

Preparation for the VIth Olympic Winter Games Oslo 1952

REPORT

given at the Vienna session of the I. O. C. in May 1951 by the President of the Organising Committee for the VIth Olympic Winter Games, Oslo 1952.

Mr. President, Gentlemen.

According to point 7 on the agenda it is my duty to give a report on the development of the preparations for the VIth Olympic Winter Games, Oslo 1952. At our Session in Rome in 1949 I gave a report on the different sports grounds and the housing question, and last year in Copenhagen I submitted a preliminary programme for the VI Olympic Winter Games for the period 14th to 25th February 1952, both days inclusive, and with the official opening day on the 15th of February. Our organisation Committee then got authority to fix days and hours for the different competitions within the mentioned period, in co-operation with the International Federations. At our meeting in Copenhagen I put forth a proposal by the Organising Committee to adopt Bandy as a demonstration sport. This was approved.

The ski-ing arenas.

Long distance ski races for ladies and men as well as the relay races will start and finish at the foot of the Holmenkollen Hill, The Holmenkollen jumping hill has been reconstructed and the profile of the hill has also been slightly altered. A lift is

now being installed in the tower leading to the highest take-off. The take-off itself is made of concrete with a 3 store eyed building, underneath, containing a ski museum, a restaurant and cloak-rooms. Jumping of special and combined classes will take place here.

On both sides of the hill permanent stands have been constructed with seats for about 6000 persons. When completed the stands round the « horse shoe » will seat about 12 000 and there is standing room for another 120 000 or 130 000 persons round the « horse shoe ».

Rödikleiva is the name of the Olympic slalom hill. The course is a very exacting one, especially the lower half which is very steep. The course has been used in recent years for a number of international competitions notably in the annual Holmenkollen races. A good deal of constructional work, etc., as been carried out with a view to the Winter Olympics. A ski-lift was constructed last year and runs up parallel to the course with a capacity of 600 persons per hour. Flood-lighting has also been installed, so that training can be carried out after dark. The slalom course has been authorised by the International Ski Federation for use in the Olympic Winter Games.

Norefjell. The courses for downhill and giant slalom have also been in use during this winter's Holmenkollen competitions and have got the finishing touch in co-operation with representatives of F. I. S. The courses at Norefjell are approved by F. I. S. and have been awarded the highest class. With a view to the Olympic Winter Games 1952 a new tourist hat has been built on the tree-line not far from the start of the downhill course. It will accommodate 102 guests. This hut comes in addition to the already existing hotels there. A bridge is under construction across Lake Kröderen at Noresund to shorten the road to Norefjell. In connection with this project a motor road (19 ft. wide) has been built from the west shore of the lake, running right up to the hotels situated not far from the starting points for downhill and giant slalom. A ski-lift will take the skiers from the hotels at the top of the motor road right up to the highest starting point for the downhill. At the finish a tele-communication centre has been set up in a two-storeyed house (built for the purpose) with a floor space of approximately 4400 square ft., containing 10 radio transmitters, a long-distance telephone exchange, and a local exchange, as well as offices, dining room, kitchen, and staff bedrooms.

A swift bus connection will be established between Oslo and Norefjell.

Voss. The snow is very unlikely to fail at Norefjell and in Oslo in February, it has happened once during the last 50 years, but nevertheless reserve downhill-, giant slalom- and slalom courses are foreseen at Voss near the western coasts of Norway, not very far from Bergen. The courses there are in conformity with the Rules of F. I. S. and arrangements are being made to manage the housing and tele-communication services satisfactorily.

Skating

The speed skating will take place at Bislett Stadium, which has a capacity of 28/29 000 spectators. The cloakrooms, bath and massage rooms are being improved and a new medical office with up to date equipment is being installed. Bislett Stadium will be the main arena where the opening and closing ceremonies will take place. At Bislett stadium the finishing figure skating events as well as the final bandy match will also be held. Two reserve stadiums are foreseen for the skating competitions, one at Tryvann Stadium in Oslo, 1550 ft. above sea level, and the other one at Hamar Stadium, approximately 70 miles north of Oslo.

Jordal Amfi: A new artificial outdoor ice rink called Jordal Amfi is being built for the icehockey competitions and is now nearing its completion. There is room for about 9 000 spectators. Being aware that we shall have to count with about 70 icehockey matches, a number of the less important matches will have to take place at other ice stadiums in Oslo or nearby villages. Jordal Amfi is also going to be the arena for compulsory figure skating during the morning hours.

The Bobsleigh track.

This track has been constructed in co-operation with Swiss experts and several bob teams from various countries have been training there last winter. It has proved to be safe and satisfactory in every respect and comes up to the prescriptions of and has been accepted by the International Bobsleigh Federation.

The News Service.

The Organising Committee (for the VIth Olympic Winter Games, Oslo 1952) is laying stress upon

offering the press and radio wireless reporters as good conditions as possible, and is seeing to it that all kinds of technical equipment and quick telecommunications will be available for the reporters at a new, moderne hotel, 13 storeys high, situated in the centre of Oslo. This hotel is being built by the Municipality of Oslo especially with a view to the Winter Olympic Games.

Housing of the competitors.

In a villa district in the northwestern part of Oslo two Olympic villages are under construction not far from each other. One is foreseen to serve as student's homes after the Winter Games and the other one will house part of the staff at a municipal hospital. In total there will be single and double bed rooms for nearly 1100 competitors and leaders. There are also rooms for a workshop, a canteen, a newspaper kiosk, an exchange bureau and transport office, as well as dining rooms, drawing rooms, bath rooms, massage rooms etc. Communications to the various arenas, the training fields and to the centre of Oslo are good. The downhill and slalom people at Norefjell will be lodged in two hotels at the top of the downhill and giant slalom courses during the competitions there.

Housing of official guests and tourists.

The Organising Committee has by contract secured the right to dispose of most of the hotel rooms in the town.

This means about 4000 beds, which will be reserved for all official guests and tourists. Besides, the Organising Committee has established an office, which has been working for half a year, for the housing of people in private homes. It will be carefully controlled that these rooms are fully satisfactory and we think that this form of housing should be advantageous to the foreigners, and the personal contact thus established will be appreciated by our overseas guests. Mass housing will be arranged for about 1000 persons in a few school houses. In this way the Organising Committee has to-day about 7000 beds disposal and before the opening of the Winter Games, the figure will no doubt exceed 10 000 beds.

The sale of tickets.

The sale of tickets abroad is likely to start in June and sale's representatives are being appointed in each country in co-operation with its national Olympic Committee. Housing coupons will be available to the foreigners when they book their tickets.

O. DITLEV-SIMONSEN, *President.*