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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

LAUSANNE,
5th March 1925.

Dear Sir,

1. In forwarding to your Committee the enclosed papers, we desire to recall to your memory that at the Congress of the International Olympic Committee in Rome in 1923, a long and serious discussion concerning the bad sportsmanship shown by certain officials, competitors and spectators during the VIIth Olympiad took place, and that, following on that discussion, it was decided to send to every National Olympic Committee a letter, calling the attention of all concerned to this matter, and asking that energetic action be taken at once to prevent a repetition of those incidents at the VIIIth Olympiad and subsequent Olympiads. At the same time, a Jury d'Honneur, consisting of the following Members of the International Olympic Committee, was appointed to inquire into and to deal with all incidents of a regrettable nature, which they considered came within their jurisdiction :-

Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
Baron Godefroy de Blonay.
Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour.
M. Edstrom.
Brig. General R. J. Kentish.
Marquis de Polignac.

2. At the Olympiad, which has just been brought to conclusion the most disgraceful incidents occurred in certain of the sports, notably the Boxing and Fencing Tournaments, and we feel that only drastic and energetic action on the part of the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations and the National Federations, can put a stop to a state of things which, if allowed to continue, can only do the Olympic movement the greatest possible harm.

3. The Jury d'Honneur, acting on behalf of the International Olympic Committee has, as you will see from the enclosed report, already taken action, and we now ask you to do all in your power between now and the IXth Olympiad to spread the true spirit of sportsmanship throughout your country, so that all may come to the Games in Holland determined to play the game in every sense of the word.

4. In closing this letter we desire to emphasize the fact that the International Olympic Committee, in whose hands lies the direction of the Olympic movement, has very firmly decided not to tolerate such conduct and to inform all concerned should there be any repetition of these regrettable incidents, much more drastic action will be taken in the future.

Pierre de Coubertin
Godefroy de Blonay
Baillet-Latour
J. Edstrom
R. J. Kentish
de Polignac

FENCING.

A.

A Statement of the Facts.

1. During the Final Pool of the Foils, the Italian team, dissatisfied with the decision of the Referee, behaved in a most unsportsmanlike manner and withdrew from the Competition.

In acting in this manner the members of the team not only failed to keep the oath sworn in the name of the whole of the Athletes by M. George André at the ceremony in connection with the Official Opening of the Games, namely, to accept every decision given by a referee or judge, but they also behaved in a manner entirely contrary to the spirit of the Olympic movement.

2. During the Final of the Sabre Championship the Jury of Appeal found it necessary to disqualify Signor PULITTI because in their opinion he had acted in a manner contrary to the spirit of Sportsmanship. The remaining members of the Italian Team again refused to continue to take part in the Tournament and withdrew in a body. Somewhat later, Signor PULITTI meeting one of the Judges in a public place insulted him in a most gross manner by striking him in the face with his fist.

B.

Action taken by the Jury d'Honneur.

1. The matter having been brought to the notice of the Jury d'Honneur by the International Fencing Federation, the Jury d'Honneur decided:-

- (a) To forbid Signor PULITTI from taking part in any future Olympiad.
 - (b) To administer a very severe reprimand and a warning to the Italian Fencing and Sabre Teams as to their future conduct, and
 - (c) To ask the Italian Olympic Committee to take the most severe steps to prevent a repetition of such conduct, which is entirely out of keeping with the spirit of Sportsmanship.
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