

## STOCKHOLM IN 1912

*Organized the first Equestrian Competitions of the Games of the Vth Olympiad, and will organize those of the XVIth Olympiad, in June 1956.*

Ever since the Revival of the Olympic Games, the equestrian sports figured on the Programme of the Games. But, on account of various reasons of a technical order, the wish so dear to the heart of de Coubertin who happened to be an enthusiastic horseman, could not be realized. At Athens, in 1896, it was a material impossibility to supply horses for the appointed time. Paris in 1900 and St-Louis in 1904 were both unprepared for the adjunct of equestrian sports to other already existing sports. At the London Games in 1908, in spite of all the goodwill displayed by the organizers, time failed on one hand, and the opposition prevailing on the other, prevented these equestrian contests from figuring on the Programme.

The Programme of the Games came under discussion at the Session of the I. O. C. held in Budapest in 1911, and the equestrian question was brought up on the Agenda. The members of the I. O. C. considered that nothing stood in the way of the equestrian sports nor could they be kept out of the Programme of the Vth Olympic Games in Stockholm.

To realize this, entailed of course a laborious and prolonged effort. With this end in view. Comte Clarence von Rosen, Swedish member of the I. O. C. (elected in 1900 and deceased in July 1955) threw himself whole-heartedly in this task. On the occasion of a journey he undertook across Europe, he won to his cause the government and the army of the various countries he visited. As a result of this, these "first Equestrian Games" assumed exclusively a military character which has been retained throughout the following Olympiads.

At Stockholm, in 1912, the Equestrian contests ended the Games in a spectacular finale. Clarence de Rosen intended them to be magnificent and with this end in view, spared no effort to bring about this success which was fully attained.

There is no doubt but that the Equestrian Games of the XVIth Olympiad which are to be held at Stockholm "from June 10th to June 17th 1956 will renew the triumph of the past and be an outstanding success.