



A COPENHAGUE

Le prince Axel, membre du C. I. O. pour le Danemark (à gauche), confère avec M. Ahmed-E.-H. Jaffar, membre pour le Pakistan (à droite).



SEPTEMBRE 1950

M. J.-S. Edström a rendu visite à la baronne de Blonay, veuve de l'ancien vice-président du C. I. O., en son Château de Grandson, en Suisse.

lity without being influenced by the whims of Public opinion. The coveted title of athlete can be applied to the gymnast, the prize fighter, the horseman, the oarsman, the fencer, the sprinter, or to the thrower of the javelin. All partaking in the above mentioned forms of exercise as well as other recognized sports have equal value from the standpoint of the true sportsman, even if the public favours one more than the other at a certain time. On the other hand, it would be useless to increase the number of collective contests. The fundamental purpose of the Olympic Games has always been to honour the individual champion, whose performance is necessary to maintain the keenness in true sportsmanship and promote the competitive spirit generally. Past experience has shown that conditions do not lend themselves to too many team-contests taking part, for it has been found advisable to shorten the duration of the Games to minimize the expenses there involved.» (We are faced with the same difficulty nowadays.

Ed.) « However, I do not believe that these two facts are altogether related. Great savings of money could be realized at the Celebration of the Olympiad if the latter is organized sufficiently in advance, with the greatest of care and discipline, inspired by a spirit of unselfishness and impartiality. Unfortunately, in this respect, as well as elsewhere, one has to deplore the squandering habits conceived and growing from the wrong idea that spending lavishly necessarily brings comfort and prosperity to all. Luxury is a questionable matter, its vulgarity makes it unfruitful and it tends to crush the middle-classes thus aggravating social contrasts. Simpler methods should be adopted by the organizing Bodies. Cheaper and quieter dwellings to accommodate the competitors, less festivities, but above all, more daily and friendly intercourse between the athletes and the organizers without interference of politicians or social climbers likely to cause discord and confusion amongst them. Such is the picture which I hope future Olympiads will give to the world. »