

GERMANY AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

New Enthusiasm For Athletes in the Fatherland—
A Great Publicity Campaign for the Olympiad
In 1916—Preparations at Berlin.

In 1916 the Olympic Games will be held in Germany for the first time. And although three years have still to intervene a great deal of energy is already being devoted to insuring the success of the meeting. Until recent years most outdoor sports, apart from tennis and cycling, have had only a very small following in Germany. The demands of physical culture were thought to be fully satisfied by the Turnerschaft, a gymnastic organization which covered the whole of the country; other forms of exercise were opposed either as a waste of time or as dangerous, or as tending to divert interest from the more useful if less amusing gymnastics. But just before the turn of the century came a great change. Skiing and tobogganing, hockey, football, at least among the lower classes, rowing, and what are known as light athletics rapidly became popular. The Emperor himself lectured the universities on the harmful effect of excessive beer-drinking and the advantage of open-air exercise, and the Crown Prince set a good example by his interest in every kind of sport. Football was introduced into both the army and the navy, and in Bavaria the introduction of games received much encouragement from Prince Rupprecht, the heir of the present regent. The spirit of association which drives the German to form a Verein or association on the least possible excuse soon began to work. In a short time sport and athletic clubs began to spring up throughout the whole country, and these again were quickly brought together into national unions for tennis, rowing, heavy and light athletics, hockey, football, skiing and other sports. Last year it was calculated that, apart from the great national gymnastic association, the Deutscher Turnerschaft, which had a membership of at least 1,250,000, not far short of two million members, were united in various national sport and athletic unions.

An Uphill Battle.
With individual sports well organized it was not difficult to form a committee representing the athletic activities of the whole country, and already in 1904 an "Imperial Committee for Olympic Games" was brought together. But the athletic movement in Germany was then still young, and an uphill battle had to be fought against the prejudice of the old-established Turnerschaft. Although the scheme for a national stadium, where periodic athletic competitions could be held for the whole of Germany, was formed as early as 1906, the lack of funds, and the refusal of either the Government or the town of Berlin to take any interest in the matter, prevented its execution. Until a year ago the Union Racing Club stepped into help by the offer of monetary support and of land on the Grunewald Racecourse. In the meantime, and especially after the Stockholm games of last year, national pride was at last aroused by the poor figure which Germany up to then had cut in the Olympic competitions. In the end, too, the goodwill of the Turnerschaft was won by the assurance that gymnastics should receive ample attention in the stadium meetings, and the committee was strengthened by the support of the organization. Under the patronage of the Crown Prince and the presidency of Lieutenant-General von Podbielski, the late Prussian minister for agriculture, the committee now con-

sists of representatives from all the sport associations in Germany together with the German members in the International Olympic Committee, and representatives from the war office and the ministry of the interior. To it the Government has entrusted all the preparations for the games in 1916, the management of finance, the selection and training of German competitors, and the control of the new stadium, where the meeting is to be held.

An Advertising Campaign.
As there is still much need of popularizing the idea of the Olympic Games in Germany itself, one of the first tasks undertaken by the committee has been a campaign of advertisement. This agitation is being carried out chiefly through the aid of the press. In addition, posters announcing the opening of the stadium are being spread through the whole of the country, and a series of lectures on the meaning of the Olympic contests is being delivered in the twenty-five most important towns, and no efforts are being spared to impress the importance of the games on all athletic associations, and the necessity of training their members as possible competitors. Further, in order to raise the general standard of physical culture, and to provide as wide a field as possible for the selection of Olympic candidates, the committee has instituted a series of rewards for all-round athletic development. The more important forms of exercise—swimming, running, jumping, tennis, skating, wrestling, discus throwing, putting the weight, rowing, cycling, skiing, football, hockey, and golf—are divided into five groups. If the competitor, in the space of one year, satisfies a by no means high standard—in the high jump, for instance, he must clear 1.35 metre, in the 100-metre race he must get down to 13 seconds—in one sport from each of these five groups he receives a bronze medal. If he passes the same test in four separate years he receives a silver medal, in eight years a gold medal. To a competitor above the age of 32 the gold medal is awarded if he can satisfy the tests once only. As far as the preparation of competitors is concerned, the present year is to be devoted exclusively to the search for promising material. The reports that have appeared of competitors having been already selected being, as was to be expected, premature. During 1914 and 1915 the best material in the various clubs will be further developed, mainly by the local clubs themselves. By the early part of 1916 the committee hopes to have made contracts with a body of expert trainers, who will finally take over the selected German representatives at the beginning of 1916. For the riding competitions special arrangements will be made by the military authorities. From the beginning of next year the mounted troops will be trained in the same kind of competitions as are held in the Olympic Games. A preliminary selection of officers will be made in 1915. In 1916, after the final selection, the approved candidates will complete their

training at the Military Riding Institute in Hanover.

Gymnastic Exercises.
Although the program of the Sixth Olympiad will not be authoritatively fixed until the meeting of the international committee in Paris next summer, it is not likely that the wishes of the German hosts will meet with any strong opposition. Germany, as is natural, wishes to lay as strong an emphasis as possible on gymnastics, a form of physical exercise in which she has excelled for nearly a century. It is proposed that the sports shall be opened by a great gymnastic display; that gymnastic competitions shall be held for German clubs, and that certain competitions shall be open to gymnasts of all countries. In athletics the committee suggests that the standing jump shall be abolished. Certain swimming races are to be added. Cycling, which fell out at Stockholm owing to lack of accommodation, is to be brought back again. It is suggested that in addition to six different track races cycle polo shall be introduced, and that a race of 240 kilometres shall be held round Berlin. Whether skating will be included is doubtful. If agreed to by the international committee this section of the games might be held early in February, but there is much to be said against dividing up the meeting in this way. Another possibility would be to use the artificial ice in the Eisplatz, an excellent rink in the centre of Berlin. For the rowing races there is a magnificent course to the east of Berlin, where eight boats can row abreast, but it is possible that a course will be chosen on the Havel, as the committee hopes to be able to concentrate all competitions on the west side of Berlin, as near as possible to the Stadium itself. It is hoped that golf, which is now making some progress in Germany, and for which there exists already a National Union, containing some 2,500 members, may also be included in the sports. At the moment the Berlin course is a poor one, but it is expected that very soon an excellent course will be constructed in the neighborhood of Potsdam, fully capable of satisfying all the demands of an international competition.

As the time for the games draws nearer, an extensive system of advertisement will be carried out abroad, for which the help of the consular service will be requisitioned. It is further hoped that arrangements will be made by the Berlin theatres for an opera and theatre festival to be held at the same time as the games in order to make a visit to Berlin in 1916 still more attractive to foreigners.

FURTHER, BUT—
They had been "walking out" for some months, but as yet he had not been able to muster up courage to ask for a kiss. One night, however, as they were walking in the country he gathered himself together and said:

"Mary, Ah! going to kiss yer at every stile 'twixt 'ere and 'ome."

Mary, who was half-way over the stile, looked down on him with blushing face.

"Come on, then," she said, and descended from the stile again and began walking back in the direction from which they had come.

"Wot are yer going that way for?" queried he, mounting the stile again in pursuit of his prize. "It's a lot

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Further 'ome that way."

"Ah! know that, lad," she said softly over her shoulder, her face like a blushing rose; "but there's a sight more stiles."

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TOO LATE.

A boy wrote home for a supply of cash. Appended to the letter was the following post-scriptum:

"I felt so ashamed at having asked you to send me \$10 that I ran to the postoffice to get my letter back. Unfortunately, it had gone."

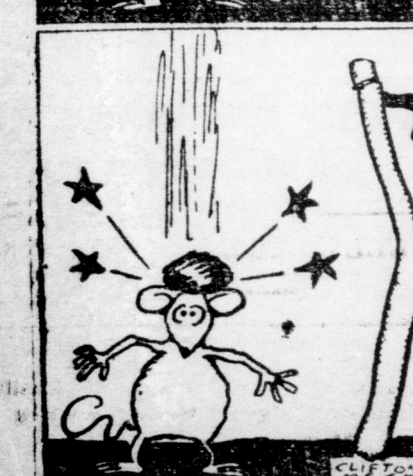
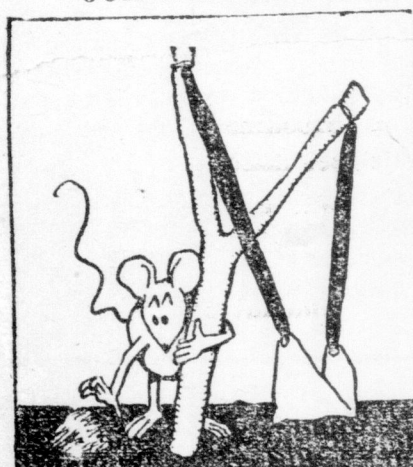
PREPARED.

"I knew you were coming tonight to call on my sister," said Willie. "How did you know?" inquired Mr. Staylate. "Because Sis has been asleep all the afternoon."

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Lady Sackville and her husband are shown leaving the court at London. Inset is a picture of Sir John Murray Scott, the eccentric millionaire, who willed upwards of \$5,000,000 to Lady Sackville. His brothers and sisters brought suit to recover the money on the ground that Lady Sackville exercised undue influence over Sir John, and virtually obtained possession of the fortune by fraudulent means. The case was decided in Lady Sackville's favor. Above is Knowle Park, the beautiful residence of the Sackvilles, which Sir John during his lifetime paid out large sums of money to restore and keep up.

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\$18.00 SUITS NOW	\$12.98
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