

The proposals of the Executive Committee on the subject of the secretaryship were adopted by the Committee.

The Committee finally decided to make the members subscription of the I.O.C. 200 Swiss Francs.

#### Minutes of the meetings of the 27th April 1927.

The minutes of the meetings of the 26th April were read and confirmed.

The President informed his colleagues that the design of Professor Cassioli of Florence was chosen by the Judges for the prize medals for future Olympic Games.

The President then explained to the Committee the negotiations between the Executive Committee and the International Skating Federation. There is reason to believe that a favourable decision will be arrived at the meeting of the Congress of the Federation at Luchon next May. No effort was spared to clear up the misunderstandings.

Baron Godefroy of Blonay next explained the situation with regard to preparations for the Winter Sports of 1928. He discussed with his colleagues the housing of the ski jumpers and considered means for taking the bobsleighs up to the start. The I.O.C. approved the decision made by the International Federation of Bobsleighbing and Tobogganing to allow two bobsleighbing teams to be entered from each country at the Winter Olympic Games as well as a Captain and a reserve; for the «skeleton», two entrants and a reserve.

The International Olympic Committee then read the letter from the President of the Women's International Sporting Federation. It was decided that the first of the two requests expressed should be referred to the International Federations, and the second to the National Olympic Committees who nominate their own delegates to these Committees.

The Committee next considered a request addressed by the President of the International Federation of Educational Gymnastics. They regretted being unable to give a favourable reply, firstly, because it is against the recognised practice of the I.O.C. to admit more than one Federation for each sport, secondly because the fixing of the demonstration must be made by the nations and not by an International Federation in the name of a group of nations.

The proposal of Mr. Edström to admit the International Federation of Educational Gymnastics recognised by the I.O.C. exclusively for the demonstrations was rejected by all except three votes.

The decision made at Lisbon in 1926 on the subject of the fixtures for the gymnastic demonstrations at the Olympic Games will be incorporated in the General Rules (Art. IX, penultimate paragraph).

The President communicated to his colleagues the reports received from the Federations on the question of the championships of the world.

Before approaching other business, the Committee approved the arrangements made by the Executive Committee for the collection of the subscriptions, by a larger circulation of the Official Olympic Bulletin, and addressed on this occasion thanks to Mr. Mesalles

Estivill, Secretary of the Spanish Olympic Committee, for his devoted and entirely disinterested assistance.

At the suggestion of Mr. Edström, the Committee decided to have a medal struck in memory of the Rev. de Courcy-Laffan. The President was entrusted with the necessary steps in carrying out this wish.

The Committee registered the wish of the Count of Penha-Garcia to see the Olympic Library enlarged, of Mr. Kean to see the Hand-ball introduced into the Games of 1932, of Mr. Bonacossa to create an international athletic diploma. A sub-Committee composed of the Counts of Bonacossa, Penha-Garcia, de Rosen, Clary, and M. Fearnley was formed to go into this question and to make a report on it at the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 1928.

The subscriptions will be collected through the Bank of the International Olympic Committee. A letter from the Secretariat will inform the members of this, and request them, if they prefer another form of payment, to be good enough to settle before the 1st July.

After the Count Gautier-Vignal had expressed his thanks that the place of the meeting should have been Monaco, the President intimated to the representative of the I.O.C. of the principality the appreciation of his colleagues for the kind reception which they received, as well as for the gracious welcome of H. R. H., Prince Louis.

The President declared that the Session of 1927 had terminated.

...§...

#### 5.— **Speech of the President of the International Olympic Committee at the opening of the session.**

Your Serene Highness,

By honouring with your presence the opening of the session of the International Olympic Committee you meant to give us a mark of the friendly interest you take in our work. We are deeply thankful to you for it, though we are not surprised, being well aware of the keen interest Your Serene Highness has always shown, from youth onwards, in all matters of discipline, and activity, two qualities as essential to the athlete as to the gallant soldier that you are.

Mr. President of the Olympic Committee of Monaco,

I thank you for your kind words of welcome and beg you to convey to the authorities of the Principality our heart-felt thanks for their warm hospitality and happy inspiration in placing at our disposal the Oceanographic Institute founded by Prince Albert I, whose learning, ocean explorations and memorable foundations have earned him a name as a great sportsman as well as an illustrious man of science.

Gentlemen,

The gay scenery surrounding us is a muchmeaning coincidence this year, for the Olympic atmosphere is now rid of the clouds that darkened it. You all remember the feeling of uneasiness that weighed upon the world of sports, an uneasiness due to that motion

suddenly sprung upon us at Prague without previous warning and study in the course of an unofficial meeting. Skillfully presented by its authors, it was pleasing at first sights, because it flattered the self conceit of some, whilst giving others the opportunity of satisfying old grievances.

In practice, it would have resulted in as much harm to the International Federations, by diminishing the influence of their Presidents in their own committees as to the International Olympic Committees whose activity would have been paralysed through the introduction of all the evils attendant upon the elective and parliamentary system.

At Lisbon, without stopping at questions of mere form, but rather attending to those of general interest only, you continued to examine with the greatest care that problem to which you had long been devoting your attention. You found it impossible to adopt the motion in the form in which it had been worded, considering that it involved the risk of introducing Nationalism into the Olympic Committee. Now the I.O.C., being not a national nor even a European institution, but an international one, finds one of its main sources of strength in the maintenance of a fair equilibrium between the different nations in which it is represented, without any preponderance being ever enjoyed by any one nation over another. And you succeeded in establishing between the I.O.C. and the international Federations the liaison that had become of so urgent necessity ever since the day when the control of the technical part of the Games had passed into their hands.

It remained to be seen what opinion would prevail when that same motion would be submitted at a regular general assembly to the vote of the duly qualified delegates of the Federations. Your wisdom was equalled only by theirs. They refused to allow any interference with the autonomy of the International Federations whose authority rests on the finality of their decisions, and so the motion was rejected, as was also the one concerning the transformation of the Permanent Bureau with new functions allotted to it as merely an Information Bureau, it fulfils a real use; but as a trust of Sports Federations, it would have constituted a real menace as are all syndicates which do away with individual freedom. It would have become in a short time a bed of malcontents, the kernel of revolutions and perhaps even the instigator of strikes. The International Federations, with one single exception, grasping loyally the hand heartily proffered to them by the I. O. C. nominated their delegates.

Peace has been reigning amongst men of good-will ever since the moment when the sound elements of the Federations on whose support, — I am proud to say — I have never ceased to rely, succeeded in making the voice of common sense heard, and obtaining the adoption of the only solution that ensured useful work in common, whilst safeguarding the prerogatives of each.

A regular and permanent co-operation, the good effects of which are already being felt, has been established between all heads of Federations. Thanks to that daily work, the questions that seemed hardest to solve have become mere child's play: the misunderstandings, which previously had time to develop are now still-born, and soon old legends will have passed into oblivion.

Could it be otherwise, when it is remembered that it is in full agreement with the delegates of the I. O. C. that the National Olympic Committees were formed of delegates of national Federations? Carried by the same ideal, those veritable pioneers, — men whose disinterestedness was only equalled by their devotion, — were well aware of the immense services rendered by the members of the I. O. C. to the cause of Physical and Sports Education and conscious of the extent to which the work of the I. O. C. completes that of the Federations.

The latter's function consists chiefly in training men likely to prove brilliant in competitions, or teams worthy of taking part in international matches: they neither dispose of the means of educating youths nor have they the leisure to devote their attention either to those who by reason of their age may no longer hope to achieve great triumphs or to such as have not been favoured by nature with sufficient athletic qualities to inspire them even with the thought of ever attaining them. All such people nevertheless, are worthy subjects of interest. The propaganda made for the past thirty years thanks to the development of the Olympic idea, has borne its fruits; all over the world it is realized nowadays that it is no longer possible to keep aloof from sports. And yet how rare amongst our leaders are those who have some understanding of questions relating to sports? They must be guided along the right path. To induce public authorities to create in each town, in each village, sports grounds in proportion to the number of inhabitants, in view of placing them at the disposal of sports societies, for the training of athletes and the physical education of school-children; of the population in general, for games in common; to convince them of the expedience of constructing swimming-baths; to get the various federations to train instructors for the education of young people from the age of childhood until the time when they will be able to join various clubs, — is that not a more interesting occupation than wasting one's time in vain controversies? and is it not necessary, in order to make a success of it, to ensure the co-operation of all men of good-will and separate entirely sports from politics?

In an age like this, where money-making is everything, is there anything finer than the development of the ideal of amateur-sportsmanship amongst the young and preventing the corruption of democratic sports by that moneymaking spirit which it must be acknowledged, took its rise in the kind of sports practised chiefly by the more well-to-do athletes?

To arrive at the golden mean that will prevent the practice of sports from developing into a health impairing excess, and constituting an obstacle to the regular pursuit of studies; to see that it becomes neither a source of privation to families nor an indirect means of procuring financial resources or situations of favour; to improve the organisation of Quadrennial Games; to give the National Federations the means of being worthily represented at those games, — such is the vast programme in which everyone may help, and such, the task for which the members of the I. O. C. are particularly wellqualified.

So great is the complexity of those problems, so numerous the various interests engaged that the expedien-

cy of having one single morally independent authority is undisputable.

Unaffected by all contingencies, unfettered by questions of merely local interest, untrammelled by political preoccupations, it should be able to soar high above all parties to keep up its prestige.

The hour for its advent seems to have struck, and the Olympic idea is now at last going to pursue its triumphal course without any obstacles to check it in its progress.

The Games of Central America, which were celebrated with brilliant success in Mexico City from the 16th October to 2nd November 1926 have made it known in those distant Republics and have proved a fitting crown to the campaign of propaganda taken up with so great zeal by our colleague M. Matheu. This year, should circumstances allow, we shall see the 8th Far Eastern Games. The Dutch and Swiss Olympic Committees are actively engaged in the organization of the 9th Olympiad, whilst the Egyptian Committee is making at Alexandria installations worthy of the 1st African Games.

May this era of peace last a long time, and enable you dear Colleagues, to promote in your respective countries in close agreement with the sports authorities, the development of the scheme I have just placed before you the practical carrying out of which is now going to form the subject of our deliberations in the course of the present session.

---:§:---

#### 6.— **Funeral Oration on the Rev. de Courcy-Laffan.**

My dear Colleagues,

We are all united in the same grief, in front of the now vacant seat, occupied for so many years by the Rev. de Courcy-Laffan. His departure from our midst is a cruel loss to our committee. To the older members, he was much more than a mere Colleague, he was the truest of friends; to the new members he has set the finest example to follow; to all of us without exception he was the surest counsellor in difficult times. Gifted with a sound judgment, he was quick at analysing any problem, and could find in all languages just the right words to uphold his idea and convince others. He had the spirit of wisdom and the soul of a true Christian. He was one of the most zealous protagonists of the Olympic idea; to sketch his career would be to give an historical account of the Committee from its very foundation, for none has attended more regularly our meetings and taken so great a part in all our struggles. After being the very soul of the 4th Olympiad, he suc-

ceeded in modifying to such an extent the opinion of British athletes that the latter are to-day amongst our most devoted Fellow-workers. With the principle that one should always adapt oneself to present circumstances, he always endeavoured to find the right formula that could conciliate the rigidity of past regulations with the democratic needs of the present day, and yet without ever stooping to a compromise in regard to what he considered the fundamental rules of amateurism and fair play. His liberal views endeared him even to his opponents.

It was a deep regret to me to hear of his death too late and at a time when I was too far away. For I should have liked to go and do homage to his memory in front of his tomb and express the feelings of affection and gratitude we all cherish towards him.

Having been unable to do so, I conveyed in your name, to his family and to the B. O. A. the expression of our deep-felt sympathy and I move that we now send a wire to his brother, Colonel de Courcy - Laffan to tell him that our first thought to-day has been of him whose memory will always be a living thing in our hearts.

---:§:---

#### 7.— **Decision taken by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in the Question Regarding Amateur Athletes Travelling for months and receiving disproportional compensation for their expenses**

(Extract of Mr. J. S. Edström's Report)

The Congress of the I. A. A. F. at the Hague, the 7th of August, 1926, decided:

«No amateur shall have the right to receive payment for his travelling and other expenses, to enable him to take part in competitions abroad, for a longer sojourn than 21 days in all per calendar year spent in foreign countries. Accumulation of these 21 days in two consecutive years cannot be allowed. An extension can be given the athlete by the Association of his country, if he is selected by said Association to take part in Olympic Games or represent his country in matches against another country. The Council of the I. A. A. F. is entitled to make extensions also in other cases if it deems proper.

The national associations are responsible for the faithful observance of the above rule and shall keep a complete record of time spent abroad and expenses incurred by their athletes, the record to be laid before the I. A. A. F. if called for.»

