

BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Recreation Commissioners, appointed under authority of the Laws of New Jersey and action of the Common Council on July 7th, 1925, was duly organized at a meeting held July 25, 1925 and assumed general supervision of the operation of the city playgrounds, and the completion of the improvements to Soldiers' Field. The Mabie Memorial Playground was still in the hands of the Mabie Memorial Committee, but the direction of the activities of the playground was undertaken by the Board. The playground was kept open during a period of seventeen weeks in the summer of 1926, in charge of two capable supervisors, John A. Nolan and Miss Rhoda Eder, with the average daily attendance of 411 children. This summer, the experiment was undertaken of opening the playground after school-hours and on Saturdays for two weeks before the closing of the schools. *and for five weeks after their opening in the fall.* The attendance proved that this was worth while, and it is the present intention of the Board to open the Mabie playground next spring for after-school activities as soon as the weather permits. Dedication of the Mabie playground on June 15 was followed by the formal transfer of the playground to the Board.

The improvement and opening of the Soldiers' Field presented a peculiarly difficult problem. The board accepted the comprehensive plans prepared by Perry R. MacNeille for the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, but found that owing to the lack