

Mr. Bo Ekelund's thoughts

Member of the International Olympic Committee for Sweden

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of J. Sigfrid Edström, Mr. Bo Ekelund, member of the International Olympic Committee for Sweden since 1948, wrote an article in the bulletin Nr. 23-24 of October 1950. Hereby we wish to give an extract of it :

Sigfrid Edström has been on the Swedish Olympic Committee since its formation and is since 1948 its Honorary Member. He has attended innumerable meetings, where his words have been weighty and he has placed his vast experience of international conditions in the realm of sports and athletics at the disposal of the Swedish Olympic Committee.

Sigfrid Edström is a born leader, serene and authoritative. He is used to command. In the early days there may have been an occasional Swedish leader of sports who thought there was rather a lot of 'ordering about', and that little more democratic methods were desirable. I remember hearing words to that effect when I was an active competitor in the 1920 Olympic Games. I also remember that we — the competitors — always regarded our mighty chief with esteem and respect, although we thought the distance between him and us very great. But we very soon came to understand that what he wanted was top results on the part of the Swedes. And on that point we were all of one mind.

Since then I have had the privilege of co-operating with Sigfrid Edström in leading a good many Swedish Olympic groups, and this has taught me that he is by no means keen to employ dictatorial methods. Nobody could be more reasonable than he, and nobody is more willing to listen to advice and other people's opinions — as long as there is time to do so. There have on the other hand been times when a problem could only be solved and the situation saved by rapid and strong action. In such cases, Sigfrid Edström never hesitates. He will ply his gavel heavily and firmly, his strong and masterful voice urging everybody to rally

round the common task. It is not hard to follow a leader of that type.

XII leaders of sports and athletics in Sweden who have had the good fortune of co-operating with Sigfrid Edström are unanimous in thinking that in sports and athletics no one has rendered greater service to our country than he.

Stockholm. October 1950.

Bo Ekelund.

The future does not belong to the present diplomats, but to the coming men out of the present youth who understand the old wisdom in the words : 'To live and let live'.

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Young men who have competed in the Olympic Games can one day become leaders of their nations ; thus the Games help to obtain Peace.

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The Olympic Games gives the opportunity to all the youth of the world to find out that all men on earth are brothers.

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The Olympic Games are necessary, especially for the youth to counter-balance the bad influence of industrialism.

J. Sigfrid Edström, 1947, 1948, 1949.