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3. — The New Panathenaea

It must be acknowledged that there was something lacking about the celebration of modern Olympiads. Vainly had I endeavoured to preserve the particular stamp of antiquity about that institution while adapting it to the requirements of modern times. But the Athens stadium had been steeped too long in the silence of death. Now the glorious monument seemed to have come back to life only to lose it again. Celebrate there again the restored Olympic Games, would not be possible before a long time; moreover it would be with the risks of a very imperfect installation, for, as one knows the curving of the track is too short for our modern runners. Their speed is so great that they require much wider and easier curves. As things are, they feel constrained and even run the risk of coming to harm. The vexation felt on realizing this gave birth in Athens to a somewhat barbarous scheme. There was a talk in certain sporting circles of raising the level of the stadium so as to give sufficient width to the track... Of course, the Athenian common sense rebelled against such a treatment of the sacred spot twice consecrated to eternal youth. And yet, Greeks were alarmed at feeling that their participation in the celebration of the renewed Olympiads, was not what it should be. Now that peace was restored and regular work made possible, that feeling became keener. A solution was found, and I am glad I contributed to it in that same spirit of ancestral piety and of due regard to present needs which has guided me for the past thirty-three years and is still guiding my friend and successor, Count de Baillet-Latour. This solution consists in the restoration of the famous «Panathenaea», in their amplification and transformation. It is the mayor of Athens who in the course of an official reception given to me at the Town Hall on the 7th of April last, expressed, while mentioning that celebrated name, the wishes of the city. Plans to that effect were immediately elaborated, with the consent of the Government, by the Hellenic Olympic Committee. Celebrated for the first time in 1930, they will be known as the «Panathenaeas of the 9th Olympiad» and will be held in future once every fourth year. They will consist of three parts: athletic contests in the stadium, an historical procession from the stadium to the foot of the Acropolis, and finally a music festival in the theatre of Herod Atticus. As regards the last point, I proposed and obtained that a «Cycle of Gluck» should be taken up.

The divine strains that bring back to us, as it were, the melodious presence of the soul of antiquity, do not receive nowadays the honour due to them. The numerous admirers of Gluck have often expressed the wish that a cycle of his great works should be performed; as far as I am concerned, the proposal was not a new one. But where could one find a more perfectly appropriated frame, a more favourable atmosphere, surroundings better adapted?

The athletic contests will not last more than two or three days at most, for they will be strictly limited to the ancient trials of strength and skill: races on classical distances, jumping, throwing of weights and wrestling, - all according to the ancient methods which differ widely from ours. They differ chiefly on a point of capital importance. For the present-day athlete, every thing is made smooth and easy. Highly perfected, elastic tracks are set for him, every detail being calculated in order to help his effort and enable him to increase his records. But such are not the «courses of life». So that good care was taken in ancient times to make things as difficult as possible to him so as to increase his merit in victory and his endurance in the trial. Here are two philosophies of sport opposed to one another and almost contradictory. Each has its own adepts, but those of the latter discuss the former only in theory. Henceforth they will have living arguments before them and it will be possible to make interesting comparisons. Of course, the majority will remain staunch followers of the modernist point of view, but there are already some countries where the ancient conception has been taken up again and a legion of athletes will be formed whose performances will be followed with no little interest.

It is the duty of all to hail with good-will the homage thus rendered to ancient athleticism and immortal Hellad. Besides, the Olympic unity will be hereby strengthened. It has been sought in vain to destroy or at least to weaken it. It answers a deep feeling based on powerful realities. That is why it has always emerged from the subtle attacks levelled against it. It will never be beaten.

Pierre de Coubertin.

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4.— Subsidies by the German Government for the preparation in Germany for the Games of the IXth Olympiade

Dr. Lewald, President of the German Olympic Committee and member of the International Olympic Committee, draws our attention to fact that the publication No. 4308 of the French Chambre des Deputes, when claiming a subsidy of 2.000.000 francs to enable France to participate in the Olympic Games of 1928, contained the following remark:

«The Countries which are going to take part in the Olympic Games of 1928 are already very busy training their athletes. The German Government has allowed 8.000.000 marks for this preparation.»

This information is absolutely wrong. The German

Government has granted in the budget for this year, the sum of 150,000 marks for the preparation of the Games and promised 300.000 marks for 1928, making a total of 450.000 marks or 1/18 th of the sum mentioned in the statement of the French. The German subsidy calculated by so much per head of the population, is far less than that granted by the French Government. If the calculation is made on the same basis as the French, the German Government must grant the sum of 522,000 marks which is 72.000 marks more than they had intended.

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5.— Speech delivered at the opening of the session of the E. C. Meeting in Paris in August 1927 by Count Baillet-Latour, President of the I. O. C.

Gentlemen.

Before referring to the important question that we have to consider, and for which we have met to-day, I think it is absolutely necessary to recall previous discussions on the question of amateurism in order to define the responsibility of each in the decisions taken and in the same way to consider the powers of the I. O. C. relative to the application of these decisions.

At the end of the Games in Paris in 1924, a preparatory Congress was held in Paris composed, as all the Olympic Congresses are composed, of delegates of the International Federations, National Olympic Committees and members of the I. O. C. Its object was to prepare the work of the Congress of Prague and also to get a general idea on the question of amateurism.

Two questions which arose during this discussion have a particular importance; the first came from M. Rimet who asked whether the definition of an amateur which would be promulgated at Prague would be compulsory for the International Federations, or whether the «status quo» should be maintained which would allow each Federation to determine for itself, the definition of an amateur.

The reply to this was that the Congress of Prague would give a definition, the main idea of which would have to be agreed upon by the International Federations. It was then understood that the Congress of Prague would have to establish some main principles which would be agreeable to the majority of the International Sporting Federations. The second proposition was put by Mr. Hirschy (Switzerland) who suggested that the Executive Committee of the I. O. C. should make an enquiry as to the opinion of the International Federations and present a report to the Congress of Prague, based on the replies received from the International Federations and from the National Olympic Committee and from them get a general definition of an amateur applicable to all the International Federations. In concluding this debate M. Seeldrayers made the following proposition:

That the following three points be put on the Agenda.

1. Should there be one definition of an amateur agreeable to all the International Federations.

2. Is it desirable that there should be one definition