

The National Olympic Committees

(continuation III)

(see our editions Nr. 59 — 60)

KENYA (1955)

(The Kenya Olympic Association)

The Kenya Olympic Association was formed in February, 1955, under the Presidency of His Excellency, Sir Evelyn Baring, the Governor of Kenya. Mr. R. S. Alexander,

(Member of Legislative Council) was elected the Association's first chairman, and in June of the same year it was formally recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

Bodies affiliated to the Kenya Olympic Association include the Kenya Amateur Athletic Association, the Hockey Union of Kenya,

the Rugby Union of Kenya, the Kenya Amateur Swimming Association, the Amateur Football Association of Kenya, the Kenya Rifle Association and the Amateur Boxing Association of Kenya.

As a result of generous financial support from within the Colony, the Kenya Olympic Association was able to send a team of 32 athletes to take part in the XVIth Olympiad at Melbourne and participated in the athletic, hockey, swimming and rifle shooting events. The teams of Kenyans was comprised of the three main races of the world, European, Asian and African.

BRAZIL (1935)

The Olympic Committee of Brazil has been founded on May 20th 1935 in Rio de Janeiro in which City it has its seat. Its organization is based on the Olympic Rules and is completely independent and autonomous and entirely removed from any political, religious or commercial influence.

Brazilian athletes participated for the first time in the Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920. At that time there was no National Olympic Committee in the country ; therefore the Brazilian delegation was organized by the Confederação Brasileira de Desportes under the presidency of the International Olympic Committee member of the country concerned who was, at that time, H. E. Raul de Rio de Branco. The same thing happened in view of the Games of the VIIIth Olympiad (Paris 1924) and of those of the Xth Olympiad (Los Angeles 1932). Since 1935 the Brazilian delegation is placed under the patronage of the National Olympic Committee of Brazil who had as Presidents Mr. Antonio Prado, junior (1935-1939), Mr. Arnaldo Guinle (1940-1949) and since Dr. Ferreira Santos. All of them members of the International Olympic Committee. Actually fifteen National Federations, affiliated to the respective International Federations, are members of the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

FRANCE (1894)

The French Olympic Committee was the first of all the Olympic Committees to be created. Indeed it was founded in the autumn of 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, after a famous Congress in Sorbonne where, for the first time, he announced his intention of renovating the Games of the Ancient Greece.

M. Félix Faure, President of the French Republic, accepted its Presidency of Honour. The members of the French Olympic Committee were, with Pierre de Coubertin, Messrs. de Courcel, Spuller, Gréard, Michel Bréal,

Mézières, Paul Bourget, Paul Lebaudy and d'Estournel, as well as the Vice-Presidents of the Cycling Union, representatives of the Fencing, Athletics, Water-Polo, Yachting and Rowing Unions, and the President of the Shooting Events Union, M. Paul Merillon.

It is this Committee which selected the representatives of our country and prepared the participation of France in the Athens Games in 1896.

Two years later, the French Olympic Committee was chosen to organize the Games of the IIInd Olympiad, in Paris. For that purpose an Organizing Committee was created which was presided over by a General Commissioner, Viscount Charles de la Roche-foucauld.

From that time on, the French Olympic Committee has been at work under the successive presidencies of Count Clary and then Mr. Armand Massard.

In 1924, the French Olympic Committee was charged with the task of organizing the Games of the VIIIth Olympiad. Its General Secretary, Frantz Reichel, took over the direction of the organization dealing in that occasion with the City of Paris and the Public Authorities of all the problem concerning the setting-up and the organization.

Under the direction of the French Olympic Committee, France has taken part in the Games of all the Olympiads, since their creation, and in the Mediterranean Games of 1951, in Alexandria, and of 1955 in Barcelona.

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of its creation, the French Olympic Committee has had the honour of welcoming the 50th Session of the International Olympic Committee in June 1955.

The French Olympic Committee is composed of the three French members of the International Olympic Committee ; Messrs. Armand Massard, François Pietri and Count Jean de Beaumont, of members appointed by the twenty-one Federations representing Olympic sports and of two co-opted members: Doctor Mathieu and M^e Charles Fruh.

Elected for the duration of the running Olympiad, its board is thus composed :

President, Mr. Armand Massard who has been reelected to this office for the past twenty-four years without interruption,

Vice-President : Mr. E. Gremaux,

General Secretary : Dr. Jean Carle,

Treasurer : Mr. Pierre Leroi.

The French Olympic Committee endeavours in all circumstances to enliven sport in France and to maintain the Olympic ideal as it has been described by its illustrious founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1921)

(United States Olympic Association)

(Its administrative history)

Any History of United States Olympic Administration must necessarily be divided into two separate periods — the first covering the informal but enthusiastic activities in operation from the revival of the Games in 1896 through the VIIth Olympiad in 1920 ; and the second, beginning with the creation of a permanent organization in 1921 to govern U. S. Olympic Affairs.

Currently, it is the United States Olympic Association, incorporated by Act of Congress in 1950 and operative since 1921, that carries out the original purpose of developing creditable and sportsmanlike participation and representation of the United States in the Olympic Games and the Pan American Games.

Its membership today includes the International Olympic Committee representatives and all U. S. members of International Sports Federations administering in competitions in the Olympic or Pan American programmes. It also includes the 47 Regional Associations of the Amateur Athletic Union ; the National Collegiate Athletic Association representing the great majority of nation's colleges and universities ; and scores of other national organizations of a patriotic, sport, educational, cultural, civic, or benevolent character.

Its official working arm is the United States Olympic Committee, organized at each quadrennial meeting and charged with the responsibility of American participation in the Olympic and the Pan American Games.

When the Olympic Games were revived in 1896 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his associates, the task of arousing American interest and obtaining the participation of American athletes at the Games in Athens was accepted by that great champion of amateur athletes, James E. Sullivan.

With the consent and approval of the International Olympic Committee, Sullivan organized an American Olympic Committee. He invited to become members those who were prominent as advocates, governors, or financial supporters of amateur sports in the

U. S. A. : He appointed a president, a vice-president, and a treasurer ; he himself continuing as secretary of the Committee until his death in 1914. With this type of organization, the American Olympic Committee functioned until 1921, having, neither constitution, by-laws, or rules of procedure.

In 1912, after the Vth Olympiad had been awarded to Stockholm, it was deemed necessary to have a more substantial committee financially and Col. Robert M. Thompson accepted the presidency, giving to the Committee so largely of his fortune and so generously of his time that he made possible the sending of a representative team to Stockholm.

During the next six years, Olympic activities were forced into the background because of World War I. However, efforts were made to have at least some of the members of the American Olympic Committee represent those national organizations which, like the Amateur Athletic Union, govern the participation in sports upon the Olympic Programme.

This thinking led the American Olympic Committee, meeting in December after the 1920 Games at Antwerp, to appoint a Committee on Reorganization, thus laying the foundation for a more democratic form of organization which would embrace all national bodies devoted to amateur sport.

Consequently on Nov. 28, 1921, the American Olympic Association came into being. A constitution, and by-laws, were adopted, and Col. Thompson named as Association president.

Later presidents were to include Maj. Gen. Douglas MacArthur (1928), Avery Brundage (1932-1952), and the present incumbent, Kenneth L. Wilson.

In 1940, the title of the Association was changed to that of 'United States of America Sports Federation' and by 1945 it had been changed to 'United States Olympic Association'. However, it was incorporated until Sept. 21, 1950 when the 81st Congress passed public law 805.

The Association is of perpetual duration and is not maintained for pecuniary profit. It has such additional powers, jurisdiction and authority, as may be necessary and reasonable, to carry out the purposes and programmes defined in its constitution.

(French translation in next edition.)