

## **How Events at the Cortina Games were chronometrically recorded**

The well-known Swiss firm "Omega" whose instruments have been in regular use at the Olympic Games, has again assured the faultless chronometric registering of events at Cortina.

Herewith are a few particulars describing how this chronometer device operates in connection with the various events.

### **For the Slalom**

The apparatus which is used is called an "Omega Time Recorder". It is connected by cable to an automatic starting gate or barrier and to a photo-electric cell (finishing-line).

The starter gives the start off signal to a competitor as soon as the preceding runner has completed his run and the officials at the finishing-line have signalled that the track is free. In crossing the starting line,

the competitor pushes the bar of the starting gate, this sets the apparatus placed at the finishing-line into motion. When the competitor passes in front of the electric cell placed on the finishing-line, this apparatus is put in motion and records the competitor's time to a 1/100 of second and print it on the record tape. A giant sized horologe connected to the starting barrier and to the photo-electric cell indicates to the spectators in minutes and seconds, the time realized by the competitors in their performances.

### **For the Downhill and for the giant Slalom Events**

At regular intervals of every minute, the starter gives the starting signal to the competitors. While resting his hand on the shoulder of the runner who stands behind

the bar of the automatic starting gate, the starter counts aloud the seconds which are preceding the take off : 5... 4... 3... 2... 1... At the very instant when the hand of the chronographer indicates 60, the acoustic starting chronometer automatically rings a bell, this indicates to the competitor the exact moment when he must set off.

However, with a view to make allowances for human reflexes, the competitor is conceded the advantage to start 0,5 second before, or 1 second after, the bell signal. If he exceeds this time limit, the competitor is disqualified. The difference of time between the bell ringing signal and the actual start is registered by the start chronometer, one of the double-stopped hand of which has been stopped when the competitor pushes the bar of the automatic starting gate.

This difference is communicated by telephone to the judges at the finishing-line who will take it into account when doing their calculations of the timing.

At the finish, the Omega Time Recorder registers and prints the time taken by the competitor whenever the latter passes in front of its photo-electric cell. It only remains to subtract the time at the start from the time at the finish of the race in order to obtain the precise time realized, to which, eventually, the difference registered at the starting point can be added or subtracted.

The public is kept informed by a giant size horologe.

#### **For long distance Races**

The chronometric recording is worked more or less on the same principles than

in the case of the downhill or giant slalom events. the automatic starting gate being, however, done away with. The competitors set off at regular intervals at the bell signal given by the acoustic start chronometer. Their time is determined by the difference between the time of arrival recorded by the apparatus and the time at the start.

#### **For Speed Skating Contests**

The apparatus is connected to a starting pistol and to a photo-electric cell placed on the finishing-line.

When striking the blank cartridge, its report gives the starting signal to the racers on the ice rink. The hammer of the start-off pistol causes an electric contact which sets the apparatus in motion. The latter tabulates the times of each competitor when, passing in front of the cell, they cross the finishing line. The times are then printed directly on the recording tape.

The public is kept informed by a giant size horologe.

#### **Bobsleigh Events**

The apparatus is connected to six photo-electric cells (at 1 the start at 1 the finishing-line and four along the bobsleigh track.)

The competitors set off consecutively as soon as the preceding team has terminated its run. When the bobsleigh passes in front of the first cell, the latter sets the Omega Time Recorder in motion which registers four intermediary times and ultimately the time when the bobsleigh has crossed the winning post.