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VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held at Young and Jackson's Hotel last night; Mr. Thos. Ellison, one of the vice-presidents, occupying the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it had been so carefully prepared by the late and present secretaries that it required little explanation. In the champion ship fours the honors had been pretty equally divided. They were pleased that Tasmania had the pluck to send a team, which found a place, and the association would be happy to send them a hearty welcome in future. No one could be sorry at the success of Queensland shortly afterwards. Mr. Slack was, in his opinion, the finest sculler they had ever seen on the Yarra, and they would not grudge Queensland her well won victory. (Hear, hear.)

The champion four-oar at the regatta lay between the Yarra Yarra and a team from the country, and no doubt, as townsmen, they were glad to see the local crew placed on its mettle to win. Nor would anyone grudge the success of New South Wales in the intercolonial race, because for a long time Victoria had the intercolonial eight-oar pretty well her own way. (Hear, hear.)

They had the usual number of trophies presented to them during the year, and they desired to return their thanks to the donors. Several members had spent some time over the suggestion in connection with the Pan-Britannic Festival, which appeared to be a dream incapable of fulfilment in view of the present depressed position of the colony. The members would all regret to hear of the resignation of the hon. secretary, Mr. House; and if ever any member had rendered good service to the association it was he.

It would, however, be selfish to ask Mr. House to continue the work which he had been carrying out so earnestly for seven years; but he had kindly consented to retain the office of treasurer. (Hear, hear.)

In face of the disastrous year just gone through it was a matter for congratulation that the association did not owe one shilling, but on the contrary had a little money in the bank and some assets outside. He wished to add their appreciation of the services of Mr. G. E. Upward, the mention of whose name should evoke the heartiest goodwill from every member. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Upward seconded the adoption of the report. As one who had acted as chairman of many of the meetings, it might not be out of place for him to make a few remarks upon the events of the year. The association numbered 542 members on the list, and they might regard the fact that comparatively so few turned up as evidence that they were satisfied with the management. It was true that the troubled times of the last year had left their mark on the association as on other bodies, and though they had found it had fallen off in numbers by 189, still they had the very pleasant result of winding up the year with a credit balance.

(Hear, hear.)

With respect to the champion four-oars it must be gratifying to all who took an interest in rowing to note that the champion race had made such advancement. It had proved especially successful in this colony, where it partook of the nature of an intercolonial character. The presence of a Tasmanian crew was very welcome, and they hoped that not only Tasmania but also the other colonics would in future be represented.

(Hear, hear.)

It was a source of pleasure to everyone that the championship was won by the Yarra Yarra crew for the third time, for when a race was won by good men rowing in good form no one could grudge them the victory. It was felt by the committee that some more prompt means should be adopted for settling disputes in races rowed on the Saltwater River, and the committee had framed two rules to meet the difficulty. With regard to the sculling race, he thought that no one who had rowed against Mr. Slack could feel himself disgraced at being beaten by such a superior sculler. The annual regatta had left a balance on the wrong side, though Mr. House and those who had assisted him had worked very hard to carry it out successfully.

The eight-oared champion race had been rowed by the Yarra Yarra in the fastest time on record in any of the colonies, so far as he knew. In connection with the intercolonial race he felt that, though defeated this time, he never was more confident than he was at present that Victoria could still hold her own against intercolonial crews. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman had referred to the Pan-Britannic Festival, and he (Mr. Upward) would like to say that Mr. Cooper had consulted the association at every step, evidently regarding it as the leading rowing association of the colonies, and if this idea was to be carried out at any time, it was for this association to take the initiative.

The report was adopted by acclamation, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. House for his effective services as secretary.

Election of Officers.

The following officers were re-elected: - President, Mr. H. G. Turner ; vice-presidents, Messrs. Thos. Ellison, T. F. Morkham, E. L. Zox, Frank Stuart. G. E. Upward and H. T. Jordan. Messrs. House, Gowdie, Shepherd and Mitchell, retiring members of committee, were re-elected; and Messrs. Bert and Lupton were also elected to vacant seats.