

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.

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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.

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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.»

