

A survey depicting the subsidies granted to sport in Italy by the C. O. N. I.

(Italian National Olympic Committee.)

The Commission, organ of the C. O. N. I. for the development and the propaganda of sport has just published a most interesting Booklet with the purpose of giving a synopsis of the enormous work carried out by the Italian National Olympic Committee as well as the important sums the latter has been devoting to -amateur sport in its own country. We thought it a matter of interest to call the attention of our readers to some of the interesting statistics describing the sums allocated. these have been raised by means of "Toto-Calcio" (Football matches pools.) This form of betting enjoys a wide popularity and is proving an enormous success in Italy.

By this method, the Italian National Olympic Committee, in the period covering the years 1946 to 1952 has conceded subsidies amounting to a total sum of Liris : 10.356.831.710. solely with the object of defraying the expense of sports' installations. A sum of 100 million Liris has been paid in order to defray the cost of erection of the Imola race-track which is to be used for motor races, motor-cyclists and cyclists track-racing.

The new swimming pool in Trieste which is a model of perfection of its kind has been built at the cost of 480 millions of Italian Liris. The amount spent on the erection of the hippodrome of Torre Appia was Liris : 26.015.319.- The constructional work for the Stadium of Pescara which is in the course of being built shall provide the prototype of a medium - sized Stadium which is to give seating accommodations to 20.000 spectators wishing to attend football matches and athletic contests. The cost of this building is estimated at Liris 280.000.000.- The preconized estimate for the construction of the principal athletic centre of Formia amounts to the sum of Liris : 255.000.000.- The cost of the Sports Palace which is actually in the course of erection and is intended, in Bologna, for the performances of "Indoor sports" amounts to Liris : 580.000.000.- The Fencing Academy in Turin which is also in the course of erection will cost Liris : 40 millions. While the cost of the Stadium at Palermo, which is reserved to light athletics is estimated to reach the sum of Liris : 115.800.000.- Covering the period of 1949 to 1953 the

C. O. N. I. has spent the total sum of Liris : 2.699.813.091.- for the erection of these prototypes of sports installations. As regard the Olympic Stadium in Rome which was officially inaugurated on May 17th 1953, its cost of erection amounted to Liris : 2.934.000.000.-

By the above enumeration of these figures we have only given a very scanty impression of the gigantic sums spent in these last few years by the Italian National Olympic Committee for the benefit of sport in its native land and more specially for the improvement and the construction of stadias and the erection of sport installations.

In addition to this list of expenditure the C. O. N. I. grants subsidies to its affiliated Federations to the amount of 2 milliard Liris *per year*. This amount is always raised from the benefits realized by the "Toto-Calcio."

Let us quote also the special subsidies conceded to the Italian Federations since 1947 with the view of defraying the cost of their sport equipments ; in order not to lengthen unduly our quotations we propose to mention only the most important Federations :

Light Athletism (175 installations) costing Liris : 387.133.152.- ; Football (330 installations) costing Liris : 245.518.062.- ; Rowing (40 installations) costing Liris : 26.731.000.- ; Cyclism (23 installations) costing Liris : 26.553.793.- ; Swimming (52 installations) costing Liris : 38.680.838.- etc... etc. All things considered, 22 Federations have thus been subsidized and aided by means of special payments which stand entirely apart from the annual subsidies which they are already receiving.

These few particulars are only given with a view of showing the gigantic work accomplished during the last few years by the C. O. N. I. which is presided by its distinguished President Signor Onesti who is assisted by his most efficient Secretary Mr. Zauli. This also tends to prove that the money raised thanks to the betting on football matches is put to a most useful use for the benefit of Amateur Sport by a National Olympic Committee which is fully conscious of its responsibilities and has realized the importance of its task.