

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held on Thursday night at Young and Jackson's Hotel, Mr. J. L. Irvine being in the chair.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The report for the year, together with the balance-sheet, was presented. The following are extracts :-

"Finances— We regret to report that notwithstanding the rigorous efforts of certain of your committee to increase the funds by collecting subscriptions (particulars of which are shown in the balance sheet), the expenditure for the year, £536 0s 3d., exceeds the receipts, £500 7s. 6d., by £35 12s. 9d., which amount is carried forward as a debit-balance to next year. The loss over the regatta, £139 18s. 9d., is a serious matter, and in view of the expenses of sending our crew to Sydney next year, it is essentially necessary that the incoming committee should prevent, if possible, a recurrence of such a deficit when arranging for the regatta of 1886-87. The receipts for the Intercolonial Race amounted to £87 5s., and the expenditure to £110 5s. 9d., a loss of £23 0s. 9d. The subscriptions from clubs under rule VII, amount to £123 15s., representing in all £95 members. Seeing that the number of rowing men is increasing, it is clear that the rules of the association calling upon clubs to pay for all *of their members* are not complied with. It is desirable, therefore, that early steps may be taken to rigorously enforce them. In order to reduce the debit balance, an unusually enjoyable entertainment for gentlemen was given in the Athenaeum on the 20th Inst, but the patronage extended to it did not realise anticipations, the receipts barely covering the expenses. Against the liability of £35 12s. 9d.. the association possess the racing eight-oared boat presented last year by Mr. Arthur Blackwood.

" We feel sincere sorrow in narrating the heavy misfortunes which have lately befallen one of our well-known end popular boatbuilders, Mr. W. T. Greenland. Shortly after the removal of his shed from below the old Prince's-bridge, in April last, the new erection, made at considerable cost, was burnt to the ground, and immediately after his replacing the old with a new building, the latter was rendered useless through the upheaval of the earth caused by the embankment made to connect the new bridge with the St. Kilda road. A movement is, we believe, shortly to be set on foot to assist Mr. Greenland to retrieve his heavy losses, and your association is to be asked, and will doubtless render its willing assistance.

“The works in connection with the new Prince's-bridge are making rapid progress and in a short time, the clubs on the banks of the Yarra must expect to be cut off from the water frontage for some time, whilst the stream is being widened ; on the completion of this work a splendid rowing course will be created, and your committee look forward to rowing becoming much more popular than it can be expected to be on the present narrow and circuitous river.

“Before closing this report your committee desires to express their deep indebtedness, and, indeed, that of the whole association to the untiring enthusiasm of Mr. Geo. Upward, who has not only performed the onerous and troublesome duties of hon. Treasurer with great zeal and ability, but has likewise done much of the work pertaining to the position of secretary, which has devolved upon him mainly through the numerous changes that have taken place in the latter office.”

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The election of office-bearers resulted follows:—President, Mr. H. G. Turner; vice-presidents, Dr. Beaney, M. L. C., and Mr. Arthur Blackwood ; hon. treasurer. Mr. George E. Upward ; members of committee Messrs. S. H. Gowdie, H. T. Jordan, W. J. Leverett, and F. J. Warren.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. G. Upward said that last year he was one of those who supported the proposal to hold the annual regatta at Albert-park, his sole object in doing so being a desire to see the association placed in a satisfactory financial position. He was quite sensible of the objections to the course, but at the same time the committee had an obligation to carry out with the New South Wales Association, and it would not reflect much credit on the association if they found themselves unable to send a crew to Sydney this -year. There was a present bank overdraft of £35, and before they could commence to pay accounts for next year this must be wiped away. Further, a new boat would be required for the intercolonial race in Sydney. As one who had done something in the way of collecting, he knew how entirely unsatisfactory it was. In fact, it was simply impossible that they could beg from the same people year after year. Under all these circumstances he thought that those rowing men who opposed the proposal to hold the regatta at Albert-park should give way to the committee. If this was done the annual regatta would pay for itself, and would pay for itself, and all donations received could be devoted to the purpose, of sending a crew to Sydney. The meeting then adjourned.

