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ROWING NOTES.

By TINGLE.

The annual meeting of the Victorian Rowing Association was held at Young and Jackson's Hotel on Monday night. There was not a large attendance, and there would probably have been even a smaller muster but for a special beating up of Albert-park rowing men in view of a vote on the question of changing the venue of the association's annual regatta from the Upper Yarra to the Albert-park Lake. Mr. T. Ellison occupied the chair, and disposed of the formal part of the business by moving, after some appropriate remarks, the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. The former was very voluminous, and comprised a reference to every event in which the association had become concerned during the past 12 months. It was an excellent record. Mr. Upward seconded the adoption of the report, and the meeting, keen for later dishes at the menu, gulped it at once.

Mr. W. H. T. Davis is practical and anxious for the financial welfare of the association even if a little reckless in his anxiety. He has been a regular attendant at the association committee meetings, and knew what a formidable problem the finances were. To alleviate them he proposed, not as a motion, but for consideration in connection with the balance sheet, that the association should countenance a large shilling sweep or "consultation" on the Melbourne Cup. He volunteered to manage it if certain prominent racing men would permit the use of their names as a guarantee of good faith, and proposed that there should be 10,000 subscribers, from which he calculated the association would net £100.

The chairman said that, in as much as the association numbered among its patrons so many gentlemen interested in the enforcement of the law, it would not be becoming of it to be associated with a sweep, which would be a contravention of the law of the country. Mr. Davis, however, or any other gentleman might run the sweep on his own responsibility, and, if he felt disposed, make a donation to the association. The matter then dropped as far as the association is concerned, but Mr. Davis is promoting the sweep, I understand.

The election of office-bearers resulted in the re-election of all those who retired by effluxion of time, viz.:—President, Mr. H. Gyles Turner; vice-presidents, T. Ellison, T. F. Morkham, E. L. Zox, M.L.A. Frank Stuart, G. E. Upward, H. T. Jordan, A. M'Cracken, and C. Miller; members of committee, W. A. Jones, F. D. Masters, J. F. Warren, and J. Mitchell. The day of meeting was changed, on the motion of Mr. A. J. Shepherd, from the second Monday to the second Friday in each month.

Mr. J. Best, of the Mercantile Club, moved the adoption of his scheme, which I referred to last week, and which had for its object the establishing of a separate fund for the intercolonial races. Mr. Best unfolded his scheme of taxation of clubs in a manner amusingly suggestive of his Commissioner of Customs brother, and Mr. House, as became an officer of the Income Tax department, spoke of the "incidents" of the proposed impost on the various sections of the rowing community, and entered into estimates of revenue from the existing and proposed systems as glibly as would the commissioner himself. The Hawthorn representatives urged that the proposal would press heavily on small clubs such as their own, who would be

compelled under it to pay 30s. to the fund though there was no probability of them having any of their men chosen to row in the crew for years to come. It was contended, on the other hand, that a call of £20, as under the present system, on a bigger club pressed more heavily than would 30s. on a smaller institution.

The principle of a separate fund was generally confirmed, but the sympathy with the smaller clubs was equally general. The whole matter was referred to the new committee with a request that it would report on it to a general meeting of the association to be called. There is a strong desire to have the country clubs, especially those of Geelong and Ballarat, represented on the association, and, half as a lever half as an inducement, Mr. Brotherton, the secretary, moved that no one be eligible to row in any intercolonial race unless he be a member of an associated club, or of a club within the meaning of Rule XL, paying an annual subscription of three guineas to the funds of the association. It was stated that it was desirable for many reasons that the country clubs should be represented on the association, but specially for the appointment of dates for regattas, so that they would not clash.

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Lupton, of the Yarra Yarra, and seconded by Mr. Upward, that as an inducement to join the fee should be two guineas at the beginning of a season, and three guineas if the club delayed joining until it saw a prospect of having some of its men chosen in the intercolonial crews. Several of the speakers averred that there was a feeling of dissatisfaction that members of clubs outside of the association should be chosen to represent the colony to the exclusion of members of the association. The motion was ultimately consigned to the committee for consideration and report.

The most important questions at the meeting of the association was introduced by Mr. G. Upward when he moved that the V.R.A regatta for the season 1895-96 be held on the lake at Albert-park. It was very late when this, the last item on the business paper, was reached. The mover said that the Upper Yarra course was not a fair one, and in the interests of food and fair rowing it was desirable that the course on the lake should be adopted in preference to the upper river.

The first regatta held on the lake was the most successful ever held here and the recent improvements there given fine course ending in front of the boathouses. Mr Semmens seconded the motion. Mr. W. H. T. Davies opposed the resolution, and complained that the notice that the question was to be discussed was too short, and that the Albert-park club had beaten up a big attendance of members to carry a resolution in favour of the lake. He said that the country clubs would object to take their boats over to the lake.

The lake advocates retorted that they had been promised an entry for each event from Ballarat if they promoted a regatta on the lake. Mr. Davies moved, as an amendment, "That the regatta be held, as last year, on the Upper Yarra." Mr Lupton seconded the amendment but finally the question was left, as the others, to the committee to fight out and report on. the absence of references to several club meetings and other events from the notes this week will be noticed, and I have to explain that pressure on space demands that they be held over until next week.