



Top: The uniquely splendid stadium complex in April as it entered the last stages of construction. Bottom: The Stadium in March.

markedly rosy. Premier Robert Bourassa estimated a \$750 million deficit — a conservative estimate.

The hope for a self-financing Olympics unfortunately vanished. Innsbruck's Winter Olympics expenses were nearly four times the original estimates. Munich, which spent some \$830 million (about three times the estimated cost) on the 1972 Summer Olympics, is still deeply in debt and the financing of future Olympics remains a puzzle. Moscow has its facilities already in place for the 1980 Games, but only the richest of countries (and no city alone) can build in the style of recent de-

cares. Perhaps, in the future, several countries could share a single Olympics. Perhaps the Games could rotate among cities which already have Olympic plants. Perhaps, though it seems improbable, they could return, if not to the simplicity of Athens in 1896, at least to the modesty of the Los Angeles games of 1932.

Perhaps the world could build, jointly, a permanent international centre, where athletes could compete every four years in the essential Olympic spirit at games presented without undue national emphasis.

The Plant

Every Sunday afternoon last winter, a funeral procession of Montrealers drove slowly down Sherbrooke Street past the projecting ribs of the unfinished Olympic stadium. They saw muddy fields, massed machinery, cold workmen and — if

they were reasonably pessimistic — impossible difficulties ahead. The XXI Olympiad was clearly in trouble.

The problems began in 1974 with the intricate stadium designed by architect Robert Taillibert of