

REGATTA CEREMONY

NEI Representative Unveils Commemorative Tablet

A **TABLET** commemorating the 300th anniversary of the discovery of Tasmania by Abel Tasman was unveiled by Dr J. C. van Hoogstraten, Chief Commissioner for the Netherlands East Indies in Australia, at the Royal Hobart Regatta on Saturday.

(OTHER visitors at the ceremony were Baron F. C. van Aerssen, Netherlands Minister in Australia, Col K. F. C. Baldwin, US Military Attache, and Mr M. E. Antrobus, official secretary of the office of the British High Commissioner. The Returned Soldiers' Memorial Band played the American and Dutch national anthems when the visitors arrived.

Others in the official party were the Governor (Sir Ernest Clark) and Lady Clark, the Minister for Lands and Works (Mr Madden), who represented the Premier, the Commander Tasmania Force (Brig Vowles), the Naval Officer-in-Charge (Capt Farquhar-Smith) and Mrs Farquhar-Smith, Chief Justice Morris and Mrs Morris, the Lord Mayor of Hobart (Mr Soundy, MHA) and Mrs Soundy, Sir John Evans, and Mr Beck, MHR, and Mrs Beck.

The visitors were welcomed by Col J. E. C. Lord, president of the Royal Hobart Regatta Association.

The Governor, who is patron of the regatta, expressed the hope that the friendship between the British Empire and the Netherlands might be cemented by the vicissitudes that both had suffered.

Dr van Hoogstraten said he was extremely grateful that the privilege of unveiling the commemorative tablet had been given to him, because he came from the same country that Tasman had sailed from—Java, "which holds all that is dear to me and to so many of my countrymen."

William the Silent of Holland, Dr van Hoogstraten continued, had once said: "Hope is not needed for enterprise, nor success for perseverance." That was the spirit of fighting on, of being convinced that victory would come, that was needed today.

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Today, more than ever, Britain and the Netherlands were friends, and had a common future in the Pacific, a common task which, with God's help, they would fulfil.

Mr Madden also spoke

Baron van Aerssen and Dr van Hoogstraten were presented by Col Lord with the medal which was struck on the occasion of the centenary regatta in 1938, and with copies of the centenary programme

After the unveiling ceremony the official party was entertained to afternoon tea in the grandstand rooms. The hostess was Mrs D. C. McLaren, assisted by Mrs Gordon Blew, Miss Alice Jones, Mesdames N. C. Jack, George Peacock, T. Sampson, and Mr D. C. McLaren. The afternoon tea room was decorated with flags and large vases of mixed flowers.

Among those present were Mrs J. E. C. Lord, Ald and Mrs E. Sorell, Mr and Mrs John Lord, Dr and Mrs J. A. P. G. Boot, Mr and Mrs J. Reynolds, Mr W. N. Hurst and Miss Hurst, Mr and Mrs E. P. Andrewartha, Col and Mrs E. Hall, the Chief Secretary (Mr Brooker), and the following committee members: Messrs V. G. Leary, F. J. Batt, A. J. Fulton, C. T. Jones, H. M. Owen, W. G. Oakes, A. C. Creswell, C. L. Colvin, H. R. Peacock, G. F. Brewster, J. H. Sharp, E. C. Watchorn, J. W. Turner, J. A. Lucas, W. A. Young, R. F. Mullins