

The President of the Confederation held an Official Reception at the Palace on the opening day of the Games. The Swiss Olympic Committee also gave a Banquet at the Kulm. After the President of the Swiss Olympic Committee had welcomed his guests and the Baron de Blonay had proposed the healths of the Kings and Rulers of the Countries represented, speeches were made by the President of Switzerland and the President of the International Olympic Committee. The Prizes for the Military Ski Race were presented by the Chief of the War Department at Suvretta. Colonel Scheurer and Count Baillet Latour expressed their admiration for the magnificent performances of the different teams and that of Captain Oetgaard. The Chief of the Norwegian Delegation voiced the thanks of the competitors for the welcome which they had received.

Prince Henry of Holland, who is taking a great interest in the Amsterdam Games, of which he is Honorary President, honoured the Games with his presence. Numerous members of the Diplomatic Corps attached to Berne were also present. The number of visitors was enormous and finding accomodation for them was not the least of the difficulties encountered.

Before leaving Switzerland the President of the International Olympic Committee, both for himself and on behalf of the International Olympic Committee expressed his thanks to the President of the Confederation and also to MM. Hirschy Nater and Messerli.

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7. - The International Olympic Committee and the British Football Association

Mr. Wall in his letter to Mr. Hirschman announced the decision of the British Football Association to withdraw from the International Federation of Association Football giving as one of the chief reasons the acceptance by the International Olympic Committee of the

principle of compensation for loss of salary. The President of the International Olympic Committee has written to Mr. Wall, Secretary of the British Football Association, the following letter:

Mon Repos, Lausanne, February 26-1928.

Dear Sir,

Having read your letter to M. Hirschman, by which you inform the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, that the British Football Association has decided to leave the F. I. F. A., I think it is my duty to call your attention to the fact that the attitude of the Council of the International Olympic Committee in the question of BROKEN TIME, given by you as one of the main raisons of the withdrawal, is absolutely wrong.

My Council has never so far expressed any opinion on the matter. The Executive Committee of the I. O. C. when approached by the F. I. F. A. did not commit itself by approving or disapproving the new regulations but considering that they were a fact non provided for (fait nouveau) by the Congress of Prague, allowed the Football players to take part in the Olympic Games of Amsterdam, pending the decision of the next Olympic Congress, that body being the only authority qualified to judge the matter on its merit.

The best proof that the disagreement between the B. F. A. and the F. I. F. A. is purely of internal and federal character and by no means imputable to the Council of the I. O. C. is the fact that the British Football teams, which are still allowed to compete with Continental Teams EXCEPT in the Olympic Games, will very likely continue to do it, even if the next Olympic Congress disapproves of the new Rules of Amateurs of the F. I. F. A. and takes football out of the Olympic Programme.

In view of preventting the public opinion of being misled by your statement I beg you to give this letter the same publicity as to yours and remain.

Yours sincerely,

Comte de **Baillet-Latour**,
Chairman of the I. O. C.

