

with the modern Olympic Games. But a still greater change has taken place in the aspect of the whole World since those far away days of peace. Two devastating wars and all the consequences thereof have managed to produce a greater revolution both in material conditions and in the minds of men than perhaps ever before in so short a time. So when the history of these years comes to be written, it will most probably be characterized as a period of unprecedented upheaval, fraught with heavy unrest and turbulence.

One thing, however, which most certainly has survived the vicissitudes of the times and which in some miraculous way only seems to gather momentum whatever happens, is the keen interest taken in physical training and in competitions of a physical character.

In our time opinion is hardly divided any longer as to the importance of physical culture. Here again the difference between now and the year 1912, when you last met in Stockholm, is very obvious. The necessity for tending to the needs of the body has since then been universally recognized as a thing of primary public importance. Vast sums are annually allocated for play-fields and sports-grounds and that like, both by state and by the communities. I hope it will be possible for you to get some idea of what has been done in this respect in the capital of Sweden.

And now I want to extend to you, Gentlemen of the I. O. C., my sincere good wishes and express the hope that your Stockholm meeting may be fruitful of good results. There is no doubt that your organization is a most important and a most powerful one. In fact, as far as I can see, the I. O. C. retains a red key position within its realm. It therefore has a place of vast responsibility. Millions of people listen to what you have to say, and millions of people consequently either benefit from your decisions or feel disappointed with them. Some of your decisions may lead to grave issue. I know that even at this very meeting you will be dealing with problems of great delicacy and of a controversial nature.

May I be permitted, as one who for 30 years was closely connected with voluntary physical training, games and sports in this country, to express the conviction, that you will approach all these intricate problems in a spirit of true sportsmanship and with an unbiassed mind.

Discours prononcé par Son Altesse Royale le Prince Héritier Gustav-Adolf de Suède à l'occasion de l'ouverture solennelle de la session de Stockholm, le 18 juin 1947.

My first and pleasant task today is to welcome all the members of the I. O. C. to our country. We are indeed very happy that again you should have chosen Sweden and our capital as your meeting place. For this is not the first time Stockholm has the pleasure of a visit from you. I must recall to your minds that day almost exactly 35 years ago when I had the pleasure of addressing a similar gathering in this same town of Stockholm.

Of course we have all become 35 years older since then, and I am, official that indeed very few of those are with us today, who then were the honoured guests of Sweden and represented their various countries, interests in connection

Lastly I should like to give vent to a fervent hope, that the activities of the I. O. C. should through contacts it is able to establish and encourage, contribute in a modest way towards better understanding and good will amongst men.

With every good wish for a successful meeting of the I. O. C., I have the honour to declare its session in Stockholm open,

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