

Members' Notebook



The 16th December brought us a very sad piece of news: Segura Marte Rodolfo Gomez, the IOC's second senior member, passed away in his 78th year.

Born on 4th July 1896 in Ciudad Reynosa (Mexico), he became a hydro-agricultural engineer and a statesman; Governor of Tamaulipas, Secretary of State for Agriculture and then Secretary of State to the Treasury, he devoted the major part of his life to studying and attempting to solve the agricultural problems of modern Mexico. His many publications on economic problems and agrarian reform bear witness to this.

This passion naturally led him to turn his attention to problems of health and consequently of sport.

Elected to the IOC in 1934, he became particularly interested in the problems of spreading Olympism throughout the world, and joined the IOC Cultural Commission.

Appointed President Emeritus of the Mexican Olympic Committee, he was one of the artisans of the choice of Mexico for the Games of the XIXth

Olympiad in 1968. We remember a few passages in this connection from a letter he sent us shortly after these Games:

"We should all keep in mind the difficulties with which we met in organising these Games, since Mexico was an underdeveloped country. Just from the point of view of education I should like to point out that in 1910, the year in which our programme of changing Mexico's structures began, 72% of the population was illiterate. This percentage was reduced to 66% in 1920, 44% in 1930, and we hope to reach 25% in 1970..."

"In other words Mexico has not thrown money down the drain just for the glory of organising the Olympic Games for the first time in Latin America. On the contrary, we feel that the development of the Olympic spirit and the promotion of physical education is a very important part in our efforts in education, and we consider that the youth of Mexico has got more out of welcoming the Olympic Games and drinking in the Olympic spirit than simply from learning to read and write..."

We will no longer see his stocky figure among us, his soft eyes behind the glasses which could not hide the infinite kindness of this warm-hearted affable man.

The IOC sends its deepest condolences to his wife and children, and all the sportsmen of Mexico.

Mr. Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, President of the Mexico Olympic Committee and IOC member for Mexico, will represent Lord Killanin at the funeral of Marte Gomez.