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OPENING OF THE FOURTH OLYMPIAD.

(From our London correspondent.)

The Olympic Games were declared open on Monday afternoon by His Majesty King Edward, the spectacle, in spite of the miserable weather, being a most brilliant one. The grounds of the Anglo-French Exhibition at Shepherds Bush looked almost deserted shortly before the ceremony; everybody was heading for the Stadium, and the interpreters were having the time of their lives trying to answer the thousands of queries addressed to them by hundreds of excited foreigners.

His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen and Princess Victoria, drove from Buckingham Palace, arriving at the gate in Wood Lane at half-past three. The crowds thronging the entrance raised a vociferous cheer as the royal party passed in, and mingling with the British "Hurrah!" I distinctly heard the more guttural German "Hoch," besides the piping "Vive le roi!" of several enthusiastic Frenchmen. The royal party were received by Lord Desborough, who presented the members of the International Olympic Council, including Baron Pierre de Coubertin (France), Count v. Asserberg (Germany), Baron v. Rosen (Sweden), and Prince Troubetsky (Russia). Their Majesties were then conducted to the royal box, the Guards' band playing the National Anthem, while thunderous cheers started at the grand-stand and re-echoed around the entire arena.

Two doorways on the far side of the arena then opened, and in marched 2,000 athletes, the pick of the world in muscle and brawn. The band struck up a lively tune as the detachments, each distinguished by different costumes and carrying the flag of the country it represented, formed up on a grassy space directly opposite the royal box, the vast assembly making a most impressive spectacle.

At this juncture His Majesty advanced to the front of the royal box, when it was seen that he was attired in a silk hat and frock coat. Speaking from the ring, Lord Desborough said: "Will your Majesty be pleased to declare the fourth Olympiad open?" In clear tones the King replied: "I declare the Olympic Games of London open." Three cheers were then given for His Majesty, and the Royal Standard was run up in the centre of the arena. The band replayed the National Anthem, and the flags carried by the athletes of different nationalities were dipped to the salute.

The athletes now formed up and made a detour round the swimming tank, again passing in front of the royal box, when each nation saluted the occupants. The detachments marched in alphabetical order, the representatives of the United States, British Colonies, and British Isles, bringing up the rear. The contests then commenced, and the King and his party remained for some time afterwards, interested spectators of the feats of prowess being performed in the vast arena before them.

Another correspondent writes us as follows:

This week the Olympic Games have been formally inaugurated by King Edward in London; and until July 25 contests in every branch of athletics will take place before a number of impartial and competent judges. The results of these contests will be eagerly followed in every part of the world where the love of athletics has been accepted as one of the healthiest symptoms of national life, and from them, no doubt, conclusions will be drawn, hastily and otherwise, as to the progress or decadence of peoples. This year, more than in any of the three previous Olympic Games, competition will be thoroughly representative. Twenty-one States have sent their picked men; and, unlike the participants in the Games which were celebrated at Athens, at Paris, and at St. Louis, each group of athletes have been adequately trained and organized for the occasion. Whether or not athletic contests are accepted as tests of a nation's physical efficiency, it should at all events be clear from the results which nation is taking its athletics seriously enough to treat them successfully as a science. That, perhaps, is as far as the modern spirit can

take us. The Hellenic spirit which treated athletics less as a science and more as an art, yet without loss of efficiency, is perhaps unattainable in an age where the consciousness of the civilized is not confined to a craggy archipelago in the Adriatic, but stretches from ocean to ocean around the globe. The idealism in which the old Olympic Games were steeped, the political significance, the religious significance, the artistic significance, the sense of line and movement which linked sculpture and drama and worship and patriotism into one essential impetuosity of appreciation finding a thousand expressions—these things are no more. The Hellenic spirit, of which the Games were a phase rather than a cause, is more dead than the crumbling marble of the Parthenon; and if men still rejoice in the strength and grace of manly sports they do it with a fervour very different from that of the old Greeks, the flashing of whose white limbs in the sunshine Pindar sings. To them the Olympic games were more than a pleasure snatched from the dull cares of every day; they were life itself and all that life is worth living for. The Greek world was a small world, but it was a world of artists; and, whether it was in politics, in war, or in manly contests, the sense of rhythm, of form, of harmony was the supreme thing.

It is idle to pretend that in reviving the name of the Olympic Games and in reviving it first of all at Athens the modern world has been able to revive anything of the true Hellenic spirit in games. One may throw the discobolus in view of the Acropolis many times without regaining what the world has lost for ever. The past does not repeat itself, in spite of Greek sports and the Greek drama rendered before modern spectators. Our "Olympic Games" means exactly the same as "International Athletic Contest," neither more nor less. To imagine that it can mean more is to fall a victim to cant and foolishness; to imagine that it can mean less is to do scant justice to a very valuable, a very laudable, and, let us hope, a permanent undertaking. For, by whatever name we call them, we cannot deny that international athletic meetings contribute substantially to the welfare of nations. Respect is the only basis of friendship, and nowhere else is respect so honestly and so lastingly engendered as in the manly contest of keen competitors. Sport, conducted as it should be and usually is conducted, without prejudice or any sort of ill-feeling, is next door to comradeship. International athletic meetings, in helping to widen the sphere of such sympathies, do a work which diplomacy and scientific or artistic co-operation perform much more labouriously and scarcely as effectively. Everything that assists nations to understand and appreciate one another, to meet without narrowness or jealousy on the same ground, to learn one another's weaknesses and one another's virtues, is so much gain to the ideal of a peaceful world. That is why even a small thing like travel abroad, however selfish the mood in which it is taken up, is a great factor in the relations of States. How much more, therefore, are we to value well-organized movements aiming at international rivalry on the basis of peace and mutual understanding rather than on that of aggrandizement and bloodshed?

There is a statement current to the effect that the Olympic Games are attracting but little attention in England itself, that so far from arousing the enthusiasm they would have aroused in any great European capital they are receiving less attention than one of those popular football matches which draw scores of thousands of spectators to the Crystal Palace. We trust that this statement is not quite accurate; but, supposing it to be correct, every allowance must be made for the genuinely conservative temper of the British people. It is hard to make the British nation enthusiastic in a single day, in spite of the *Daily Mail*; it is possible that the British nation might spontaneously engender enthusiasm in a week. Those who know England will have no fears lest the Olympic Games prove unsuccessful. The preparations have been very great and the organization very capable; the keenness of competition is guaranteed by the number and status of the competitors; and, finally, if an additional guarantee were required, it might be found in the unquestioned success of the Franco-British Exhibition, which is, so to speak, an outer ring to the Stadium of the Olympic Games.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

London, July 15.

A deputation composed of Liberal members of Parliament waited upon Mr. Asquith yesterday to remonstrate against the participation of Great Britain in the Sugar Convention at Brussels, on the ground that this convention would violate the principles of Free Trade.

Mr. Asquith, in his reply, defended the new convention, declaring that on all essential points it was entirely compatible with Free Trade principles.

MISHAP ON A BRITISH SUBMARINE.

London, July 15.

A serious accident happened on board the English submarine "A 9." During a passage from Portland to Dover the crew showed symptoms of suffocation owing to fumes engendered by a leak in the gasoline tank. The officers, noticing that the vessel was manoeuvring erratically, went into the hold and there found that the entire crew had lost consciousness. A lieutenant stopped the engine at the risk of his life, thus preventing the further escape of gas, and he subsequently also became unconscious. The accompanying cruiser, having noticed the stoppage of the submarine, sent a boat to make enquiries, and the unfortunate sailors were thereupon taken on board the cruiser. Four men are still in danger.

NO MERCY FOR INDIAN BOMB-THROWER.

Calcutta, July 14.

The appeal of Khudiram Bose, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Mrs. and Miss Kennedy at Muzaffarpore by means of a bomb, has been dismissed. The judges declared that there was no extenuation, and that the case was one of deliberate murder, cruelly planned.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

AN ANTI-FASHION CAMPAIGN.

Many strange proposals, says the New York correspondent of a London paper, have been submitted in all seriousness to certain of the State Legislatures in the past; but surely none more extraordinary has ever been brought forward than a Bill which has just been read a first time in the presence of the legislators of Georgia.

For long past something in the nature of an "anti-fashion" movement has been energetically carried on by a section of the population, not in Georgia alone, but all over the States. Clergymen—as has been reported at length in the papers on many occasions—have devoted stirring sermons to the immorality of the "peekaboo blouse," and the vanity and wickedness of the use of cosmetics. The present Bill, however, goes much further than all this. It proposes that all marriages which can be proved to have been "incited" by women using "peekaboo blouses, open work stockings, paints, cosmetics, false hair, and other similar wiles," shall be annulled and rendered void on the petition of the husbands.

The New York newspapers give considerable prominence to Georgia's latest effort in the direction of "reform," but it seems difficult to regard the measure seriously.

AMERICA'S GREAT MAN.

You cannot look at an American paper just now without finding some story of Mr. Taft, who is six feet in height, and is said to turn the scale at 21 stone. It is claimed for the future President that his courtesy is boundless, and that he has been known on more than one occasion to rise in a tramcar and give his seat to three ladies. Another story which we have seen more than once may still be new to some. It is to this effect, that when the ex-Supreme Court Judge recovered from his illness in the Philippines, he sent the following telegram to Mr. Root, War Secretary—"Feel fine; rode 18 miles on an army mule today." Mr. Root's reply was: "Glad you are all right. How is the mule?"

(Continued on page 2.)