

LOOKING BACK ON THE OSLO WINTER GAMES THE CHRONICLERS' NOTES

The press all over the world has sung the praises of the people of Norway and we cannot but associate ourselves with these tokens of admiration. What fine generous people they are!

We fraternized with them and they gave us the opportunity of discovering the essence of the noble and high-minded Norwegian spirit. We admired the thorough understanding of true sportsmanship displayed by this nation so healthy and strong which were the object of the praises and admiration of all the visitors.

We watched the sportsmen in the Stadiums and on the tracks; one thing impressed us above everything: their unflinching courtesy. What fine example the Norwegians are setting for us all, we can but humbly bow and acknowledge their qualities. They have restored our confidence and given us the practical demonstration of how easy it is to go in for sport without carrying it to excess. We have been able to admire the perfect organization of all the events and we can truthfully say that it has proved a model of its type. If the lack of snow has been a handicap, a fact for which our Norwegian friends cannot be held responsible, we cannot but describe as flawless, the technique with which the organisers overcame this unforeseen happening.

The International Olympic Committee wishes to express its warmest thanks to you, our Norwegian friends. You have indeed richly deserved the attribution of the VIth Winter Olympic Games.

In the absence of H. M. King Haakon, who attended King George VIth's funeral in London, the Games were officially opened by H. R. H. Princess Ragnhild at Bislett's Stadium. The solemn opening Ceremony of the I. O. C.'s session took place in the Great Hall of the imposing Town-Hall and was performed by H. R. H. Crown Prince Olav.

On February 14th. a solemn opening service was conducted in the Cathedral of Oslo, H. E. Bishop Johannes Smemo officiating while another service was celebrated in Olav's Church.

Amongst the various official festivities, let us mention: the banquet offered by the

Norwegian Olympic Committee also the banquet offered by the Town-Council of Oslo, the brilliant Gala performance at the National Theatre followed by a reception at the Grand Hotel when we were the guests of the Royal Government of Norway, lastly the farewell cocktail-party offered by the Organising Committee.

In conclusion, let us record that the members of the I. O. C. held four plenary sittings (one was held at night). The Executive Committee held three meetings with the Olympic National Committees' representatives, these meetings were in addition to its ordinary sittings.

The closing Ceremony took place at Bislett' Stadium in the presence of H. M. King Haakon, the Crown Prince Olav and H. R. H. Princess Ragnhild. The President, J. S. Edström, performed the closing Ceremony of the VIth. Winter Olympic Games facing the Greek, the Norwegian and Italian flags.

The gun was fired, the Olympic Flag was lowered, the Flame died down and thus the VIth. Winter Olympic Games became past history.

P. de C.
