
Press Comments

From the word's press comments, we can draw the following conclusion : "The Olympic ideal is stronger than ever. The Olympic Games were held in an atmosphere where the spirit of friendliness prevailed between the athletes of all nations. It teaches a lesson : rivals in the field of sport,

friends in ordinary life. Generally speaking, "The one noticed that the programme of events of the first week benefit from an organization which was perfect while the second week which was partially redeemed by the swimming events, met with general indifference. One conclusion can be drawn

from this ! the Games are handicapped by an excess of sports appearing on the Programme, and it would be wise to reduce their number. Many newspapers criticized the fact that the football finals appeared as the last even on the programme and were played on the closing day. We are convinced, said the press, that generally speaking, football is out of place and should not appear in the Olympic Games. It is not in keeping with the victories achieved by Morrow, Kuts and many others."

The press also said : "The Melbourne Games proved a great success for they were worthy upholders of the olympic tradition which was never betrayed." In conclusion, the majority of the press, though not admitting it, agreed with Mr. Avery Brundage when it said : "Competitive athletics have reached a level where amateurism is of no further use." And further, the press says : "the problem of the growing tendency to commercialism which threatens to destroy the Games, is heightened by another problem just as great, performances have reached a pitch of perfection which is truly frightening. in order to go one better, athletes will have to devote more and more time and thought to sport". This of course is said in countries which have shown no progress in athletics within the last twenty years ; but the basic aspect of this problem remains. The duty of keeping strict control falls on the responsible body (before the International Olympic Committee), namely to the National Olympic Committees.

Yet a basic law lives on, said de Coubertin. We are pleased to recall it to the mind of our readers :

For 100 people practicing physical culture, 50 must go in for sport.

For 50 practicing sport, 20 must specialize.

For 20 specializing in a form of sport, 5 must show outstanding capabilities and aptitude in achieving records.

These wise remarks imply the 'star' of any sport. The latter is necessary in order to rally to sport the millions of unknown adepts who will then hold the star as an example inasmuch as the star is showing them the way to his outstanding performances. Therefore, let us stop riveting our eyes on the 'star', who, after all, is only human like all of us but who, by sheer will-power has risen by degrees to the top of the ladder of sport in order to enable 100 people to go in for physical training. Why should we refrain from giving full glamour, as Monique Berlioux very rightly said in her book on *Olympics* to these champions for their achievements which have led to sport becoming international and democratic ? What sporting display could answer this purpose and realize this beautiful dream in a better manner than the Olympic Games reestablished in their splendour, bringing fame to the contest in its purest form, as well as victory for honour sake based on the

tradition of this celebration held every four years in the view of the whole world ?

It is thus that the lesson taught us by Olympism and its slow decadence acts as the warning for preserving the spirit, of amateurism which is vitally necessary for the Games. It was de Coubertin's ambition and to do so would be the finest homage humanity could pay him.

Seventeen days of peace...

Comment from the *Telegraf* of Berlin which says :

"During the Games, the athletes of sixty-seven countries competed for the Olympic crown, a fact which helped us to forget that this atmosphere of universal peace and concord was to prevail only for seventeen days.

The slight drizzle which fell on the Stadium during the Closing Ceremony seemed to be a symbol illustrating the sharp return to cruel realities."

A Spirit of friendly comradeship

The *Daily Telegraph* of London takes up a similar theme when it says : "However great is our anxiety towards the serious problems which confront the world of today, nobody can claim that the celebration of the XVith Olympiad has proved useless. It is an outstanding fact that in spite of the serious political upheaval which we are going through at the present time, the Olympic spirit of the Games was maintained to the very end. The placing in itself has no real significance. What really matters is the spirit of courteous rivalry and of warm comradeship fostered by the Olympic Games.

Football fiasco

As for the *Abendpost* of Frankfurt, its criticisms are entirely directed to the football events, which it qualifies as being a 'complete failure'. In the eyes of this daily paper, the teams (including the German team, *Ed.*), the referees and the spectators have all been responsible for this failure. *We witnessed the worst display of football ever played in the modern Olympic Games.*

Revising the Status of the Games

Mr. Victor Boin, president of the Olympic Committee for Belgium expresses his opinions in the *Lantern* from Brussels, with regard to the basic conclusions to be drawn from the Melbourne Games. After mentioning the outstanding achievements realized in Australia, he wrote as follows . "It will be necessary to tackle seriously the

problem of revising the status of these super-World Championships, for, it can be proved irrefutably that to reach this standard, the athlete must of necessity devote more than his leisure time, and in certain cases, his whole time, to train in his speciality. The honour of qualifying to enter these

super-World Championships, in the majority of cases, is denied to the average outsider, but falls on the picked athlete who, in his country, is exempt of all material worries while he is provided with a post and facilities of training which do not exist in our countries and which we do not know."