

In order to learn sentiment of the clubs on the proposition of sending someone to represent us over there, I wrote to every club, laying the matter before them as plainly as possible, and even informed them of the necessity of assessing the members an extra 5 or 10¢ in order to get money to defray the expenses of the delegate, in case we should send one.

I want to say, that I am very proud of the stand taken by the respective clubs in regard to this matter, as the result of this referendum vote clearly shows that Europe is not alone in this work in promoting the interests of the greatest of all winter sports, the ski sport.

Within one week of the time, my circular letters were mailed, I had answers by telegram and letters from almost every affiliated club, and with two exceptions, every club urged the sending of a representative, all being more than willing to stand their share of the expense in connection with the proposition. The only two clubs voting against representation being Ishpeming and Stillwater.

In addition to these two clubs, the National Vice President and the Treasurer were against it, both claiming the time would be too short in which to prepare a delegate, which was reasonable enough.

While we were without a representative at this convention, I took it upon myself to write a letter of explanation to the President of the Norwegian National on behalf of our American Association, and this letter will likely be read during the meeting.

In it I gave an idea of the progress of our work, of the way we conduct tournaments, judging, classification between professionals and amateurs, etc. I tried to make it plain, that the American people are eager for results.

That is, they are not contented with good form alone in a ski jumping contest, they want something more, they want long daring leaps and the establishing of records.

The nature of our people is such that it demands first place in all athletic sports, and they will support anything in which there is a question of new records being established, while they would soon tire of a performance where only good form would be the predominating feature.

I mentioned this in my letter, because, in case new rules will be established for judging contests, and it should be our desire at some future time to join the International Association, the long jumps would receive due consideration and we have without doubt as good jumpers as anywhere in the world, and I dare say that should a contest ever take place in which European and Americans compete, our boys would give the best of them over there a hard run for their money and the world's championship.

Since the receipt of the communication informing us of the approach of this International Ski Convention, I have corresponded with several of the secretaries of the European Associations and I am pretty well posted on their views, so I think, that long jumps will find a more prominent place in the score cards of the judges at jumping contests in the old country after this meeting.

At the beginning of this season, Norway had somewhere in the neighborhood of 625 clubs enrolled in the National Association with a membership of nearly 20,000. The National Association of Germany, which organized shortly after our American Association in 1905, had a membership at the beginning of the season of 13,000.

NOTE - the NSA membership was a total of 28 clubs and 1,135 individuals in 1910."

The second International Ski Congress was held at Stockholm in February, 1911. Scotland and Spain were absent from this Congress; Finland was present but not voting. At this Congress, it was decided that only associations and clubs recognized by the Congress were authorized to organize "international" events, and the governing "Commission" was enlarged to five members.

The third International Ski Congress was held in 1912 in Munich, where rules were discussed.

The fourth International Ski Congress was held in 1913 in Bern, Switzerland, at which time the "Commission" was enlarged to seven members, consisting of two representatives from Norway, two from Sweden, and one representative each from Switzerland, Germany and Austria. At this congress, interim rules for international ski contest (jumping and cross-country) were adopted.

The fifth International Ski Congress was held in February, 1914, at Kristiania (Oslo), with England, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and Austria present and entitled to vote. Also present were Hungary and Finland. Hungary was admitted as a member entitled to vote, which brought the number of countries entitled to vote to a total of seven. The Ski Commission at this meeting was made up of two representatives from Sweden, two from Norway, one each from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

At this Congress in 1914, the German representatives suggested that ski races should be included in the program of the Olympic Games.

All communications between the Scandinavian members of the Commission and the other members of the Commission came to a standstill with the outbreak of World War I.

The next, the sixth International Ski Congress, was held in Stockholm in February 1922, with delegates present from Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Roumania and Czechoslovakia. After much debate, the International Ski Commission was enlarged to eight persons - two from Sweden, two from Norway, one from France, one from Switzerland and one from Finland, and one representing both Germany and Austria.

At this Congress, participation in the Olympic Games was discussed, as it appears that the International Olympic Committee had authorized the organizers of the Summer Games of 1924 (France) to organize ski events, not as "Winter Olympics" but as "international ski contests". (See Minutes of Sixth International Ski Congress held February 10, 1922, Stockholm, for a short history of the prior Congresses.)

The 1923 International Ski Congress was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia. National associations represented were Austria, France, Germany, Finland, Jugoslavia, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, England, Italy, Hungary and Roumania. The United States was represented by a "reporter" (member of the press?), Edward T. Heyn, but the official "guest", Lawrence Groves, apparently was not present until after the close of the meeting.