

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN.

Teaching the Young Idea.—The school teachers of Chicago are supposed to teach the Young Idea how to shoot, and the members of the school board are supposed to teach the teachers how to teach the Young Idea how to shoot.

I have watched the political antics of the members of that school board for a long time now, and I wonder just how the Young Idea will shoot when the wise men and women on that board get through teaching it how to shoot.

And I wonder what kind of an impression the Young Idea will get of representative government—for we must assume that if we have representative government in Chicago the members of the school board represent the people of Chicago.

The council is a standing object lesson for the Young Idea in representative government. So is the county board. So is the police force. Likewise the election board, the board of review and all of the various boards, commissions, individual public servants, etc.

Certain members of the school board for what they think is right. There is a scrap. Some members are canned by the mayor. Other members are appointed to take their places. The canned members rush before a two-legged human being called a judge. The judge isn't a member of the school board. But he tells the members what they must do. They rebel, and refuse to do it. The judge gets hot under the collar—for judges are men and wear collars, and sweat and eat and drink and sleep like the rest of us.

The judge represents the Law—something that nobody knows much about. But the Law is dignified. So is the judge. The dignity of the LAW must be upheld. Also the dignity of

the judge. Has he got any? I don't know. But, anyhow, he sentences the members to jail. They get scared. They quit fighting. They obey the orders of the judge. The judge wins. He has his way. The dignity of the Law—and the dignity of the judge—are upheld.

What does the Young Idea think about it all? The Young Idea knows that the teacher bosses the pupils, the school board members the teachers, the judge bosses the school board members. Who bosses the judge? Is it the Law? Who said so? What is the LAW? Who knows?

Suppose it goes to a higher judge—one who gets more salary. And suppose the higher judge says the lower judge was wrong, and that the law, instead of being thus and so is so and thus. What then?

The Young Idea knows baseball. It knows that if a player misses the third strike and the catcher doesn't drop the ball the batter is out. It knows that if the batter knocks a fly and the fielder catches it the batter is out. It knows that the pitcher puts four bad ones outside the plate the batter takes his base.

There is something scientific about baseball. Also something human.

The Young Idea knows the rules of the prize ring. It knows something about prizefights.

The Young Idea knows how to dance the tango—how to kiss, and lots of other things worth while—and human. But how is it going to know about representative government and the thing they call the LAW?

Really, when you come to think about it, you can't blame the Young Idea for thinking that Joe Tinker, Mordecai Brown, Roger Bresnahan, Christy Mathewson, Hans Wagner, Ty Cobb, Eddie McGoorty and Battling Nelson are greater American heroes than Gov. Dunne, Mayor Harrison, Dean Sumner and all the rest of our senators, governors, judges and superhumans put together.