day to watch the progress of the movement, and already arrangements are being made in other cities to follow the plan.

Criminologists who have investigated have given out an opinion to the effect that the Trenton plan for furnishing

baseball for the boys will result in a decrease in the number of boys sent annually to the reform school, and will also be the means of making better citizens.

Already the beneficial effects of the system have been felt by the police department. In other summer seasons the Trenton police have made dozens of arrests every day of boys who have broken the city ordinances. Since the boys' leagues were organized the first arrest for playing baseball in the streets has yet to be made.

Among the rules of the leagues are those which call for suspension for the first offense of swearing while in uniform or of smoking during the game. For the second offense the punishment is expulsion.

All umpires are instructed to keep a record of offenses committed by the boys in the games in which they officiate, and the clubs in the various leagues that have the clearest records at the end of the playing season will be rewarded; the idea being not only to give the boys playgrounds and the means of play, but to encourage them to better things.

Daniel J. Bechtel, one of the former mayors of the city, has offered a medal to the best player on each club, which means that at the end of the season Mr. Bechtel will have to present more than 200 medals to the boys. Other leading men of the city have offered silver loving cups, cash prizes and scholarships in schools for the boys who make the best records.

In conjunction with the baseball games, the directors of the leagues are now working out a plan whereby all of the boys in the many clubs will be taken up the Delaware river to outing camps to be maintained especially for the youngsters.

One of the interesting features of the system is the earnest manner in which the city councilmen have taken hold of the work. During the process of organization many of the league presidents were compelled to work day and night in order to complete investigations of the boys' ages, because the rules governing the age divisions are strictly adhered to.

The keen interest manifested by the councilmen has so won the regard and affection of the little fellows that whenever a councilman is seen on the streets he is generally surrounded by a small army of his league members, who appear to regard him as a new variety of Santa Claus.

From time to time, later on famous ball players of the National and American Leagues will be taken to Trenton to talk to the boys in one of the large public halls. These stars of the baseball world will tell the little

fellows not only how to play winning baseball, but also instruct them in the value of clean sportsmanship.

Plans for next season are already under way in the shape of a movement to secure a dozen more playing fields to be made ready before the opening next spring. The good results growing out of the work have made it the most popular public enterprise known in Trenton.

When the leagues are formed next season there will be found in life teams representing every Sunday school, every public school and parochial school in the city, in addition to more than twice as many scattering clubs as have been enrolled this year.

Fat Milk And Fat Meat.

Why should milk that contains much cream be accounted the best? Cream is only fat, and we do not rate the food value of meats solely by the amount of fat that they include. Dr. J. M. Gilbert, Portland, Oregon, writing in the Medical Record (New York) takes the view, this deviation to "rich" milk has no logical basis. In our earnest search after a fat milk, he says, we have probably gone too far. To quote from an editorial in The Hospital (London, Eng.) which notes Dr. Gilbert's opinion appreciatively:

"The milk which is richest in cream is not therefore the most nutritious for the very simple reason that a fat milk is less easily digested and absorbed than a milk in which the fat percentage is low. As far as its other constituents are concerned, a milk poor in fat is as valuable a food as a milk rich in fat. The fat percentage, the popular standard by which milk is judged, is most variable, while the proportions of the albuminoids, sugars and salts vary but little in the different samples of milk. In other words, while the energy-producing and heat-giving qualities of the several kinds of milk may be great or little, the valuable proteid ingredients, which go to the building up of the tissues—the prime property of any food remain

very much the same in all varieties of cows' milk. Thus a thin milk is for all purposes, save for energy and heat production, as valuable a food as the so-called "rich" milk. Indeed, it is not infrequently happens, as the experimental feeding of young growing animals has shown, that a thin milk may prove, in the long run, more flesh forming than a rich milk, inasmuch as the former is less liable to induce gastro-enteric disorders."

The World's Jolliest Cheap Resort

Harriet Quimby in Leslie's Weekly.

Nowhere in the world is there a jollier, a more happy-go-lucky, throng of pleasure seekers than can be found on Coney Island during the days when the thermometer creeps up near to the hundred mark, and the brick and iron walls and the stone streets of the city radiate heat like well behaved steam registers in winter.

At Brooklyn Bridge every seven minutes an express train, with seats filled and many passengers standing, steams out for Coney; and every few seconds, in between the expresses which cover the distance in thirty minutes, a number of locals, requiring a quarter of an hour more to reach the island, carry those whom the expresses have left.

All day long this continues, beginning at 8 o'clock and increasing with the hours until as night approaches, and fathers and brothers are able to leave their work and join the family parties the crowds visiting Coney enter the gates at the rate of fifteen thousand an hour. Once there, they scatter in every direction, dividing the harvest of silver that comes with them between Land Park, Dreamland, the Steeplechase and the Avenue, where so much is to be had for a penny that it is a pleasure to spend it.

The man without self respect may possess unlimited cheek.

The devil always has a place for the man willing to do his work.



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