

Bulletin Officiel du Comité International Olympique

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I. — Obituary

Senator Jigoro Kane, a member of the I.O.C. since 1909, died on May 4th at the age of 79 years while returning to Japan.

The President has expressed to Prince Tokugawa the condolences of the Committee, which in Senator Kano has lost one of its most highly esteemed members.



2. — International Olympic Committee, 1938 Session, Cairo

Reception and Fêtes.

The delegates paid a brief visit to the Mosques on the afternoon of March 10th, and at 6.30 p. m. they were entertained to tea in the Royal Automobile Club of Egypt by the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the R.A.C.E.

Several members of the Diplomatic Corps and prominent Egyptians and foreigners were present. Among Egyptian winners of Olympic Gold Medals introduced were: Ibrahim Mustapha, wrestling (Amsterdam); Sayed Nosseir, weight lifting (Amsterdam); Khidr Touny, weight lifting (Berlin); Anwar, weight lifting (Berlin); and also Edmond Soussa, world billiards champion.

The members of the International Olympic Committee and their families were honoured by a reception given at 9.0 p. m. on March 10th by H. M. the King. They were entertained with a theatrical performance followed by refreshments. When receiving the International Committee the King had his Prime Minister with him, and H. E. Taher Pasha presented the members of the International Olympic Committee to His Majesty. The entire Diplomatic Corps and the chiefs of the various branches of sporting activity in Egypt were also guests on this evening.

On the following day, March 11th, the International Olympic Committee proceeded in the morning to Sakkara to visit the Pyramids under the guidance of Madame Myriam Foucart, the eminent archaeologist. During the afternoon they were entertained to tea by the Government in the Palace of Zaafaran. The guests were received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, H. E. Abdel Fattah Yehia Pasha, in the absence of the Prime Minister, H. E. Mohamed Pasha Mahmud. The train conveying them to Upper Egypt left at 7.30 p.m.

The sessions of the International Olympic Committee were held on the river steamyacht „Victoria“, which descended the Nile from Aswan to Cairo. This excellent plan was due to the ingenious organization of H. E. Taher Pasha.

At Aswan the delegates visited the granite quarries which date back to the time of ancient Egypt; and also the Barrage, which is one of the marvels of the country.

In the afternoon the steamer stopped at Kom-Ombo, where the temple was visited.

On Sunday morning there was a halt at Edfu, and a visit paid to the temple; at 11.0 a. m. the first session was held, followed by the second at 2.0 p. m. Luxor was reached towards 8.0 p. m. A banquet was offered by the Egyptian Olympic Committee, headed by H. H. Prince Ismail Daoud, Nabil Abbas Halim, Fuad Bey Anwar, and Riad Chawky. The guests included the Mudir of Luxor, Salem Bey Moubacher, and other local notables. H. H. Prince Ismail Daoud made a speech to which Count de Baillet-Latour, President of the International Olympic Committee, replied. After the banquet a visit was paid by torch-light to the Temple of Kamak. The evening concluded with a ball.

The Valley of the Rings was visited on Monday morning. The afternoon was devoted to visiting the Temple of Luxor, and at 5.30 p.m. the steamer weighed anchor.

On Tuesday there were two sessions, and a visit was paid in the afternoon to the Temple of Abidos at Baliana.

The fifth session was held on Wednesday morning. In the afternoon the delegates were entertained to tea at the Assiout Sporting Club by the Prime Minister, Mohamed Pasha Mahmud, who had not been able to be present at Zaafaran. Others present were H. E. the Governor of Assiout, Bayoumi Bey Nassar and all leading natives and Europeans of the town.

On Thursday morning there was the sixth session, followed by the seventh.

On returning to Cairo a visit was paid to the museum and to a fencing tournament which was honoured by the presence of H. M. the King. On Sunday, March 20th, the delegates left for Alexandria, where on the following day they were able to admire the city and museum.

Receptions were given in their honour, by H. E. the Governor of Alexandria at the Yacht Club, by the Municipality in the Antoniadis Garden, by M. and Mme a. Bolanachi and by H. E. and Madame Fahmy Wissa Bey. At 4.0 p.m. on March 22nd the International Olympic Committee embarked for Olympia.

XXXVth Session of the I.O.C., Cairo, 1938

For those present at the session see French edition in April number.

Opening Session

The solemn opening of the XXXVth Session of the International Olympic Committee took place on the 10th of march, honoured by the presence of H. M. King Fuad I. After an address, delivered in the Arabic and French languages, by H. E. Taher Pasha, Egyptian delegate to the International Olympic Committee, H. E. Baha El Dine Barakat Pasha expressed the good wishes of the Egyptian Government for the International Olympic Committee. Count de Baillet-Latour concluded the series of speeches as follows:

Sire: May it please your Majesty to permit me to tell you how deeply the members of the International Olympic Committee appreciate the interest Your Majesty has evinced in their work by condescending to assist at the opening of this Session. We doubly rejoice because we are convinced that Your Majesty has equally wished to recognise the signal services rendered to the development of sport by the Egyptian Olympic Committee, whose collaboration we prize highly. Mr. Prime Minister: The friendly words which you have just uttered prove to us once more that the support of the Government on which this Committee can rely guarantees that it can bring to a satisfactory conclusion the task to which it is devoting itself with so much intelligence and disinterestedness.

Your Excellencies, my dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: Egypt, whose brilliant civilization dates back to the epoch of the Pharaohs, is better fitted than any other country for the assembly of the members of the International Olympic Committee in the year of the death of him who brought to life again those Games which were one of the glories of ancient Greece in the time of her splendour, the more so as by a curious coincidence it has been a Greek, Angelo Bolanachi, who for twenty-five years was Egyptian delegate to the International Olympic Committee, on which, with devotion and high competence, he contributed largely to the development of sports; he was also one of the founders of this beautiful stadium of Alexandria where the African Games, inspired by Marshal Lyautey, were to have been held in 1929, but which unhappily could not be. celebrated on account of difficulties of a political nature.

When M. Bolanachi replaced M. Politis as delegate for Greece, he had as his successor Mohamed Taher Pasha. Never was there a more happy choice, for, at the risk of offending his modesty, I must confess that in the course of a conversation which I had with him at the moment of his

election he revealed himself as one of the truest Olympic men whom I have ever met. Under his protection Egyptian athletes could only make rapid advance on the path of progress, and it is with confidence that I foresee for them a future rich in promise.

This Session of the International Olympic Committee on African soil, the celebration of the XIIth Olympiad in Asia, the increasing interest shown by the countries of Central America where regional Games aid the peaceful penetration of the Olympic idea, all will have united on the eve of the death of Pierre de Coubertin to transform into reality his dream of spreading the beneficent Olympic influence to all parts of the world. He will have had the supreme joy of foreseeing the dawn of the period of calm which will succeed the long period of struggles and difficulties which he had to surmount. In 1892 his idea was violently opposed not only in France but even in Greece, where it evoked much hostility. Thus progress was slow; the Games of St. Louis and of Paris were only partly successful. But in 1908 the wind changed; the success of the London Games was a prelude to the brilliant success of the Games of Stockholm — a success full of promise which was not realised, for the Great War posed new problems very difficult to solve for this international work. However, Coubertin did not allow himself to become discouraged; peace was only signed when, heeding only his indomitable energy, he appealed to Belgium which agreed to organize the Games of 1920 at Antwerp. Thanks to the generous co-operation of all those who replied with enthusiasm to the call of their leader, success was achieved. The Olympic torch was rekindled in the hearts of all true sportsmen, but with the closing of the gates of the Antwerp stadium there arose new difficulties with former adversaries, difficulties fostered by certain federations, many of them forgetful of the fact that it was largely due to the glory of the Olympic Games they owed at least their rapid development if not their creation. The Games of Paris took place in a hostile atmosphere, the congress of Prague was ushered in full of menace. For the first time Coubertin was not equal to himself; accustomed to command as master, to impose by his genius, he failed to prove himself a skilful negotiator; this remarkable man whose perspicacity was one of his predominant qualities was not a diplomat. He could not resolve to make the necessary concessions in time; and then, having resisted too long, he yielded too much. Discouraged by so much ingratitude he decided to retire, preferring to devote himself to sport pedagogy and to turn his marvellous qualities to account in other domains.

Celebrated in a very friendly atmosphere, the Amsterdam Games occupied attention in this period of transition from the Congress of Prague to that of Berlin in 1930 which happily re-established a situation appearing deeply compromised, and that solely because the great majority of the sportsmen who took part in it revealed their devotion to the Olympic idea and endowed finally the work of de Coubertin with a definite statute approved by a very large majority. Without touching the fundamental principles of the charter which alone governed the International Olympic Committee and the Games since 1894, this statute on the one hand recognised the validity of certain rights claimed by the International Olympic Committee and ratified the authority of supreme right with which de Coubertin had endowed it, while on the other hand it assured to the International Federations the technical direction of the Games and also respect for the Amateur Statute established by them for the admission of amateurs qualified for the Olympic Games. The collaboration of the two bodies was henceforth assured; it became effective shortly afterwards by the creation of the Council of Delegates of the International Federations.

Frantz Reichel, himself, leaving the opposition, loudly proclaimed at the close his faith in the future. The minority did not resign itself to defeat; but, profiting from the reaction which this result so contrary to his pessimistic expectations had awakened in de Coubertin, those who had not ceased to fight him essayed to get around him and to place the Founder and the Committee itself in opposition. They experienced a new blow, for this time de Coubertin showed himself to be his own equal. He reasoned, he reflected, and listening only to the voice of his heart he recognised that his work was now established on a basis so solid that the efforts of those who sought to stay the progress of the Olympic idea throughout the world would be broken against the Olympic rock where one day his heart would rest. He resumed close contact with us. The voluminous correspondence which I hold is there to prove that no difference of views existed between him and ourselves. Nor has any important step ever been taken before he was first consulted.

The Olympic idea is victor and sport, ruled by Olympic principles, will be able to fulfil the role

de Coubertin allotted to it, making effective contribution to the raising of the moral level of youth.

Coubertin died with his spirit at perfect peace, for he knew that it was to you, my dear colleagues, that he had entrusted the care of watching that these principles remain intact, and he was certain that you would not betray the confidence he placed in you.

It goes without saying that adjustments have to be made. You yourselves are convinced of that for, profiting from the lessons of Los Angeles and Berlin, last year at Warsaw you entrusted to a special committee the task of reporting to you on important questions which will occupy your attention during the course of this Session.

In accordance with the programme drawn up by the Egyptian Olympic Committee, this Session will be held on a yacht bringing us from Aswan to Cairo. In the calm of this fascinating voyage you will deliver yourselves to your tasks; you will find your relaxation in opportunities of visiting splendours that will be given to you.

Overwhelmed by such kindly attentions and solicitude, I do not know how to express to our hosts all our thankfulness.

On the conclusion of the President's speech, H. M. the King declared the Session opened.

Session of Sunday, March 13th, 1938, Morning

Elections, Resignations.

The President informed the Committee of the resignations received in the course of the year. The Committee decided to send a letter of thanks, signed by all members present, to H. E. Dr. Lewald (Germany) for the great services which he had rendered. The Committee further bade welcome to Mr. Coudert, third member for the United States, who was elected at the Warsaw Session in 1937, and to General von Reichenau (Germany) who took his seat for the first time.

The secretary, M. Berdez, was prevented by serious illness from attending the Session, and was replaced by Dr. Diem and Herr Klingeberg. The Committee decided to send M. Berdez its best wishes for his rapid recovery. Dr. Moenck succeeded Señor Porfirio Franca as delegate for Cuba. To replace Señor de Rio Branco, resigned, the Committee unanimously elected Antonio Prado, Jr., as new delegate for Brazil. The President transmitted to Señor de Rio Branco the regrets of the International Olympic Committee. The request of H. E. Dr. Wang that China should have a second delegate was conceded, and the Executive Committee was entrusted with the selection of a candidate in agreement with Dr. C. T. Wang.

Change of Article 6 of the Olympic Charter.

The President explained the proposed modification. The decision was adjourned until the afternoon meeting.

Olympic Winter Games.

The Committee studied the situation created by the decision of the International Ski-ing Federation at the Helsingfors Congress in February, 1938. The President read the correspondence with the International Ski-ing Federation. A lengthy discussion followed. The President summed it up, saying that there were three possibilities: a) the abandonment of the Winter Games by the International Olympic Committee; b) the retention of the Olympic Winter Games, but without holding them in 1949; and c) the holding of the Vth Winter Games, but with no ski-ing contest under any shape or form.

The majority of the members desired the retention of the Winter Games, and the President suggested that the vote should be taken at the next session so as to give time for reflection.

The question of principle being determined, the President first remarked that the situation arising from the position adopted by the International Ski-ing Federation was complicated by the curious attitude of the President of that Federation, who before the meeting of the Congress wrote to all members of the International Ski-ing Federation threatening them with resignation if the proposal to respect the regulations regarding qualification for the Olympic Games were voted. To throw the weight of his presidency thus into the scale deprived the vote of part of its importance, since the natural value of the proposal was then not the only element at stake. Many members considered that the position of the opponents must have been regarded as very weak when it was judged necessary to resort to such a procedure, and astonishment was greatly increased when it was learned that national Federations excluded instructors from their national competitions, some of them going so far as to deny their amateur qualification to them. Why then the opposition to the application during the Olympic Games of qualification regulations corresponding to the restrictive measures

imposed by the national Federations themselves, without opposition on the part of the International Ski-ing Federation, when above all these Federations are more draconic than the International Olympic Committee which recognises as amateurs the amateurs of the International Ski-ing Federation. The discussion having concluded, the following proposal was unanimously voted:

“Deeply regretting the attitude adopted by the International Ski-ing Federation at its Helsingfors Congress in refusing to permit those affiliated to it to conform with the Olympic qualification regulations, the International Olympic Committee in consideration of the facts that the International Ski-ing Federation would not undertake the technical organization of its sport, that it is contrary to the regulations of the International Olympic Committee to organize a meeting without the International Federation, and that there is no reason to make the other winter sports desiring to take part in the Winter Games in Japan suffer from this decision, decides to eliminate completely ski-ing from the programme of the Winter Games, and confirms the choice of Sapporo for the Vth Winter Games on condition that there shall be no ski-ing contest under any shape or form.”

Session of Sunday, March 13th, 1938, Afternoon

The President read telegrams received from Prince Iyesato Tokugawa (Japan) and Count Michimasa Soyeshima (Japan).

The following modification of Article 6 of the Charter was voted unanimously:

“The International Olympic Committee fixes the site for the celebration of the Olympic Winter Games, on condition that the National Olympic Committee is able to furnish satisfactory guarantees for the organization of the Winter Games as a whole.”

Change of Article 15 of the General Rules

General Rouppert explained the Polish proposal for the establishment of a supreme Court of Appeal. M. Matuszewski spoke in support. A discussion followed as to whether the International Olympic Committee should extend its influence by intervening when protests are lodged against the decisions of juries. A committee consisting of Messrs. Coudert, Brundage, Benavides, Matuszewski, and Rouppert was appointed to examine whether or not there is ground for altering the Regulations affecting this question.

The modification of Article 15 was unanimously accepted, adding:

“ except in the case of the disqualification of a team or of a competitor for infraction of the regulations, be they of amateurism or of Olympic qualification. The appeals shall be determined by the International Federation of the sport if the Amateur Statute is concerned, and by the Jury of Honour if it concerns the special regulations as to Olympic qualification.”

Admission of Gliding

The President read the proposal of the International Federation of Aeronautics. H. E. Taher Pasha gave a detailed report on the importance and development of gliding, which demands high skill, self-control and courage, and on the possibility of admitting it to the Olympic Programme. The contests could be held everywhere. Several questions were submitted as to the educative value of this sport, as to the statute of amateur gliding pilots and as to the nature of the contests to be included in the already very full programme.

The decision was adjourned until the next session.

Sessions of Tuesday, March 15th, 1938, Morning and Afternoon

On the suggestion of the President, the Committee decided to send a telegram of congratulation to H. M. the King on the occasion of the Fête of Independence. H. E. Taher Pasha, as delegate for Egypt, expressed his thanks.

Olympic Games of 1940

The President announced that he had received a number of telegrams to which he could not pay attention as they emanated from persons unknown to the Committee. He then read a telegram from the delegate for China, Dr. Wang, proposing that the site of the Games of 1940 should be changed. Since the text of the Olympic Charter contains nothing which would permit such a decision, on the motion of the President the Committee passed on to the agenda.

The President questioned M. Kano as to whether Japan could organize the Games of 1940, and added that if Japan could not give sufficient guarantee for the organization of these Games then she should inform the International Olympic Committee in time to enable it to select some other site than Tokio. If Japan failed to give such notice in time, it would be impossible to celebrate the XIIth Olympiad. Japan must bear the responsibility. The members present were unanimously of the opinion that the decision in this matter must rest with Japan alone. It was then necessary to caution Japan, putting her on her guard as to the seriousness of the situation. It was necessary for Japan to examine the question thoroughly before deciding for or against. If between now and then the hostilities in China were not ended, he advised Japan in her own interests, as in those of the International Olympic Committee, to renounce the celebration of these Games. M. Kano saw no reason why Japan should not organize the Games, nor why the nations should refuse to participate in them. In the course of the discussion it was sought to make Professor Kano realise the importance of the situation. The President then requested M. Nagai, Secretary General of the XIIth Olympiad in Japan, to present his report. The Secretary General announced that he had the sum of 11 million yen at his disposal, donated by the Government and the City of Tokio for the organization of the Games, and that later he would have 5 millions more derived from the receipts from admission tickets. According to the latest news received from Japan, the city of Tokio would expend 10 million yen on the improvement of roads leading to the various stadia. Plans were also in preparation for perfecting postal and telegraph services and communications in general.

The Secretary General distributed to the members circulars containing information as to the programme and the stadia. According to other news received from Tokio, the Golf Club at Komazawa has been selected as the site for the Olympic Village.

In his report, Herr Klingeberg, technical adviser, gave full details regarding the stadia and also regarding the programmes to be decided by the Executive Committee.

M. Piétri suggested it would be desirable that the finals of the wrestling, boxing, fencing, etc., should take place in the big stadium. This proposal will be discussed between M. Piétri and the technical adviser.

Count de Rosen asked whether or not the race-course at Fuchu would be chosen as the centre for the equestrian contests. On the suggestion of Herr Klingeberg, M. Nagai replied in the affirmative. The Japanese Organizing Committee will furthermore consider the possibility of having the shooting ranges in proximity to the city, and not at Murayama, the site originally chosen hut which is considered too far away.

A telegram signed by Dr. Kano and the President was sent to Japan asking for renewed guarantee that the International Exhibition would be closed a month before the opening of the Games of the XIIth Olympiad.

Date of the Games of 1940

Herr Klingeberg, technical adviser to the International Olympic Committee, reported on the climatic conditions and proposed that the Games be put back to the end of September and beginning of October. On the other hand Mr. Brundage gave detailed reasons why the date already fixed, end of August and beginning of September, should be maintained.

This gave rise to a long discussion.

There was choice of two periods: from the 24th of August to the 8th of September, and from the 21st of September to the 6th of October.

The second period was adopted by 17 votes to 8, and thus the Games will be held from the 21st of September to the 6th of October.

Congresses

The President persuaded the Secretary General not to organize sundry congresses during the period of the Olympic Games. This does not refer to the congresses of the International Sports Federations.

Office of the Organizing Committee

The President emphasized the fact that the Secretary General has need of first-class translators for the circulars to be sent out so as to eliminate errors, and that there may be immediate response to the communications of the different international organizations. He urged above all that the Committee seek the aid of MM. Sawada and Matsumoto.

Accommodation

The President further requested the Organizing Committee to come to an immediate arrangement with the hotels in Tokio and Yokohama to assure accommodation for the officials of the Games.

The President then said that the arrangements which he had personally made at Tokio in 1936 and those concluded by the International Olympic Committee at Berlin in 1936 and at Warsaw in 1937 constituted the sole basis for the preparation for the Games of the XIIth Olympiad.

Art Competitions

The International Olympic Committee did not accept the regulations submitted for the Art Competitions by the Japanese Organizing Committee as these were contrary to the decisions reached at Warsaw, nor the proposal to add two new competitions: Photography and industrial art.

Subvention for Participating Teams

The President, on the motion of M. Edström, asked in what way the subvention of 1½ million yen for the travelling expenses of competitors would be allotted. The President called upon the Secretary General, Dr. Nagai, and the technical adviser, Herr Klingeberg, to deal with this question and to report upon it at the Session next year.

Torch Run

Count de Rosen asked how it was proposed to carry through the Torch Run and informed the members of a suggestion made by M. Sven Hedin. In the discussion which followed M. Bolanachi made an alternative suggestion. No decision was reached.

Session of Wednesday, March 16th, 1938, Morning

M. Kano announced that the reply from the Mayor of Tokio probably could not arrive for Thursday. The President expressed his intention in that case to consult with the members to see what steps should be taken in the matter. The Committee was of opinion that it could not take into account that the reply had suffered a delay.

Torch Run

The President requested those members who were interested in the Torch Run to communicate directly with the Secretary General of the Japanese Organizing Committee, Dr. Nagai. MM. Coudert and Brundage submitted some proposals on the matter.

Winter Games of 1940

The Secretary General for the Olympic Games at Tokio reported in detail on this question. All preparations are made for enabling the Winter Games to be carried through at Sapporo. He stated that the technical adviser would give information as to the stadia.

The budget of the Winter Games, amounting to round 1 250 000 yen, was guaranteed by the officials of the Government of Hokkaido. Dr. Nagai acknowledged that the Organizing Committee for the Games at Sapporo was not in close touch with the National Olympic Committee and the International Sporting Federations. Following on the Secretary General's report, the President declared that there was certainly proof of a keen enthusiasm for the Winter Games at Sapporo; but it was absolutely necessary that there should be close touch with the international Olympic organizations. This declaration was supported by H. E. Taher Pasha and Count de Rosen.

The technical adviser then reported on the general situation at Sapporo, on the sports stadia and on the actual preparations for the Games. He made known that hitherto no Secretary General had been appointed for the Winter Games. The President confirmed that the two reports agreed, in so far that they set out the good side of the preparations on the one hand and the difficulties to be met in completing them on the other.

The President asked the Japanese delegates if they would agree to carry through the Olympic Winter Games at Sapporo in accordance with the decision reached by the International Olympic Committee, that is to say, with the elimination of all ski-ing contests in any shape or form. M. Kano replied in the affirmative.

Olympic Programme

The President submitted various proposals to the Committee. It was decided to inform the Yugoslavian Cycling Federation that it was never the intention of the International Olympic Committee to abolish this sport from the Olympic Programme. At the request of the American and Egyptian Shooting Federations enquiry will be directed to the International Shooting Federation to discover whether it would be possible to augment the Olympic Programme without infringing the Olympic qualification regulations.

The President read a letter from the Nippon Yacht Racing Association.

After a discussion it was decided to ask the International Yacht Racing Union (I.Y.R.U.) whether it would assume responsibility for the direction of the yachting at the Olympic Games of 1940. If this body cannot conform with the General Regulations for the carrying through of Olympic sports, then yachting should be deleted from the Olympic Programme for 1940.

Mr. Brundage submitted a proposal of the International Baseball league, seeking for admission of this sport to the Olympic Programme.

The proposals of the International Model Yacht Racing Union and the Chess Federation were not accepted. The proposal of Dr. Schmidt that gold medals must be distributed at all Art Competitions was not accepted. The technical adviser reported to the International Olympic Committee on the Japanese proposals for the introduction of photography and industrial art into the programme of the Art Competitions. These proposals were not accepted.

Session of Wednesday, March 16th, 1938, Afternoon

Olympic Medal for Sport Film

The President read a letter from the International Film Chamber, and the International Olympic Committee instructed the Executive Committee to get into touch with this body so as to elaborate a plan concerning the awarding of a medal for the best technical film dealing with sports propaganda.

The President also read a letter from the „Women's Division, National Amateur Athletic Federation“. Its proposal to eliminate feminine athletic contests and to restrict the feminine participation in all other sports on the Olympic Programme could not be taken into consideration as it concerned the International Federations.

Gliding

The admission of gliding to the facultative programme of the Olympic Games was approved with 16 votes against three, and one abstention.

Budget

The President announced that owing to the illness of the secretary, M. Berdez, it was impossible to submit an exact budget. He emphasized, however, that the financial situation was become more difficult owing to the devaluation of Swiss currency, through which receipts were reduced and expenditures increased. Moreover, some members had failed to pay their quota. Arrears amounted to round 6000 Swiss francs. The President was instructed to write to these members calling upon them to remit their quota and at the same time recalling to them that under the terms of the Olympic Regulations those who failed to heed this appeal would be considered as having resigned, just as those who had not been in contact with the International Olympic Committee for two years. Nevertheless the sums owing must be paid.

„Pierre de Coubertin“ Fund

The President asked the Committee to approve the transfer to the testamentary executors of the balance and interest. This was agreed.

Committee for Erection of Monument to Pierre de Coubertin

Dr. Messerli, Lausanne, informed the International Olympic Committee that he had formed a committee for the erection of a monument to Pierre de Coubertin. This committee asked whether the International Olympic Committee would agree to accept the patronage. The President proposed that a letter be addressed to Dr. Messerli informing him that the International Olympic Committee consented to accept the patronage, while at the same time expressing astonishment that the Presidents of Honour of the committee did not include the name of Colonel Guisan, Swiss delegate to the International Olympic Committee.

International Olympic Institute

The President read a letter from Dr. Lewald informing the International Olympic Committee that the German Government had founded an International Olympic Institute. This was also confirmed by a letter from the Reich Sports Leader. The President further read a letter from Dr. Messerli, Lausanne, expressing his intention to unite the „Bureau International de Pédagogie Sportive“ (B.I.P.S.) with the Olympic Institute of Lausanne. The International Olympic Committee took note of the letters addressed by the late Baron de Coubertin to the International Institute in Berlin and to the bodies in Lausanne, and decided to hold aloof from eventual discussions between the aforementioned Institutes.

On the proposal of M. Piétri the Committee agreed that the International Olympic Institute should combine the publication of the Official Bulletin of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Review edited by Dr. Diem. This Review is sent free to members of the International Olympic Committee, to members of the Council of Delegates of the International Federations and to the National Olympic Committees. To the title of "Olympische Rundschau" will be added, in French and in parentheses: "inclus le Bulletin Officiel du C.I.O." The Executive Committee will discuss with Dr. Diem details of collaboration with the International Olympic Institute in Berlin.

Session of 1939

A communication was received from General Djoukitch and Professor Bucar, delegates to the International Olympic Committee for Yugoslavia, expressing the desire that the Session which it was planned to hold at Belgrade in 1939 be postponed until 1941.

An invitation from Lord Aberdare (Great Britain) was accepted with applause. It is proposed that the Session be held in London during the second week of June, 1939 (June 12th to 17th).

Applications for Olympic Games

The President announced the applications for the Olympic Games of 1944. Invitations had been received from the following cities: Budapest (since 1914), Lausanne, Helsingfors, Athens, London.

Applications for Winter Games, 1944

St. Moritz; Oslo.

Application for Olympic Games, 1948

Belgrade.

The application submitted in 1931 by Canada for the Winter Games has not been renewed.

The official decision as to the Olympic Games of 1944 will be taken at the next Session.

Olympic Cup

The President made known to the Committee the candidates for the Olympic Cup.

With the withdrawal by M. Edström for the third time of the candidacy of the Union of Swedish Federations of Athletic Sports, two candidates were left. These were the Czechoslovakian Federation of Sokols and the German "Strength through Joy" organization. The "Strength through Joy" organization won on a vote, by 13 to 10.

At the conclusion of the session the President announced that a telegram of thanks had been received from H. M. the King.

Sessions of Thursday, March 17th, 1938, Morning and Afternoon

Herr Klingeberg read the protocol of the two previous sessions. M. Piétri proposed that the Official Bulletin of the International Olympic Committee incorporated in the Olympic Review.

Report of Committee appointed at Warsaw

The President read the report of the committee which had been instructed to express its views on certain customary practices, so as to enable the International Olympic Committee to judge whether these were compatible with the principle of prohibition of making good the loss of earnings. After carefully making itself acquainted with the report, the International Olympic Committee defined in its replies to points 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10 that which is permissible and that which is not, that is, what must be regarded as reimbursement for lost salary. By its replies to points 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 it expressed its opinion on questions of a general character. On the motion of the President paragraph No. 10 was adopted by 14 votes to 8, modifying as follows Article 2 of the Amateur Regulations:

2. — Must not have received reimbursement or compensation for loss of salary.

Article 2 does not apply: when holidays are taken under normal professional conditions, or when they are granted under the same conditions on the occasion of the Olympic Games, provided that they do not constitute a camouflaged reimbursement — direct or indirect — of the salary lost; and when after personal investigation and as a very exceptional permission a payment is made directly to the employer of compensation for the wife, the mother or the father of the athlete during his absence if he is the sole support of his family.

The report was then adopted in the following form:

1. Examination of the question of the nationalisation of sports for political aims.

Reply:

The International Olympic Committee, establishing with much satisfaction that the aim it pursues meets with universal approval, can only rejoice at the emulation which the Olympic movement has instigated among the different nations, and it extols the Governments which have adopted wide programmes of collective physical education with a view to perfecting popular sport.

Nevertheless it regards as a danger to the Olympic ideal that by the side of the legitimate development of sports in conformity with the principles of amateurism there can be propagated certain tendencies which envisage above all a national exultation of success achieved rather than the realisation of the common and harmonious objective which is the essential Olympic law.

2. Examination of the customary practice of preparing athletes for the Olympic Games in training camps. When this practice is permissible, how much time may it occupy without infringing the Olympic Regulations ?

Answer:

The practice of interrupting an athlete's occupation, be it studies or employment, in order to submit him to special training in an athletic camp for a period exceeding two weeks is not in accordance with the idea of the Olympic Games.

3. Can Olympic victors who have received presents from their Governments be again allowed to participate in the Olympic Games?

Answer:

Participants who have received money presents or advantages of a material character shall not be admitted to the Olympic Games.

4. Is there universal respect paid to the ruling that a professional in one sport cannot be an amateur in another?

Reply:

A professional in one sport is generally regarded as a professional in all other sports. In the opinion of the International Olympic Committee it is desirable that this rule be generally observed.

5. Position of professional sporting writers.

Reply:

In some countries athletes, solely due to their sporting achievements, have found positions in branches of journalism, in the theatre, on the films or in broadcasting. Such exploitation of sporting reputation does not accord either with the principles or with the spirit of the Olympic Games.

6. Doping of athletes.

Reply:

The use of drugs or artificial stimulants of any kind must be condemned most strongly, and everyone who accepts or offers dope, no matter in what form, should not be allowed to participate in amateur meetings or in the Olympic Games.

7. Is not the payment of a lump sum to an individual or team, with a view to obtaining his or its participation, a most serious detraction of the principle forbidding the making good of lost earning?

Reply:

An amateur has the right to receive full reimbursement for his travelling, board and lodging expenses when he takes part in a competition. But the expenses should not exceed £ 1 per day, not including the expense of travel by motorcar, aeroplane, steamer (saloon), train (second class). Every other recompense is prohibited.

8. What sum may be granted to an athlete as pocket-money?

Reply:

An athlete can receive reimbursement of his normal expenditures, such as for: washing, bus and tram fares, etc., etc., on condition that they do not exceed a maximum of three chillings daily.

9. Are the National Federations, National Olympic Committees or clubs authorised to come to a financial arrangement with an employer so as to assure that a participant will be restored to his post after an absence due to his taking part in an international competition?

Reply :

Participation in the Olympic Games should be regarded as a very high honour. This is the view of most employers, who are proud to have an Olympic athlete among their workers. Thus there is no necessity to

make financial arrangements for them. Supplementary grants paid in excess of the usual salary constitute a breach of the Olympic qualification regulations.

10. Can an indemnity be paid during his absence to the wife, mother or father of an athlete, if he is the sole support of his family?

Reply:

The payment of such an indemnity as a very special exception, after individual enquiry and in the form of a payment direct to the employer, is not regarded as reimbursement for lost salary.

Session of Friday, March 18th, 1938, Morning

Committee appointed to study the proposals of MM. Rouppert and Matuszewski

M. Coudert read the report drawn up in the previous days. Following discussion of the proposals the International Olympic Committee resolved:

The Executive Committee is requested in conjunction with the delegates of the International Sports Federations to seek means for avoiding the repetition of incidents of a nature throwing discredit on the Olympic Games and sport in general through decisions appearing contrary to common-sense and justice.

Sporting Education

M. Krogus presented his report and said a more active propaganda for sport was necessary, and that the papers should interest themselves more seriously in the matter. In the course of the discussion Lord Aberdare proposed that the International Olympic Committee itself should supply news to the press. The President replied that this would be one of the duties of the "Olympic Review", and requested Dr. Diem to give his special attention to this matter. He also asked the members of the International Olympic Committee to collaborate with the Institute and to help the editor of the "Olympic Review" by obtaining articles for that journal.

Mr. Brundage asked that the most important decisions of the International Olympic Committee be brought together and published in a special pamphlet, and the President replied that that was already planned by Dr. Diem's Institute.

The business on the agenda having been concluded, the International Olympic Committee examined the steps to be taken to ensure the celebration of the Games of the XIIth Olympiad in the event that they are renounced by Tokio and Sapporo.

After an exchange of views on various proposals submitted, the International Olympic Committee unanimously endowed the Executive Committee with full powers to transfer the Winter as well as the Summer Games to one or other locality prepared to assume their organization.

M. Jiri Guth-Jarkowsky, as doyen of the members of the International Olympic Committee, thanked the President for his direction of the work of this Session, in which they had had to deal with very delicate questions.

M. Edström spoke in similar terms.

The President expressed his thanks, and reiterated to H. E. Taher Pasha the gratitude felt by the International Olympic Committee. He declared the Session ended at 11. 20 a. m.

signed: Baillet-Latour.

3.— Message from the President of the International Olympic Committee to the People of Japan

On the conclusion of the Session the President, desiring to make known the reasons why the International Olympic Committee had taken the only decision compatible with the Olympic Charter in drawing Japan's attention to what it considered to be that country's duty in view of the actual situation, delivered the following broadcast address:

"The International Olympic Committee, honouring its Charter, has not believed itself called upon to examine the proposal as to whether or not the decision reached in Berlin in 1936 should be changed, because it is firmly convinced that Tokio and Sapporo, strong in the unanimous support of the nation and of the Government, desire to celebrate the Games of the XIIth Olympiad in 1940, and in accordance with the Olympic Regulations these Games cannot be taken from them.

"Both them towns are convinced that despite the actual difficulties they are in a position to continue their preparations. Nevertheless, as no one can foresee the future, it would not have been right on my part to have failed to warn those bearing the responsibility of the dangers they ran should the Games have to take place before the conclusion of hostilities.