

the rules. And when they come to play the bigger game of life then they will know better how to play that game and live up to the rules.

It seems to me a shame that we should have so many millions of public money invested in schoolhouses and then keep those public buildings closed so many hours, when they could be devoted to play as well as to study.

It seems a shame that we should be so stingy as to playgrounds in connection with the schools, when the space now used by factories and other buildings would do so much more for humanity if used for playgrounds.

Not many of the homes where working boys live have bathrooms. The boys have to go a long way to find a place to swim. And yet we could have swimming pools in all of the schools, or in connection with them. Certainly we could have gymnasiums and shower baths and make them available to working boys.

But what I want to do today is to suggest to council, and to other public officials interested, that they make provision for working boys, and not mix them with the smaller children. Larger boys play rougher games and they don't fit in well with the game of little ones whose bodies have not yet grown strong, supple and full of vital, struggling energy.

Let's have the use of vacant lots as well as the use of school property. And I believe the police could become, and would be glad of the opportunity to become directors of play, friends of all boys and highly respected guardians of boy health and boy happiness as well as guardians of the peace and the politicians.

SUGGESTS VACANT LOTS FOR KIDS' PLAYGROUNDS

Let all vacant lots in the crowded districts of Chicago be used for children's play.

This is the suggestion of Ald. Jacob Lindhelmer, who is not only a city

official but also a real estate man.

"Where there is a vacant lot we would like to use," said Lindhelmer, "the owner is nearly always willing to let us have it on two conditions. These are that the city shall pay the tax on it and there shall be a release clause that will give him back the land any day he wants to sell it or put a building on it.

"I am glad to see The Day Book arousing interest in this. There are plenty of aldermen who would be glad to go to work getting more play room for the kids if they knew how to get at it.

"Out in my ward, there was more play space needed adjoining the Oakland school at Forty-first and Langley. I proposed to school board members that they have the board purchase 200 feet next to the school. Peter Reinberg said it looked like a beneficial project, but he didn't believe the board would stand for it. I said, 'I'm going to raise the devil if I can't get what the boys out in that ward have a clear right to.' The buildings committee saw the need for play space there and I understand the sites committee will recommend the purchase of 100 feet."

"Just to show how barbaric we are toward the children, take a look at some of our school yards. They are paved with brick. It seems as though the plan is to have a hard place for the boys and girls to fall on, for the boys to wrestle and bump each other's heads on. Bricks are hard. Our treatment of boys is hard. Let's make a change.

"I have talked with Ald. Franz about play space in his ward. He is finding the owner of the vacant lot at Jefferson and Twenty-second and will try to start a playground there."

There's a sweet little girl called
Sophia,

Who for kissing had got no desia,
Till a chap came to court her,
And now that he's taught her,
He finds that he can't satisfia.