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SWISS SPORTS, 1927.

Once again a year has gone by, and we all met at the Herne Hill Sports Grounds for our annual "Olympic Games." After a downright wet Friday it was perhaps too much to ask for the blue skies and burning sun which have been spoiling us for the past month. The morning was threatening with rain, but gradually the clouds became thinner, and finally the day ended in a glorious evening, a fit setting for the best that we, in the Swiss Colony, can put forth in sports.

I should judge that the number of visitors was greater this year than usually, but I am certain of the fact that the number of the children in our Colony must be growing very satisfactorily, since there have never been so many little ones at the Sports as this year. And as it is by the children that you know the heart of the parents, there seems nothing amiss with our Colony. Did I not see and hear a proud sportsman of the tender age of about nine months, reared in the invigorating atmosphere of the Swiss Federal Railways, struggling out of his father's arms to get nearer the prizes?

The details of the events having been dealt with in another place, there is no need for me to go into these, except for a general record of the

Dimier, the "father" of these Sports. It is well that we should on these occasions remember him who has done so much for the Colony at large, and spared no effort and sacrifice to establish firmly the institution of an annual sports meeting.

The fête was graced again this year by the presence of our trusted and honoured Minister, with Madame Paravicini. Although the head of our Legation did not this year come into contact with the famous pillows, some of the Councillors took their trouncing with true Swiss stoicism, and emerged from under the pole dishevelled but happy.

As to the Prizes—well, when you mounted those silly and dangerous steps in front of the grand stand you just felt you had strayed into a jeweller's shop in Regent Street. A long table was packed with silver, glass and plate in all shapes, forms and sizes, from the huge challenge cups (which personally I can never behold without getting up an equally huge thirst) down to the tiniest ashtray. Your senses reeled until you met the indulgent yet steely eye of the "man in blue" in attendance. It was comforting to know that that steely eye never left that table, counting each prize and the ticket under it perhaps a hundred times, so that we might get on with our clapping



high quality of the contests and the keenness and enthusiasm of the entrants and observers alike. A fine, healthy, well-set-up lot of athletes we have among our young manhood, and as for the girls, they are just adorable, town or sports dress.

As I said, a tremendously keen interest was centred in the classic races and events, but I think a more joyous performance for the visitors is always the lighter side of the Sports generally, but in particular the tug-of-war, pillow-fight, and so on. To watch the ladies scramble for the potatoes or to see the human wheelbarrows tumbling down the field would make a hungry cat laugh. And you have to hold your breath while two worthy citizens, otherwise perfectly respectable, one slim and the other round with honour and the fulness of years, belabour each other on a white pole with pillows to their hearts' content. One very great treat unfortunately was denied us. I mean the Pushball. I have happy memories of two teams of mighty pushers contemplating the sky for a long time after the contest. This ball, after a first filling, retired with a rent in its side into a corner and miserably collapsed, to the accompaniment of some sweet and well-chosen words of the filler. Nothing but "visions of Neuchâtel" could efface such a disaster.

But what am I to say of the children, those keenest of sportsmen? This meeting brought us the new conviction that a large part of the day belongs to them, and we can never give them too much in the way of simple contests. These may not be quite of the same importance to the Committee as the classic events are, but they mean a tremendous lot to the youngsters, so many of whom live in town. Especially so when there is a fine prize tacked on to this memorable outing for them. We must see whether it is not possible to put them into separate heats in such events as the three-legged race, for there are always more entrants than the field can hold. This year a very fast couple of grown-ups ran into the Band and nearly finished up inside the big drum as there was no room for them to pass the line. They missed the prize but had a nice reception by the smart Bandmaster.

While on the subject of the children I should like to mention how very much appreciated was the kindly thought of the Unione Ticinese to present each child taking part in events on the field with a beautiful enamelled badge of our national colours.

Another kindly thought deserves mention also. Every year on the morning of the day of the Swiss Sports our friend Mr. Theo. Schaefer has placed a wreath on the grave of the late Mr. Georges

and hurrah-ing with an easy mind. When the time came to distribute this mass of prizes, one of our President's charming daughters again stepped into the breach and gracefully handed each winner the prize of prowess, receiving in return a manly handshake or an elegant curtsy, as the case may be. One could almost feel sorry for the gentle lady's hand behind the prizes, which must have felt tenderer than ever at the conclusion, but she carried on with a sweet and happy smile.

Then followed the short speeches of the President and Mr. De Cintra, whereupon the East Surreys struck up "God save the King" with vigor. We sang "Rufst Du mein Vaterland" equally lustily, but somehow could never quite catch them up. This last event went in their favour, the Band finishing at 7.13 and we at 7.17.

So ended this memorable day for the Swiss Colony. It brings together in the first place all our keen and enthusiastic athletes, men and women, young and not so young, and their performances have shown that their level is as high as ever. Secondly, it brings together an ever-increasing number of friends and acquaintances one meets all too seldom. And thirdly, it is the great day for the children of the Colony, who are fired with enthusiasm for good sport and fellowship so that they, in their turn, may become good athletes, and our country may be proud of its sporting sons on this side of the Channel. A.F.S.

RESULTS.

- 100-yds. Flat Handicap, Men.—1st, J. Meschini (7-yds.); 2nd, E. Gross and E. Jaeggli (dead heat). Time 10 4-5 secs.
- 100-yds. Flat Handicap, Boys.—1st, P. Keller (4½-yds.); 2nd, R. Riederer; 3rd, L. Haesler; 4th, J. Huggler. Time, 13 2-5 secs.
- 100-yds. Flat Handicap, Ladies in Sports Costume. W. V. Spencer (6½-yds.); 2nd, M. A. Smith; 3rd, G. Horsman. Time 12 4-5 secs.
- Putting the Weight.—A. Gartmann, 35ft. 6½ ins.
- 120-yds. Hurdles Handicap.—1st, E. Gross (owe 9yds.); 2nd, G. Hausermann. Time 19 secs.
- 220-yds. Flat Handicap for Swiss.—1st, E. Gross (Scratch); 2nd, O. Grob; 3rd, O. Uhlmann. Time 24 1-5 secs.
- 220-yds. Flat Handicap for Staffs of Subscribing Firms.—1st, E. Jaeggli (16½ yds.); 2nd, E. Gross; 3rd, O. Grob. Time 24 secs.
- Long Jump.—1st, E. Gross, 19ft. 5ins.; 2nd, H. Knoll; 3rd, A. Notzli.
- High Jump.—1st, E. W. Casada, 5ft. 2in.; 2nd, C. W. Suter; 3rd, G. Hausermann.
- 120-yds. Veterans' Race.—1st, A. Nozli; 2nd, E. Oggier; 3rd, J. Christen.

- 440-yds. Veterans' Walking Race.—1st, J. Haesler; 2nd, M. Paschoud; 3rd, G. Riederer; 4th, F. Riederer; 5th, C. Guignard; 6th, J. Oltramare.
- Relay Race.—Winners, Swiss Federal Railways (Electric); Runners-up, Unione Ticinese A. Time 4min. 6secs.
- Wrestling.—(Lightweight): R. Jaquenoud. (Middle Weight) W. Schneeberger. (Heavyweight, A. Gartmann.
- Tug-of-War.—Winners, Cercle Valaisan A. Runners-up, Cercle Valaisan B.
- 100-yds. Handicap for Ladies in Town Dress.—Heat 1: 1st, Miss Bosshard; 2nd, Miss D. Edwards; 3rd, Miss R. Bedford. Heat 2: 1st, Miss Williams; 2nd, Miss Brewerton; 3rd, Miss Bandattine.
- Girls' 60-yds. Race.—Heat 1: 1st, Audrey Linder; 2nd, Juliette Pafelich; 3rd, Lily Ody; 4th, Marjorie Baumann. Heat 2: 1st, Esther Mathieu; 2nd, Lydia Jaeggi; 3rd, Doris Riederer; 4th, Rosina Linder. Heat 3: 1st, Kath. Homes; 2nd, Muriel Smith; 3rd, Mary Pratt; 4th, H. Spuhler.
- Boys' 80-yds. Race.—Heat 1: 1st, Ernest Volken; 2nd, F. Pino; 3rd, A. Trost; 4th, Alb. Wernly. Heat 2: 1st, Maurice Bandattine; 2nd, V. Schaefer; 3rd, Holliger; 4th, A. Schmid. Heat 3: 1st, A. Haesler; 2nd, A. Deubelbeiss; 3rd, D. Ramage; 4th, F. Heuer.
- Potato Race for Ladies.—Heat 1: 1st, C. Dallenbach; 2nd, Rosina Linder; 3rd, A. J. Sandoz. Heat 2: 1st, M. Buchi; 2nd, Joan Taylor; 3rd, Kath. Homes. Heat 3: 1st, C. Bosshard; 2nd, Clara Chenappa; 3rd, G. Horsman. Heat 4: 1st, M. Baker; 2nd, G. Bosshard; 3rd, W. S. Seakins. Heat 5: 1st, M. Bandattine; 2nd, M. Reiley; 3rd, M. A. Brewerton.
- Egg and Spoon Race.—Heat 1: 1st, M. Phillips; 2nd, M. G. Dupraz; 3rd, R. Linder. Heat 2: C. Dallenbach; 2nd, M. Buchi; 3rd, B. Barbezat. Heat 3: 1st, G. Horsman; 2nd, R. Bedford.
- Pillow Fight for Men.—1st, J. Christen; 2nd, Cyril Suter; 3rd, Cretton; 4th, Jaquenoud.
- Three-legged Race.—1st, Miss Williams and Mr. Uhlmann; 2nd, Miss Taylor and Mr. Pafelich; 3rd, Miss Reiley and Mr. Oggier.
- Wheelbarrow Race for Men.—1st, Messrs. Bessir and Pobjoy; 2nd, Messrs. Suter and Schupbach; 3rd, Messrs. Heritier and Oggier.



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