

Sport and Governments

As a matter of interest, we wish to quote a passage from the speech made by Mr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Opening Ceremony of a Gymnastic Display and Sport Manifestation, held in Zurich recently. We feel that it identifies itself exactly with the International Olympic Committee's opinion regarding the tendency adopted by certain Governments of interfering with their respective Sport Organizations.

« It is only right that in democratic Countries, the spirit of Sport should develop in complete freedom. Swiss sport and gymnastics are a faithful image of our own free and federal institutions.

» The Swiss Federal Council follows with a keen and sustained interest the development of sport in this country. Reflecting upon the fact that the High Governmental Bodies are taking such an interest in sportive activities certain apprehensions have been felt as to the likely possibility of the Government exercising undue influence and limiting the scope and freedom of action of the sport and gymnastics Associations. These fears are groundless. The Swiss Confederation has no intention to interfere or issue any orders in the field of sport. Its only wish is to help to foster and promote an interest in the healthy practice of sports by the youth of this country in order that the young people may practise themselves, the numerous and various forms of sport disciplines. Numerous are those, who will discover, that they possess certain capacities and who will come to the conclusion that with will-power and patience, it is possible to increase, not only physical strength but to develop greater qualities of the heart, mind and spirit.

» Healthy strong Youth means a free People.

» Free spirited Youth means a strong healthy People. »