



Before the end of the year, the Ice Palace. (Photopress, Grenoble.)

Grenoble is feverishly preparing for the Xth Olympic Winter Games in February 1968. There is now less than twelve months to go and the greatest activity prevails everywhere in the town and its surroundings.

Situated at an altitude of 720 feet in the Alpine furrow at the meeting of the valleys of the Drac and the Isère, Grenoble is a town of the plain with a mountain at the end of every street. It is also a university town and a fast expanding industrial town which together with its satellite cities forms an urban centre of some 250,000 inhabitants.

The summits surrounding it culminate at 6,500 feet in the Vercors, at 9,500 feet in the Belledonne chain and at 10,800 feet in Les Grandes-Rousses.

The town will be the heart and soul of the Winter Games. It is there in fact that the athletes, the officials and the journalists will be housed, and it is in Grenoble too that all the skating and ice-hockey events, the opening ceremony as well as the many cultural events planned to take place during the Games will be held.

The other events, as we have seen in our "Bulletin" No. 95,

GRENOBLE



ONE YEAR BEFORE THE GAMES

will be shared between Chamrousse (Belledonne chain), 19 miles from Grenoble, for Alpine skiing ; Autrans (Vercors), 22

miles away, for Nordic events ; Saint-Nizier-du-Moucherotte (Vercors), 10 miles away, for ski-jumping ; Villard-de-Lans (Vercors), 19 miles away, for tobogganing, and L'Alpe d'Huez (Les Grandes-Rousses), 40 miles away for bob-racing, this resort also being a sort of reserve for certain Alpine events in case of unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The dispersal of the events raises the problem of transport, which has to be rapid. That is why the roads connecting Grenoble to the Olympic resorts are being widened. Provisions have been made, moreover, for 800 45-seater buses for transporting spectators and 600 mini-buses and 200 cars for competitors. Access of private vehicles to the scene of events being regulated and even, in certain cases, prohibited huge car parks have been made in various parts of Grenoble, from which motor coach services will be run.

A try-out

A try-out of the sports facilities, the international events that took place in Grenoble at the beginning of this year were not strictly speaking a dress rehearsal for the Olympic Games. This was not their aim since a great deal still remains to be done in the field of telecommunications, accommodation, road improvements, etc. Furthermore, the Winter Olympic Games will be held within the regulation period of ten days (with a possible extension still under study), while the events in Grenoble 1967 were spread over four weeks, from 20th January to 19th February, not to mention the figure skating and ice-hockey matches which will not be held till Autumn in the new ice palace. Nevertheless these events were extremely important, from the point of view of those taking part (about 1500) and the fact that they served to try out, before the actual Games, the facilities themselves where the competitors and champions of 1968 will be meeting.