

## ECHOES OF ROME

INDIA GIVES HER OPINION. Mr. Jal. D. Pardi-  
vala, journalist and a citizen devoted to the  
Olympic ideal, gave a lecture in Bombay, last  
October, when he spoke on his impressions of  
the Games in Rome. We publish some extracts  
which we had the opportunity to take during  
his conference: 'It has been my privilege to

attend three Olympic Games as well as be  
present at several athletic International  
Meetings. The more I see of these Games,  
the more I am convinced of the great utility  
they are to the Olympic Movement. The  
latter is perhaps the only movement on an  
international basis which keeps the world

effectively out of all conflicts. The Olympic Movement is a great boon and promotes a beneficial effect alround. It affords an important means to stimulating and encouraging a worldwide knowledge and appreciation of sport in all countries and on every continent. It keeps the standard of good fellowship in sport at the highest level and aims objectively to foster a friendly international understanding, and good fellowship between the sporting youth and the sport leaders. The value of the Olympic Movement must neither be gauged by the number of nations participant at the Games nor by the evergrowing number of athletes competing, but by the sincere desire of millions of youths whose aim is to seek perfection by means of sport.

'A certain political tension prevailed during the Helsinki Games. The Russian contingent lived in a camp apart from the Olympic Village. On the eve of the Melbourne Games, dark clouds gathered in the sky, and political tension was on the point of ruining the Games. But the well-timed proclamation of an Olympic truce by the International Olympic Committee saved the situation. In contrast with these conditions, one could breathe freely in Rome, when the Games were conducted in an atmosphere of peace, friendship and goodwill which was in harmony with the spirit prevailing in the Eternal City.

'Several persons asked who won the Games? This, of course, is an entirely erroneous notion. In actual fact, nobody won the Games as they are essentially contests between individuals and not contests between nations. It is equally wrong to assess the Games according to the number of medals won by a nation; actually it is very difficult to discriminate between team sports and individual contests. The only way to consider the matter would be to set a *capita* basis, namely to count the number of Olympic medals won by head of population. Yet even this system would not be accurate.'

Talking of technical results, the lecturer mentions among other things that the Olympic record won by Zatopek at the Games of Helsinki in 1952, in the 5000 m. in 14'6"6/10 was beaten in Rome by 16 athletes! The same thing happened in the 10,000 m. when Zatopek world record was beaten by 11 runners!

We wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Pardivala for having revealed to India the way to Olympism and reason.

NEW ZEALAND'S OPINION. 'The task of organizing and conducting the Olympic Games these days is a gigantic one. In all of the circumstances, the warm congratulations and thanks of New Zealand go out to our Italian hosts for a job well done in Rome this year.

As the Games get bigger — and it looks as though they will be bigger still with more

nations competing in Tokyo in 1964 — must become increasingly difficult to adhere to the warm fraternal spirit which is an ideal of the Games movement. It would seem therefore, that sooner or later some limit has got to be placed on the size to which the Games are permitted to grow, but this, of course, is a matter which is constantly being reviewed.

'In Rome, Dr. Marcello Garroni, the Secretary General, did a magnificent job and left his visitors with an impression of both extreme competence and deep sincerity in his interest in sport and desire to further the Olympic ideals.

'There were naturally some language difficulties in the early stages when dealing with numerous officials, but this is no doubt to be expected.

'I was a little puzzled why it was necessary to cut down the numbers in the Opening parade. The reason given was that the numbers could not be accommodated on the ground, but in the formation in which teams are lined up, I personally do not believe that the full parade would have occasioned any difficulty.

'If, in future Games, athletes from overseas cannot be accommodated in the parade, then it should be an Olympic principle that they are given accommodation in the Stadium. I think it is quite wrong to endeavour to ration accommodation tickets for the balance of competitors so that some are excluded. They come thousands of miles to participate in the Games and it should be a cardinal principle that all of them are admitted, and indeed, expected to be there at the Opening ceremony that seems to me in accord with the ideal.

'I think the Closing ceremony was splendidly conducted and very impressive. To me, however, there seemed to be something missing with merely the flag bearers of the different nations parading. My mind went back to Melbourne, and the spontaneous and joyful assembly of competitors of many nations with their arms linked together symbolic of the unity of the Games. I offer the suggestion that this phase of the Closing should not be lost from the ceremony.

'One further though I have on Rome deals with Olympic administration. We seem to miss a splendid opportunity of getting together in some sort of a congress the visiting Olympic officials with their direct representation of their own national bodies. The International Olympic Committee meets of course, but there are perhaps many countries not directly represented on that body who could take part in discussions and offer opinions for the good of the Olympic Movement as a whole, without in any way disturbing the selective nature of the International Olympic Committee representation. (Ed.: *The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee meets*

*every two years with the delegates of the National Olympic Committees. Furthermore one should not forget that the International Olympic Committee has a member for New Zealand, Sir Arthur Porritt, who is also a member of its Executive Board.)*

'Summed up, New Zealand retains very happy memories of the Rome Games; of generous hospitality; of the warm spirit prevailing among the different teams and officials.

'Congratulations to our Italian friends on their great work.'

Sign.: *H. I. Austand*, President  
Olympic Committee.

FIJI'S OPINION. The National Olympic Committee of Fiji, gives us his opinion as follow:

1. *Organization.* The overall planning of the entire Games could only be described as superb. There were however many occasions for criticism of detailed arrangements. Examples which come to mind were the National Olympic Committee seating arrangements at the Palazetto della Sport; at the Terme de Caracalla and at the Palazzo della Sport.

2. The Fiji delegation did not on any occasion obtain the services of an interpreter. This restricted communication to other English speaking peoples, leaving the language barrier unbroken and thus limiting international contacts.

3. The opening Ceremony appears to be developing into a mammoth spectacle, at the possible expense of the competitors. If it is not important for the athletes to be present during the administering of the Olympic Oath, then much time and energy could be saved by parading the flag-bearers only. On the other hand, the time taken for the march in and march out could have been greatly shortened if the large contingents had marched in and out, six or nine abreast.

4. Housing facilities in the village were first class, and any difficulties which did arise were mainly due to the lack of an interpreter in the Capo's office.

5. Both the food and the catering arrangements were excellent. However, the great number of sightseers, who were permitted to wander in and out of the dining-rooms was rather irksome, and made us feel like zoo animals who were being fed for the amusement of the populace.

6. The founder of the modern Olympic Games envisaged the Games when athletes of the world could meet, take part in friendly competition and form friendships which would have a beneficial effect on international understanding. The Games appear to have grown so large that it is almost impossible to meet more than a handful of the athletes attending. It might be possible to foster international friendships if the Organizing Committee were to arrange accommodation

within the Olympic Village for specialist clubs, e.g. Discus Throwers Club, Distance Runners Club, etc. with the idea of starting friendships around a common interest. (Ed. *This suggestion was given already a few years ago by the late Gaston Mullegg, President of the F.I.S.A. (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron). It was fully studied; but it was found that it could not be realized, the main reason was that no control could be made by the Chef de Mission over his athletes who would be staying in many different places.*)

L. O. Simpson, Secr.

HONG KONG'S VOICE. Surely no setting for the Olympic Games could have had more historic significance and cultural appeal than Rome. Yet the Organizing Committee did not rely on the achievement of past generations even though they made clever use of some monuments of old. For they built some fine stadia which will, to be sure, win the admiration of future generations in the same way as the ruins of the past are still fascinating visitors to the Eternal City.

To an excellent organization, efficiently run, was added the cordiality which should prevail if the Olympic Games are to achieve their purpose of bringing the youth of the world to compete together in a spirit of harmony and brotherhood. In truth, the Olympic Games emphasize with striking success the universality of man and the common purpose of human endeavour.

The performance in Rome bore eloquent testimony to the progress made in the never-ending strive to live up to the motto: *citius, altius, fortius*.

A tribute is due to C.O.N.I. (Italian National Olympic Committee) and the Organizing Committee for the success of their endeavours. It should not be overlooked, at the same time, that credit ought also to be given to the International Sports Federations for the evident Progress which their respective sports have made. Obviously, too, without the unceasing efforts of the National Olympic Committees in every nook and corner of the world, amateur sport would not be the tremendous force for good that it has undoubtedly become in our age.

A. de O. Sales, President.