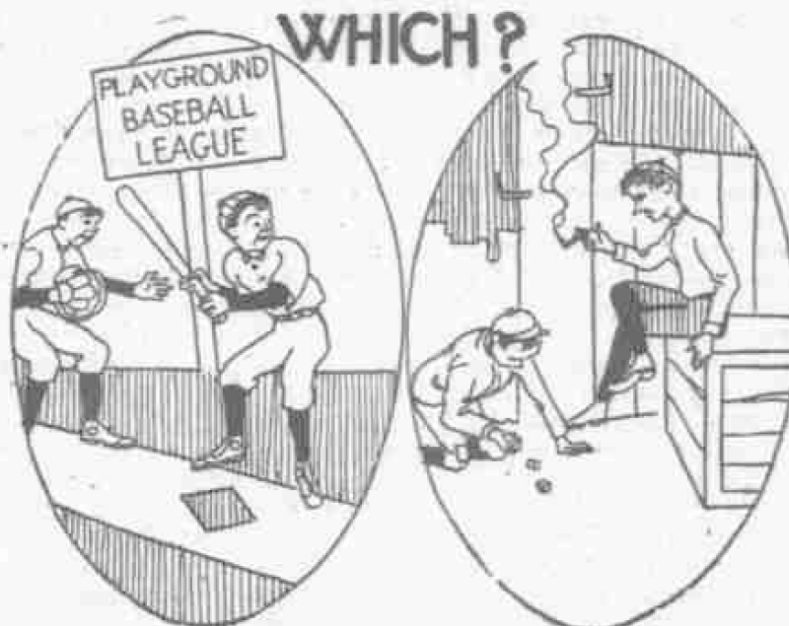


PLAYGROUND BASEBALL LEAGUE TAKES BOYS OFF STREETS AND PUTS THEM INTO HEALTH



By Hugh S. Fullerton.

St. Louis may be the joke of major league baseball, but that city has advanced and developed an idea which, if extended to every city and town in America, would be the greatest possible development of our national game, and one of the greatest things for the youth of American cities ever planned.

The Playground Baseball League of St. Louis has proved such a success that several other cities are taking up the plan. Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh authorities have studied it.

Radowe Abeken, the young and enthusiastic head of the playgrounds in St. Louis, has started a vigorous campaign to organize every playground system of the large cities of the United States into one great league of municipal amateur baseball teams, directly controlled by the playground officials of the cities. At the recent meeting of the National Association of Amateur Baseball Clubs, held in Chicago, Abeken appealed to

the promoters to indorse his municipal league and have the amateur teams from the playgrounds of different cities meet each fall for a national championship.

The St. Louis plan is the first comprehensive one put into effect, although many of the other cities have their playground teams. Abeken, when he left college, went into the playground work with the idea that the greatest success could be attained through devoting the most attention to the game most popular among the boys. He threw open the playgrounds of St. Louis to all the boy teams of the city.

At the start little effort was made to control the teams save to allot to them the playing hours. In this way the boys came to look upon the playground authorities as the proper ones to decide disputes, and they became the real government of amateur baseball in St. Louis.

Within a short time even outside teams appealed to the playground authorities for decisions. The move