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1. — Speech of the President of the International Olympic Committee, the Count de Baillet-Latour, at the opening of the annual Meeting, Lausanne, 8th. April 1929.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my colleagues and of myself I thank you very sincerely for having honoured us with your presence here today, and for having opened our meeting.

In spite, however, of the joy that my colleagues and I feel at finding ourselves once more at Lausanne, which is so intimately associated with our work, I should not be speaking the truth if I did not express our deep regret — you, Mr. Mayor, are too well versed in Olympic matters not to understand — at having at the last moment been compelled to forego our visit to Alexandria for reasons which are well known to you all.

At the same time I beg Mr. Bolanachi to allow me in these unfortunate circumstances to express to him our whole-hearted admiration and our very sincere sympathy. It is a fact, gentlemen, that the Egyptian Olympic Committee, encouraged by the King, urged on by Mr. Bolanachi, and supported by the whole of the Egyptian Authorities, had found the means necessary to enable them to celebrate the first African Games at Alexandria, thus carrying out the plan, which Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the great Educationist, and Marshal Lyautey, the great Coloniser, had conceived, each in a different way but along the same road, in order to give to the races of the vast African Continent the same advantages, which the other nations of the world had derived from the practice of sport.

The International Olympic Committee was asked to give its patronage these Games and immediately consented, for quite apart from the approval of Marshal Lyautey, which in itself would have sufficed, had we not the experience of the Far Eastern Games, if we had any fears to dispel.

Those Games in the Far East, organised by the Y.M.C.A. had the happiest possible influence without, in the opinion of those well qualified to judge, having occasioned any outburst of national feeling or bitterness of mind; as proof that his was so, we have before us the picture of the sports meetings and competitions in Shanghai, in which the Chinese and Japa-

nese recently took part with the athletes of the British and American Colonies during the very trying and troublous times of the last revolution in China without the slightest incident.

We must deplore once more the fact that politics have become mixed up in sport and have occasioned this trouble. Under the pressure of foreign influence and in the hope of dispelling the imaginary fears expressed by certain people, the Egyptian Olympic Committee were compelled to substitute for the simple and practical rules of qualification, which they had drawn up, more complicated ones, which were bound to create insurmountable difficulties, and it was these very difficulties which brought about the failure of the Games, leaving the youth of Egypt the only victim of the tragedy.

As a matter of fact the increased enthusiasm for and the more extensive practice of sport, which would inevitably have resulted from the holding of the Games, would have developed the young people of Egypt physically and at the same time would have assisted in overcoming those influences, which from a moral point of view are so harmful.

But in spite of all this, the Egyptian Olympic Committee deprived at the last moment of the reward that was its due in return for the work it has so loyally carried out during these past few years, can rest assured that its work has not been in vain.

In building that beautiful stadium in Alexandria it has given to its Governing Bodies of sport as a gift for all time the installations and requirements for training and perfecting its teams of athletes, which have already had the privilege and honour of representing Egypt at the Olympic Games of 1920, 1924 and 1928.

The Egyptian Olympic Committee will have deserved well of its youth, which it loves so well, because in it is embodied the hope and future of the country.

On the contrary, the year 1928 will be inscribed in letters of gold in the annals of Olympisme because of the manner in which the IXth Olympiad was celebrated. I also feel that I am interpreting the views not only of the members of the International Olympic Committee, but also those of the National Olympic Committees and of the National and International Associations, when I pay a public tribute to our colleagues the Baron de Blonay, the Baron Schimmelpenninck and the Captain Scharoo, as well as to the Swiss and Dutch Olympic Committees for the excellent organisation of the Games of St. Moritz and Amsterdam.

I have already had the occasion to tell the world of the true sporting spirit, which animated the athletes throughout the games, and to state how every four years we are making progress in a manner, which is indisputable, in the attainment of those ideals, which we have set before us. I have no hesitation in repeating this and with the greatest pleasure possible.

Having fulfilled this agreeable task of congratulating those, who have the right to have this tribute paid them, I now ask you, Gentlemen, to be good enough to continue your work at the point we had reached, when we separated at Amsterdam. We shall begin with the problem raised by the new definition of Amateurism laid down by the International Football Association at its meeting in Rome in 1926. This problem, which we were

unable to solve before the Games at Amsterdam, will be dealt with at the Olympic Congress in Berlin next year; it is therefore important that as a preliminary to the said Congress, it should be studied by you in all its complications, for, as it involves the principle of «broken time», which was rejected by a big majority at the Olympic Congress at Prague in 1925 as well as the ancient rules of qualification for olympic games, it is necessary that we should ascertain if the definition of the International Football Association is or is not in accord with the agreed principle. What we desire to ascertain is, if an athlete belonging to the said Association is in receipt of payment for broken time — which our rules forbid — when he is enjoying a holiday in receipt of a paid and fixed salary which our rules permit. But before coming to a decision on this point, I am of the opinion that it is necessary first of all to define in precise terms the exact meaning of «broken time», and how the amateur status of an athlete receiving payment for broken time, differs from that of an athlete, who is enjoying a holiday with a fixed salary, the customs of which vary in different countries.

What is this «broken time»? We can say that it is the payment made to an athlete, the said payment being substituted for the pay he would have received in his daily occupation at a trade or in the performance of his work in order to permit him to take part in sport. This payment permits him to live, whilst working short time or not at all and to occupy a situation fictitiously whether he be a miner, employée in a bank or shop. It is an expedient to save his face and to give him the rights and prerogatives of an Amateur.

What is this holiday with fixed or paid salary? It is the period of rest on full pay given by an employer each year to a man, who does his daily work honestly and normally. During this period the individual is free to pass his time according to his own desire. He can travel, sleep, drink or play games. The man, who prefers this latter form of distraction can, according to the limits of his holiday, give himself up to the playing of his own sport as an Amateur, but in view of the fact that this form of holiday is not yet the general custom on the Continent is it fair or just to classify as professionals on the Continent, those, who are not accorded by their employers this holiday on full pay, but who are indemnified for any pecuniary loss they may have sustained by reason of their absence from their work whilst taking part in Sport. They are not making any personal profit on the transaction: they are merely receiving their fully wage for the day or days on which they are absent from their work: and there is, Gentlemen, a great difference between this and the case the man, who receives for the day or days he is absent, a sum — no matter how great or small this sum may be — in excess of his daily wage.

The discussion on this point will of a necessity be protracted, before we can arrive at a definition, which will safeguard the amateurism of these men, who are, without doubt, sportsmen at heart, and who continue to take part in sport as a distraction and do not regard sport as their principal means of livelihood, or as a means of living under better circumstances. In fact they are keen to those young people who, after leaving their Schools, Colleges and Universities, look for a means of livelihood, whilst indulging in tennis, football, boxing

and athletics, which brings them healthy pleasure and distraction from their work.

Gentlemen, it will be necessary to discuss openly and courageously the abuses of the present system. Fictitious situations where employment is found for those, who excel at Sport but have no knowledge or aptitude for the trade or business in which employment for them is found; financial and pecuniary assistance given «sub rosa» and indirectly; a surfeit of international matches or of long voyages and journeys to other countries not compatible with a serious occupation, trade or profession, and which render open to grave suspicion those who undertake them.

We must examine all the fissures of an ancient edifice and do so calmly and without introducing national feeling. And finally we must weigh up most carefully the «pros» and the «cons» before rejecting a proposal which I have heard put forward to the effect that different rules should be made for those sports in which teams take part, to those in which only individuals compete.

As soon as you have made clear to it your directions on the subject, the Executive Committee will continue to study this problem with the delegates of the International Associations, whilst you yourselves will, I hope, discuss it with your National Olympic Committees for it is a question of principle that is at stake and the problem interests equally the National Olympic Committees, the International Associations and the International Olympic Committee. The more deeply the matter is inquired into, the greater will be the strength given to the Congress of Berlin which will take a decision on this issue of world wide importance.

The matter will, however, be much more difficult to solve, as it brings together those, whose opinions are diametrically opposed: with some there is the desire to encourage professionalism, whilst laying down laws for Amateurism of which, unfortunately, the latter alone is most extreme in its severity, when a question arises of putting those laws into practice; with others there is the desire to exert every effort to develop professionalism, whilst giving the Amateur all the facilities possible to take part in sport, provided that he derives no benefit therefrom. Both theories, when put into practice open the door to abuses. The severity of the first can be appreciably softened without the rules being outwardly broken. In the application of the second, it will perhaps be very difficult to decide where the compensation shall stop or where the profit commences.

In any case I take it upon myself to put you on guard against the false axiom, however commonly accepted it may be, that a rule is more easily contravened if it is based on broad principles than if it is severe and closely defined.

After completing the study of this problem we shall have to come to a decision regarding the programme of the Games, the reduction of which is very closely connected with the participation of women in the Games. The ever increasing success of the Games renders it more difficult to retain the character, which their Founder desired to give them. The addition of new Sports every four years, makes it extremely difficult to limit the Games to fifteen days, that being the period decided on by the Committee as much because of the expense and dearness of living, as of the fact that li-

ving at an age, when the young man of means no longer exists, the participation of the athletes is always subject to the period of their holidays.

Acting on the wish expressed by you at Amsterdam, some proposals have already been sent to you by the Executive Committee. The said proposals are in no way unchangeable. They have been drawn up merely with the object of serving as a basis for discussion, and will be discussed along with certain other proposals, which were submitted to you at an earlier date. I would however suggest that you allow yourselves to be guided by the Consideration that if it is important that the Games should retain their interest, we must first of all exclude from the programme any sport which has no educative value.

In conclusion I desire to say that the American Olympic Committee will tell you of the progress made with the Games of the X Olympiad.

Those Games, I desire to remind you, will be celebrated in Los Angeles and not in one or other of the cities of the United States, as some say, who are not aware of the fact that the Games are given not to a Country, but to a City.

I also desire to take this opportunity of refuting the objection raised regarding the distance of Los Angeles and the length of the journey entailed in getting there, by those, who forget that China, Japan, The Phillipines, Australia, New Zealand and other Countries, are much closer to the West than to the East of America. Is it not then only fair that these Countries, which, for some years past, have travelled enormous distances to come to Europe, should in their turn be given the advantage of a comparatively short journey in order to take part in the next Games? Let us never forget that this great movement, which sees the picked athletes or nearly every nation in the world gathered together on the field of Sport, is neither national, nor yet European; it is a world movement. That it should be so was the wish and desire of its Founder Baron de Coubertin, and to keep it so is the task committed to you, Gentlemen.

America has deserved well of the nations of the world, and especially of the European nations, if only because of the magnificent support she has given to the Games by sending her great teams of splendid athletes to Europe to take part in each Olympiad organised since 1896. It is right and just to America that every nation should do its utmost to help make the X Olympiad a great success by sending its teams to Los Angeles in 1932.

Comte de Baillet-Latour,

President of the International Olympic Committee.

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2 — International Olympic Committee Minutes of the meeting Lausanne 1929.

OFFICIAL OPENING.

The International Olympic Committee held its 26th meeting at Lausanne on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th April under the presidency of the President, Count de Baillet-Latour. The meetings were held at Mon Repos.