

How the necessary Funds were raised to defray the Expenses of the Venezuelan Delegation, in order to allow it to compete in the IInd. Pan-American Games

The necessary funds required in order to send the Venezuelan Delegation to the IInd Pan-American Games which have taken place a short time ago in Mexico City, have been met entirely by the combined effort of the whole population. The public subscription raised to this effect met with the most gratifying response, thus proving once more, the warm interest and esteem felt by the Venezuelan people towards their athletes.

The subscription was opened by the President of the Republic, Colonel Marcos Pérez Jiménez, with a gift amounting to 5000 bolivars this example was followed by an important number of personalities belonging to the civilian and military world, who contributed a sum of 1000 bolivars each to the funds. Commerce and industry also made large donations while the balance required was met by the modest individual contributions raised among all classes of the population. The first magistrate of the land declared that the idea of an open public subscription did not necessarily imply the total absence of official economic support to sports. One of the object of this sub-

scription was to prove virtually, and it has done so, that it is possible to keep "amateur sport" free of official ascendancy, as this has been suggested by the International Olympic Committee itself.

Colonel Pérez Jiménez added that in conformity with the form and substance of Rule 25, of the I.O.C. the Venezuelan Government had committed to the charge of the public the expenditure of the sport Delegation. In this way, from now on, the people whose effort has made it possible for its athletes to travel to Mexico, will maintain a further interest in them.

The President went on saying that it has always been his wish to see the whole country participate in every sport competition organized abroad, because this participation in every field of activity could but strengthen the hierarchical international position of Venezuela. In handing his contribution of 5.000 bolivars, Mr. Pérez Jiménez said : "if it is necessary to hurl 'banderillas' at everybody, do it even if they are 'banderillas' of fire ! Not a single Venezuelan must refrain from contributing in some way or other to so, patriotic an object."