

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

OF THE

VERMIN-PROOF FENCING COMMISSION;

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENCE, AND APPENDICES.

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, July 19th, 1893.

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No. 59

1893.

REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE ALGERNON HAWKINS THOMOND, EARL OF KINTORE,
LORD FALCONER OF HALKERTON, LORD KEITH OF INVERURIE, A MEMBER OF HER
MAJESTY'S MOST HONORABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE, GOVERNOR AND COM-
MANDER-IN-CHIEF IN AND OVER THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND THE
DEPENDENCIES THEREOF, &C., &C., &C.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

1. Your Commissioners, appointed "to inquire into and consider the Morgan to Winnininnie Vermin Fencing Bill, 1892," and to inquire into and consider the whole question of vermin fencing," have made careful inquiries, through witnesses and by personal inspection, as to the extent of the damage done by vermin of different kinds, and as to the results of fencing against vermin, wherever any experience had been obtained as to its effectiveness. To secure information they examined fourteen witnesses in Adelaide, and also visited the South-East, the North-East, and the country west of Spencer's Gulf, examining 106 witnesses and taking evidence wherever offered. The Commission also visited the Western District of Victoria to inquire into methods in use there.

2. They have ascertained that in the farming districts, and, generally speaking, within district councils, the most serious trouble experienced is with the rabbits, which destroy the crops and feed, while the dogs are not much feared, except where sheep are kept. On the other hand, in the pastoral country it is the dogs which cause most loss, the rabbits, through improved methods of destruction and recent droughts, being no longer dreaded, though there is some risk of their breeding up again.

3. Within district councils the provisions of the Act of Parliament (478 of 1890) relating to loans for netting have been and are largely availed of, and with the best results. Generally the present law is believed to be satisfactory, and its maintenance is desired. Certain amendments will, however, be suggested in our recommendations.

4. Much of the trouble results from the inaction of the Government in respect of unoccupied Crown lands. In past years very large sums have been expended by the State on vermin destruction, but lately the opposite course has been followed, and Crown tenants and others have had to deal not merely with the vermin on their holdings, but they have been also subjected to heavy loss through being constantly restocked from neighboring unoccupied leased or unleased lands of the Crown. Losses of stock, and consequent diminution of products and of rents to the Crown, have been enormous, and wide areas of country abandoned because of vermin testify to the extent of the evil.

5. We have found, in dealing with pastoral lands, that it was impossible to apply to all districts where vermin are troublesome any general remedy. We are satisfied that a properly erected and well maintained fence of netting and barbed wire will resist the inroads of both dogs and rabbits, and that the isolation of given areas alone offers any reasonable prospect of ultimate extinction of the pest. The enclosing of all waters, too, in the dry months would do much to assist in the work. In some districts, however, the country is rough, and watercourses abound, and rock holes and other more or less certain supplies of water exist, and in these fencing is not the most effective method of protection. In such localities, according to the preponderance of the evidence, scalping alone will prove satisfactory. The decision of the particular method suited to the conditions should be left to local determination.

6. Your Commissioners approve of the immediate erection of the Morgan to Winnininnie fence as affording a base for lessees enclosing sub-areas and thereby further protecting the country both east and west of the line, but, with a view to a general settlement of the whole question, they make the following recommendations, which will meet that case with others:—

- (1) That the provisions of the Act providing for the loan of netting through district councils be amended so as to require the payment of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the amount of the loan unpaid. District councils should also be directed to grant the netting to enclose whole blocks of country instead of each small holding being dealt with alone. Provision should also be made that persons cultivating land outside district councils may apply to the Commissioner for and receive advances to protect their crops as if they were within district councils.

(2) That

- (2) That the Government be empowered to proclaim Vermin Districts outside district councils from time to time, each district to be under the care of a Vermin Board, appointed in the first place by the Government and afterwards by the occupiers of the land; the board to have power to levy rates not exceeding 2s. 6d. per square mile per annum, such rate to be payable on the unoccupied lands of the Crown as well as upon other lands; each board to have power to determine, subject to a poll of ratepayers—each ratepayer having one vote for each fifty miles, or portion thereof, of land—whether the proceeds of the rate shall be expended on scalping or fencing. In every case where the district determines to erect fencing it may pledge its rates to the Government for a term of years, and thereupon the Government may advance on security of the rates such sums as shall be represented with interest by such rates for the erection of the fence; such advances to be repaid in equal annual instalments extending over not more than ten years.
- (3) That occupiers of infested land should be required to enclose all artificial or permanent waters, except running streams, with vermin-proof fencing, and to keep them closed during the summer months between sunset and sunrise.
- (4) That the Rabbit Suppression Act should be amended in the direction of giving shorter notice to destroy vermin.
- (5) That lessees of the Crown should be compelled to carry out any conditions of their leases as to the destruction of vermin or erection of vermin-proof fencing.
- (6) Your Commissioners desire to represent that the matter with which they have dealt is urgent, and should be attended to without delay.

F. W. HOLDER, Chairman.

J. H. HOWE.

A. A. KIRKPATRICK.

EBENEZER WARD.

T. PLAYFORD.

JOHN MOULE.

JOHN J. OSMAN.

J. W. WHITE.

July 13th, 1893.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

KINTORE.

(L.S.)

His Excellency the RIGHT HONORABLE ALGERNON HAWKINS THOMOND, EARL OF KINTORE, LORD FALCONER OF HALKERTON, LORD KEITH OF INVERURIE, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Province of South Australia and the Dependencies thereof, &c., &c., &c.

To the Honorable JAMES HENDERSON HOWE, M.P. (Commissioner of Crown Lands); the Honorable ANDREW ALEXANDER KIRKPATRICK, M.L.C.; the Honorable EBENEZER WARD, M.L.C.; the Honorable THOMAS PLAYFORD, M.P.; FREDERICK WILLIAM HOLDER, Esquire, M.P.; JOHN MOULE, Esquire, M.P.; JOHN JAMES OSMAN, Esquire, M.P.; and JAMES WHARTON WHITE, Esquire, M.P.—Greeting:

KNOW YE that I, relying on your prudence and fidelity, have appointed you, and by these presents do give unto you, or any three or more of you, full power and authority diligently to inquire into and consider the "Morgan to Winnininnie Vermin Fencing Bill, 1892," and to inquire into and consider the whole question of vermin fencing. And for the purposes aforesaid to examine and re-examine, *viva voce* or in writing, or both *viva voce* and in writing, all witnesses who shall attend before you to give evidence on the matter referred to you, and to call for all writings, books, and documents necessary for carrying on the said inquiry. And I give to you, or to any three or more of you, full power and authority to do all such other acts and things as may be necessary and which may be lawfully done for the due execution hereof. And I require you, without delay, to report to me the result of your inquiries in the matters aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the province aforesaid, this eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and in the fifty-sixth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By command,

JNO. W. DOWNER, Chief Secretary.

Recorded in the Register of Commissions, Letters Patent, &c., Vol. VI.

L. H. SHOLL, Under Secretary.

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A.

REPORTS AND EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF VERMIN INSPECTORS FROM JANUARY, 1892, TO DATE.

Erudina, February 13th, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having, in accordance with your instructions of 28th ultimo, inspected the lands held under pastoral leases Nos. 47, 48, and 52, by the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company, with regard to their infestation by rabbits, and the action taken by the lessees for their destruction under conditions of their leases.

I find that rabbits are exceedingly numerous, and have increased in a most rapid and marked manner during the last two years, and no effectual or sustained action has been taken by the lessees for their eradication.

At the time of my inspection a party of two men were employed rabbiting on pastoral lease No. 48, and were camped at the ten-mile well. Their efforts were confined to poisoning by means of sandalwood and other twigs. On P.L. No. 47 two men had been engaged poisoning rabbits in the Limestone Swamp, but were paid off about a fortnight previous to my visit, although rabbits are still exceedingly numerous. On P.L. No. 52 a few blacks had been employed, and were paid 1d. per scalp; but I believe this only obtained for rabbits destroyed in the Horse and House paddocks, and at the time of my inspection, although rabbits are very numerous, no action was being taken for their eradication.

The Surveyor-General.

I have, &c.,
G. A. BECKER.

[Extract from S.G.O., 610/91.]

Mr. Hübbe reports (under date January 18th, 1892):—"Rabbits numerous on lands extending from eighth to fourteenth milepost, both sides of main road, hundred of Caroline. No action. Some paddocks netted, but netting useless, being out of repair."

List prepared from above in Land Office.

Miscellaneous Leases—No. 278, sec. 406, Thos. Vause, West Haddon, Mt. Gambier; No. 487, sec. 153, Thos. Vause, West Haddon, Mt. Gambier; No. 277, secs. 381/5, 387/91, 407, Chas. Clark, farmer, Caroline, Wye.

Perpetual Leases—No. 1112, P.R. secs. 244/9, 257/8, 261/5, 267/9, F. R. Klintworth, contractor, Pt. MacDonnell; No. 7, secs. 370/3, 530/7, Thos. Donovan, farmer, Wye; No. 8, secs. 493/506, 489/92, 507/10, 259, 460/3, 472, 511/16, 455/9, 464/5, 470/1, 517/22, Samuel Earle, farmer, Caroline, Wye.

Notices sent—R.B.L.—18/2/92.

Hawker, February 23rd, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having, in accordance with your instructions of January 28th, inspected the lands held under pastoral lease No. 76 by Mr. J. Maslin, and known as Wilpena run, with regard to the action taken by the lessee for the destruction of rabbits.

I find this run to be badly infested with rabbits, especially so in the eastern portions, viz., Nob (bk. 129), Artipena (bk. 129), Salt Creek (bk. 130), Martin's Well (bk. 130), Price's Nob (bk. 131), Alwaldina (bk. 131), and Yadnapunda (bk. 132) paddocks, where, in and along the banks of every creek and watercourse, rabbits and their traces are exceedingly numerous; in fact, from the marked and rapid increase in the numbers of the pest since my last inspection, in April last year, no further evidence is necessary to prove that the lessee has not complied with the conditions of his lease with regard to the destruction of rabbits. I may point out here that section 39 of the Vermin-proof Fencing Act of 1890 (478 of 1890) constitutes this *prima facie* evidence under which the lessee is liable to conviction and fine.

At the time of my inspection six men were employed destroying the pest by means of sandalwood and other poisoned twigs. They were then camped at Martin's Well. Their appliances were of the crudest, nor were their efforts carried out either in an organised, systematic, or energetic manner, and, it is needless to say, had not been attended with any great success.

Before leaving the run I proceeded to Wilpena H.S. and interviewed Mr. McNeil, manager for Mr. J. Maslin, who assures me that he has orders from his employer to leave the ordinary station work alone and put on all hands rabbiting; but even that is not sufficient, as in these days of economy and retrenchment a run of nearly 800 square miles is now worked by nine or ten men, including the manager. That is of course where natural surface waters abound, as in the present instance; and how one man to a hundred square miles of badly infested country, working in a haphazard and unsystematic manner, is to effect any real or permanent good where, on account of the very ease with which the stock can be worked through the existence of the surface waters, the difficulties in effectually clearing rabbits are trebled, is a problem of which the absurdity appears on the face of it.

In fact if some severe examples are not made lessees will not spend a penny in the eradication of rabbits, and the whole of the province will very soon become one vast rabbit warren. The northern portion of this district is a most striking example of the great vitality and fecundity of the pest. Places where five years ago rabbits were unheard of, and where three years ago they were very scarce and patchy, are now heavily infested, while the carrying capacity of the land is seriously injured through the destruction of the forage bushes by the pest.

The Surveyor-General.

I have, &c.,
G. A. BECKER.

Hundred of Arkaba, February 28th, 1892.

Sir—As requested in your letter of 28th ultimo, I have made an inspection of the following pastoral blocks, and have the honor to report as follows:—Block No. 59, Rose Tennant, lessee; block Nos. 63 and 64, J. Bosworth, lessee; blocks Nos. 55, 56, and 66, H. & F. Rymill, lessees; blocks Nos. 58 and 53, Wm. Harris, lessee; block No. 62, Mrs. Bosworth, lessee.

In each of the above instances the lessees have been taking action during the last two or three months to destroy the rabbits on their respective blocks by the use of poisoned sandalwood twigs or poisoned water, and such good and effective work has been done that the pest has been reduced very considerably, and places which were very badly infested a few months ago are now almost clear.

On block 55 rabbits are still numerous at Johnson's Dam, the Melang Well, and Orana Well; but poisoning is now being carried on at the latter place, and extra men are to be employed at once to carry on the work of destruction at the other above-mentioned places. Very good work has been done on block 56, and the country surrounding the station has been nearly cleared; but, as the rabbits are now concentrating at all the waters, they are easily destroyed, and the poisoned twigs are continually being laid at all the surface waters and wells and along the tracks.

On blocks 60 and 63, which were very badly infested during the winter months, excellent work has been done, and the country is rapidly being cleared of the pest.

On block 59, which was also in a very bad state a short time back, action has been taken since December, and the rabbits continually reduced in numbers, and the work of destruction is still being carried on.

Block 64.—In the Saltia paddock a great number of rabbits have been destroyed by the use of poisoned sandalwood and water, and the Woolshed paddock, in which the pest is nowhere numerous, is to be gone over this week.

R—No. 59.

On

On blocks 62 and 63 good work has been done, and the rabbits are now scarce in comparison to what they were in September and October last.

Work is still going on on all these blocks, and, owing to the dry season and the combined action taken by the lessees, the pest is rapidly being destroyed, and in a short time, if the weather keeps dry, the whole of this country will be practically free from rabbits.

The Surveyor-General.

Leigh's Creek, April 1st, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having, in accordance with your instructions of January 28th, inspected pastoral leases Nos. 53, 56, and 57, held by the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company, with regard to their infestation by rabbits and the action taken by the lessees for their eradication.

I hear that, since my last report to you, on part of the company's leased lands in this district two more men have been sent out to destroy the rabbits on the Limestone Swamp, but on the leases above mentioned no action of any kind is being taken. On account of the green feed which has sprung up since the late rains rabbits have spread out again from the creeks and water-courses, and are consequently more difficult to find, although their numbers have not been in any way reduced.

Leaving the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company's leases, en route to pastoral leases Nos. 72, 73, I proceeded through Balcanoona, held under P.L. No. 61, by Mr. G. Nottle. Green feed being abundant, poisoning operations have been discontinued as useless by that gentleman. He, however, with his neighbor (Mr. McTaggart, of P.L. No. 65), has about forty blacks scalping in the Nepowie Creek and country. This action, although not of a permanent character, on account of the lazy nature and wandering habits of the blacks, is still a great deal better than nothing.

Leaving Wooltana, and proceeding through Parallana, P.L. Nos. 66 and 67, held by the Hon. G. C. Hawker, I found that 2d. per scalp was being paid to all white men on the station and any others who might wish to undertake the work. I met one of these men at Pepegoona Springs, who was leaving on account of not being able to make wages at the price offered. Two other men, G. and E. Faber, camped at the Hamilton, are doing well for themselves, as also are two others camped at Pootinah. Although I cannot say any permanent good will be derived from scalping operations beyond reducing the numbers of the pest in places, still it shows that, in spite of green feed rendering wholesale poisoning and trapping measures of no effect, the lessee is willing to make an effort to destroy the pest.

On P.L. Nos. 71/3, held by Mr. N. E. Phillipson on behalf of the Beltana Land and Pastoral Co., rabbits are very numerous, and are found in every creek and watercourse on the Murpeowie and Blanchwater run.

No systematic action is being taken for the destruction of the pest—in fact no action of any kind with that end in view is being carried out on any of the leases above enumerated.

Mr. Lander, the overseer at Blanchwater, showed me about 2,000 rabbits (scalps?) which were obtained by blacks, who are paid threepence (3d.) per dozen for them. Two carts with appliances for poisoning were also at the station; and I was informed that seven men were brought up from town to form rabbit parties on the run, but were stopped work, or rather did not start at all, on account of rain falling and bringing up green feed.

Mt. Lyndhurst held under P.L. Nos. 63, 68, 69, 70, by Mr. N. E. Phillipson, on behalf of the Beltana Land and Pastoral Co. Rabbits are numerous on these leases, in the creeks and watercourses, and a very little energetic work would soon clear the land of this pest, as the hills and stony tablelands are virtually clear.

No action was being taken at the time of my inspection, and rabbits have increased since my last visit.

I called on Mr. McDonald, the manager at Mt. Lyndhurst, who assured me he had men rabbiting at Mt. Freeling and at Lower Gap.

I could not see or hear of any work being done in the shape of rabbit destruction at or near Mt. Freeling, and at Lower Gap, where Mr. McDonald assured me had two working, I could find no signs of any work being done.

From inquiries, I learned that two men had been employed rabbiting there, but for the week only, and were then paid off by Mr. McDonald, on account of the rain having fallen; this is fully six weeks ago, as I found out when I interviewed both of these men, Messrs. C. and C. H. Crump.

This deliberate falsehood and misrepresentation on the part of the manager clearly shows that it is not the intention of the lessee to carry out the covenants of his lease with regard to the destruction of rabbits, and clearly demonstrates that the only reason for incurring expense is to hoodwink the inspectors.

I have noticed the same wilful neglect in all leases of the Beltana Land and Pastoral Co. that I have examined. Repeated notices and warnings have been given them, of which no further notice has been taken than an acknowledgment and promise of speedy and effectual action. There the matter rests until another and yet another inspection is made; and, in the meantime, rabbits breed and spread rapidly, seriously damaging the carrying capacity and reducing the value of the leases.

It seems incredible that six years ago rabbits were unknown in this country, and that since then they have not only become numerous here, but spread to the Cooper and the Queensland boundary, simply on account of shortsighted policy of lessees who have not the honesty to carry out the covenants of their leases, whose one object is to make as much out of the land in as short a time and with as little expense to themselves as possible.

The Surveyor-General.

Angorigina, April 16th, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having, in accordance with your instructions of January 28th, inspected pastoral leases Nos. 80/3, held by Messrs. W. A. Ferguson and A. Tennant, and known as Moolooloo run, with regard to the action taken by the lessees for the destruction of rabbits, in accordance with the conditions of their leases.

I find that since my inspection in December last rabbits have been greatly reduced in numbers, only a few straggling animals being seen where previously they had been very numerous.

The lessees are now doing their utmost to destroy the pest. Poisoned sandalwood twigs have been, and are being, freely distributed all over the run with the best results, owing to the dryness of the country and the scarcity of feed. The underwood, fallen debris, and other rubbish in the creeks has been burned, thus destroying the shelter for the pest.

Blacks are employed hunting the rabbits; and all kangaroos desirous of permission to shoot over this run in the coming season have to pay 100 rabbit scalps for the privilege. These measures should now keep the run fairly clear of rabbits, as the great bulk of them have been destroyed by poisoning.

The Surveyor-General.

Angorigina, April 19th, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having inspected Angorigina run, held by Mr. W. T. Mortlock under pastoral lease No. 51, with regard to its infestation by rabbits, and the action taken by the lessee for their destruction in compliance with the covenants of his lease.

I find that rabbits have been very numerous on these lands, but that owing to the energetic manner in which poisoning operations have been carried out and are still being carried out by the manager, Mr. White, they are now very scarce and scattered.

Three men with horses and drays are constantly distributing sandalwood twigs and leaves poisoned with strychnine, and owing to the scarcity of the feed and dryness of the season these operations have been most satisfactory.

To the Surveyor-General.

I have, &c.,

G. A. BECKER.

Curnamona, May 2nd, 1892.

Sir—I have the honor to report having (acting under your instructions of April 12th, R., 117/92) reinspected Wilpena run, comprised in blocks Nos. 129/133, and held under pastoral lease No. 76 by John Maslin, with regard to the action taken by him for the destruction of rabbits existing on the lands held under above-mentioned lease.

I find that since my last inspection little action has been taken to destroy the pest, although the conditions of both season and country are most favorable for the destruction of rabbits by means of poisoned twigs.

The

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Monday, February 13th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P.
Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. Moule, M.P.
Mr. White, M.P.
Mr. Osman, M.P.

Mr. Holder was elected chairman.

Mr. L. L. Furner was appointed as secretary at a remuneration of £3 3s. per week, and £1 per page.

It was decided to meet on Friday, February 24th, at 2-30 p.m., at Parliament House.

Witnesses for examination—The Surveyor-General, Messrs. P. Waite, and W. B. Sells.

Confirmed, February 24th, 1893.

Friday, February 24th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. Moule, M.P.
Mr. Osman, M.P.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. White, M.P.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Hon. T. Playford, M.P.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary was instructed to procure copies of the Vermin Fencing Act, and the Reports of the Vermin Inspectors for the use of the Commission.

Mr. G. W. Goyder, Surveyor-General, was called in and examined.

The Commission decided to meet on Monday, February 27th, and on Wednesday, March 1st, at 2-30 p.m.

Witnesses for examination on Monday—Messrs. P. Waite and W. B. Sells; and for Wednesday—Messrs. Duffield, Jas. Shakes, and Thos. Warnes.

The Commission adjourned.

Monday, February 27th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. Moule, M.P.
Mr. J. J. Osman, M.P.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Attention having been drawn to the fact that reporters were in attendance, it was resolved—That the meetings of the Commission be open to the press during the taking of evidence.

Mr. W. B. Sells wrote informing the Commission that he was unable to attend as requested. The secretary was instructed to arrange for Mr. Sells to give evidence on Wednesday next.

The secretary was instructed to write to the Surveyor-General requesting that any of the vermin inspectors who may be coming to Adelaide should communicate with the Commission.

Messrs. T. Duffield and P. Waite were called in and examined.

The Commission adjourned till Wednesday, March 1st.

Witnesses for examination—Messrs. W. B. Sells, James Shakes, and Thomas Warnes.

Wednesday, March 1st, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman, M.P.

The Hon. E. Ward gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the Commission—that the motion permitting the representatives of the press to be present during the taking of evidence be rescinded.

Letter from Mr. E. P. G. Oswald, offering to give evidence before the Commission, read. The secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Oswald that it was the intention of the Commission to visit Port Lincoln, when they would be pleased to receive his evidence.

Messrs. W. B. Sells, James Shakes, and Thomas Warnes were called in, and gave evidence.

The Chairman having been called away, Mr. Moule presided during the examination of witnesses.

It was resolved that the Commission meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7th and 8th, at 2-30. Witnesses for examination—Tuesday, Messrs. Wade and Mills; and Wednesday, Mr. Cockrum and one or more of the rabbit inspectors.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, March 7th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. T. Playford, M.P.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. Moule, M.P.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

The minutes of meetings held February 27th and March 1st, were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.—Letters from Mr. H. W. Morphett, referred by the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands; and from Messrs H. H. Higgins and T. Partridge, referred to the Commission by Mr. Moule, M.P., urging the necessity of the Commission sitting at Port Augusta, were read. The Secretary was instructed to inform them that it was the intention of the Commission to visit various parts of the country, of which due notice would be given.

From Mr. Cockrum, stating that he would be unable to attend to give evidence on March 8th.

From the Surveyor-General, stating that he had arranged for Messrs. S. G. Hübbe and G. A. Becker to give evidence before the Commission.

Messrs. W. Hamilton and S. Mills were called in and gave evidence.

The Commission adjourned to Wednesday, March 8th, at 2-30.

Wednesday, March 8th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Letter from the Surveyor-General informing the Commission that Mr. Hübbe would arrive in Adelaide on Saturday next.

It was resolved that the Commission meet on Tuesday, March 14th, at 2-30 p.m. to take Mr. Hübbe evidence, and on rising do adjourn to a date to be fixed by the chairman.

Mr. G. A. Becker was called in and gave evidence.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, March 14th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. T. Playford, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of meetings held March 7th and 8th were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.—Letter from Mr. H. C. Sims, of Terowie, accompanying model of dam; referred to the Commission by the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The Secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Sims for the information afforded, and to inform him that the Commission would be pleased to take his evidence on the question.

Letter from Messrs. Malpas & Little, advising the receipt of machines for constructing wire fencing, and inviting the Commission to inspect same.

Secretary to inform Messrs. Malpas & Little that the Commission would be pleased to do so at a later date.

Mr. S. G. Hübbe was called in and gave evidence.

The Commission adjourned until a date to be fixed by the Chairman.

Thursday, April 20th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. T. Playford, M.P.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.
Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence Received.—Letter from A. H. Inksler, dated April 6th, requesting that the Commission should visit Elliston.

Letter from J. I. Higgins, dated April 2nd; suggestions. From the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works (docket No. 235), covering letter from W. H. Patterson; suggestions for fencing.

Letters from N. A. Richardson, dated March 15th and April 12th, *re* conveyance. From H. H. Higgins, dated April 8th; suggestions. From the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands (docket No. 2002), covering statement from the Surveyor-General showing rental received from pastoral lands.

Telegram from Mr. J. J. Osman, dated April 19th; suggestions for South-Eastern inspection by Commission.

Letter from the Surveyor-General, dated April 18th, enclosing Inspector Hübbe's diary. From Surveyor-General, dated April 20th, accompanying plans for use of the Commission.

Letter from T. Partridge, dated April 15th; information and suggestions.

The following programme for the inspection of the country by the Commission was decided on, *viz.* :—

To leave Adelaide on Monday, April 24th, at 3:30 p.m., for Dimboola, thence proceeding to Naracoorte, Millicent, Mount Gambier, and Bordertown.

To leave Adelaide again on Monday, May 8th, for Morgan, Braemar, Winnininnie, Terowie, Port Augusta, Coronaa, Nonning, Thurlga, Yardea, Paney, Karcultaby, Streaky Bay, Elliston, Sheringa, Port Lincoln, Lipson, Cleve, and Cowell.

The secretary was instructed to advertise the programme, and invite the attendance of witnesses.

Mr. J. J. McKay was called in and examined.

The Commission adjourned.

MEMO.—The Commission left Adelaide for the South-East on Monday, April 24th.

Tuesday, April 25th, 1893.

[Nhill Shire Hall.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman reported that an alteration had been made in the programme agreed to at the last meeting, by substituting Nhill for Dimboola.

The following witnesses were examined—Mr. Thomas Boyle, Inspector under the Western Vermin Board of Victoria; Mr. James Mussen, Secretary to the Lowan Shire Council; and Mr. John Walker.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday, April 27th, 1893.

[At District Council Office, Millicent.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission inspected some of the vermin-infested country in the neighborhood of Millicent.

The following witnesses were called in and gave evidence:—Mr. G. D. E. Plunkett (Clerk of the District Councils of Mayurra and Mount Muirhead), Mr. Thomas McCourt, Mr. Richard G. Millhouse, Mr. Ernest Barker, Mr. William Sutherland (Chairman of Kennion District Council), Messrs. Peter Sutherland, A. E. Bellinger, and Michael Hogan.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday, April 27th, 1893.

[At Mount Gambier.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P. in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

It was resolved that the Commission should visit the Punt with a view of inspecting the country to the east of Mount Gambier.

Mr. James Pick was called in and examined.

The Commission adjourned.

Friday, April 28th, 1893.

[At Mount Gambier.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and confirmed.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Mr. Jno. Livingston, of Burrungal, and Mr. F. Davison, mayor of Mount Gambier.

The Commission adjourned.

Saturday, April 29th, 1893.

[At Naracoorte.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following witnesses were called in and gave evidence:—Messrs. J. P. D. Laurie, J. R. Hutchinson, R. P. Boucaut, A. H. Peake, and Thos. McMahon.

The Commission adjourned.

Monday, May 1st, 1893.

[At Bordertown.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John Rankine, Gilbert Fergusson, Fred. Wm. Barrett, J. A. Rohde, David Stoddart, William Robertson, Michael Whelan, Thomas B. McCarthy, and William Killmier.

The Commission adjourned.

MEMO.—The Commission returned to Adelaide on Tuesday, May 2nd.

MEMO.—The Commission left Adelaide for Morgan on Monday, May 8th.

Monday,

Monday, May 8th, 1893.

[At Morgan.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John Hogan, John Farley, J. H. Pearse, Joseph Morphett, John Pendle, John McIntyre, John Fredrick Jericho, Benjamin Warwick, William Matthias, James Thomas Gibbs, C. F. W. Pfitzner, and J. G. Ruediger.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, May 9th, 1893.

[At Koomooloo.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John Pens, Henry Brand, H. A. Byles, James Bald, Henry Schuyler, and Thomas Warnes.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, May 9th, 1893.

[At Braemar.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John E. Pick, James M. McBride, Andrew Smith, Robert James McBride, Charles Dunemann, and William Henry Halford.

The Commission adjourned.

Wednesday, May 10th, 1893.

[At Yunta.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. William John Wade, Frederick Growden, Hugh Patterson MacLachlin, and A. McGregor Dey.

The Commission adjourned.

Saturday, May 13th, 1893.

[At Port Augusta.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John Brennan and Stephen Turley.

The Commission adjourned.

Saturday, May 13th, 1893.

[At Pandura.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witness was examined:—Mr. J. A. Dixon.

The Commission adjourned.

No. 59.

Saturday

Saturday, May 13th, 1893.

[At Carcoona.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. Hurtle Willoughby Morphett and Hugh Sutherland.

The Commission adjourned.

Monday, May 15th, 1893.

[At Nonning.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. Thomas Knowles and Angus Rankin.

The Commission adjourned.

Monday, May 15th, 1893.

[At Thurlga.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. Edward Beviss, John Chipp Hamp, and Archibald Beviss.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, May 16th, 1893.

[At Yardea.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. Thomas Partridge and William Milroy Crawford.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, May 16th, 1893.

[At Paney.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. W. M. McKenzie and A. G. Thompson.

The Commission adjourned.

Wednesday, May 17th, 1893.

[At Karcultaby.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. John Crawford and William Milroy Crawford.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday,

Thursday, May 18th, 1893.

[At Streaky Bay.]

Present—

Mr. F. W. Holder in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

Mr. Mudge, the contractor for the conveyance of the Commission from Streaky Bay to Elliston, having informed the Commission that Elliston could not be reached until 10 o'clock on Friday evening, being two hours after the advertised time, a discussion ensued as to the desirableness of breaking the journey.

It was proposed by Mr. White and seconded by the Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick—That the Commission proceed direct to Elliston on Friday as arranged. Carried.

In response to the desire of the Chairman, who was unable to accompany the Commission further, Mr. White was appointed to preside at the meetings of the Commission during the Chairman's absence.

It was resolved that the Commission should leave Adelaide on Wednesday, May 31st, taking evidence at Terowie at 2.30 p.m. the same day, and at Nackara on Thursday, June 1st, at 12 noon, proceeding thence to Cockburn and the Mutooroo district, and returning to Adelaide on Saturday, June 3rd.

The Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. William, Henry Betts, George Henry Pearce, and William Thomas Hewison.

The Commission adjourned.

Friday, May 19th, 1893.

[At Elliston.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. Andrew Scott, John Dennison, Anton Wiadrowski, George Gregory Hawson, Daniel Robert Myers, James H. Crowe, and William Gunn.

The Commission adjourned.

Saturday, May 20th, 1893.

[At Sheringa.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. George G. Wollaston, David C. Dearman, and Walter Laidlaw.

The Commission adjourned.

Monday, May 22nd, 1893.

[At Port Lincoln.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. J. Osman.
Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. James Telfer, E. D. Swaffer, William Haigh, and E. P. G. Oswald.

The Commission adjourned.

Tuesday, May 23rd, 1893.

[At Lipson.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. F. J. Provis and C. W. Dutton.

The Commission adjourned.

Wednesday, May 24th, 1893.

[At Cleve.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. James Angus Foulds, Henry George Evans, and William Forbes.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday, May 25th, 1893.

[At Franklin Harbor.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. James Melrose, Edwin Wake, William Jacobs, David McKenzie, and H. S. Robinson.

The Commission adjourned.

MEMO.—The Commission returned to Adelaide on Saturday, May 27th, leaving again for Terowie on Wednesday, May 31st.

Wednesday, May 31st, 1893.

[At Terowie.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Frederick Adams, W. Harding, and H. C. Sims. Mr. Osman proposed and Mr. Ward seconded—"That the thanks of the Commission be tendered to Mr. Sims for the practical assistance rendered to the Commission by the loan of his model and plan."—Carried.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday, June 1st, 1893.

[At Nackara.]

Present—

Mr. J. W. White, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Thos. C. Watson, Ed. Hy. Wickham, Thomas O'Connell, and W. M. Humphrys.

The Commission adjourned.

MEMO.—The Commission inspected the New South Wales border fence in the Mutooroo district, and returned to Adelaide on Saturday, June 3rd.

Wednesday, June 21st, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Hon. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.

Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of meetings from April 29th to June 1st, inclusive, were read and confirmed.

The secretary was instructed to communicate with Messrs. Malpas and Little with respect to the inspection of their wire netting weaving machinery on Thursday, June 22nd, at 4:30 p.m.

The following witnesses were called in and examined:—Messrs. T. Eyres, J. Church, and W. G. Hannaford.

The Commission adjourned till Thursday, June 22nd, at 2 o'clock.

Thursday, June 22nd, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Hon. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

The secretary reported that he had communicated with Messrs. Malpas and Little, and found that arrangements could not be made for the inspection of their wire-weaving machinery this afternoon as suggested.

The evidence submitted to the Commissioner was taken into consideration with a view of deciding upon the basis of a report to be submitted to the Governor.

The chairman was requested to bring up a draft report for consideration on Thursday, June 29th, at 11 o'clock a.m.

The Commission adjourned.

Thursday, July 6th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Hon. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

The minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

The chairman reported that in consequence of not having received the complete evidence he had deferred bringing up his draft report until to-day.

The chairman's draft report, as follows, was considered:—

DRAFT REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Algernon Hawkins Thomond, Earl of Kintore, Lord Falconer of Halkerton, Lord Keith of Inverurie, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Province of South Australia, and the Dependencies thereof, &c., &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency—

Your Commissioners, appointed "to inquire into and consider the 'Morgan to Winnininnie Vermin Fencing Bill, 1892,' and to inquire into and consider the whole question of vermin fencing," have made careful inquiries, through witnesses and by personal inspection, as to the extent of the damage done by vermin of different kinds, and as to the results of fencing against vermin, wherever any experience had been obtained as to its effectiveness. To secure information they examined fourteen witnesses in Adelaide, and also visited the South-East, the North-East, and the country west of Spencer's Gulf, examining 106 witnesses and taking evidence wherever offered. The Commission also visited the Western District of Victoria to inquire into methods in use there.

They have ascertained that in the farming districts, and, generally speaking, within district councils, the most serious trouble experienced is with the rabbits, which destroy the crops and feed, while the dogs are not much feared. On the other hand, in the pastoral country it is the dogs which cause most loss; the rabbits, through improved methods of destruction and recent droughts, being no longer dreaded, though there is some risk of their breeding up again.

Within district councils the provisions of the Acts of Parliament relating to loans for netting have been and are largely availed of, and with the best results. Generally the present law is believed to be satisfactory, and its maintenance is desired. Certain amendments will, however, be suggested in our recommendations.

Much of the trouble results from the inaction of the Government in respect of unoccupied Crown lands. In past years very large sums have been expended by the State on vermin destruction, but lately the opposite course has been followed, and Crown tenants and others have had to deal not merely with the vermin on their holdings, but they have been also subjected to heavy loss through being constantly restocked from neighboring unoccupied, leased or unleased, lands of the Crown. Losses of stock, and consequent diminution of products and of rents to the Crown, have been enormous, and wide areas of country abandoned because of vermin testify to the extent of the evil.

We have found, in dealing with pastoral lands, that it was impossible to apply to all districts where vermin are troublesome any general remedy. We are satisfied that a properly erected and well maintained fence of netting and barbed wire will resist the inroads of either dogs or rabbits, and that the isolation of given areas alone offers any reasonable prospect of ultimate extinction of the pest. The enclosing of all waters, too, in the dry months would do much to assist in the work. In some districts, however, the country is rough, and watercourses abound, and rock holes and other more or less certain supplies of water exist, and in these fencing is not the most effective method of protection. In such localities, according to the preponderance of the evidence, scalping alone will prove satisfactory. The decision of the particular method suited to the conditions should be left to local determination.

Your Commission approve of the erection of the Morgan to Winnininnie fence, but, with a view to a general settlement of the whole question, they make the following recommendations, which will meet that case with others:—

1. That the provisions of the Act providing for the loan of netting through district councils be amended so as to require the payment of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the amount of the loan unpaid. District councils should also be directed to grant the netting to enclose whole blocks of country instead of each small holding being dealt with alone.
2. That the Government be empowered to proclaim Vermin Districts outside district councils from time to time, each district to be under the care of a Vermin Board, appointed in the first place by the Government and afterwards by the occupiers of the land; the board to have power to levy rates not exceeding 2s. 6d. per square mile per annum, such rate to be payable on the unoccupied lands of the Crown as well as upon other lands; each board to have power to determine, subject to a poll of ratepayers—each ratepayer having one vote for each hundred miles, or portion thereof, of land—whether the proceeds of the rate shall be expended on scalping or fencing. In every case where the district determines to erect fencing it may pledge its rates to the Government for a term of years, and thereupon the Govern-

- ment may advance on security of the rates such sums as shall be represented with interest by such rates for the erection of the fence; such advances to be repaid in equal annual instalments extending over not more than ten years.
3. That occupiers of infested land should be required to enclose all permanent or artificial waters with vermin-proof fencing, and to keep them closed during the summer months.
 4. That the Rabbit Suppression Act should be amended in the direction of giving shorter notice to destroy vermin.
- The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, July 12th, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Wednesday, July 12th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Hon. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. W. White, M.P.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. J. Osman.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
The chairman's draft report was further considered.
Paragraph 1—Passed as printed.
Paragraph 2—Amended and passed.
Paragraph 3—Amended and passed.
Paragraph 4—Passed as printed.
Paragraph 5—Amended and passed.
Paragraph 6—The word "immediate" was inserted between the words "the" and "erection" in the first line.

Mr. Ward moved to further amend the paragraph by inserting after the word "fence" in the first line "as affording a base for enclosing sub-areas and thereby further protecting the country both east and west of the line." Carried, on the following division:—For the amendment—Messrs. Ward, Osman, and White; against—Messrs. Moule and Kirkpatrick. The paragraph was passed as amended.

Sub-paragraph 1—Mr. Moule moved to strike out all reference to the payment of interest at 5 per cent. Question put and lost. For—Mr. Moule; against—Messrs. Ward, Osman, White, and Kirkpatrick.

Mr. White proposed to amend the paragraph by providing that persons within district councils may apply direct to the Government for wire netting instead of making application through the district council. Question put and lost. For—Mr. White. Against—Messrs. Ward, Moule, Osman, and Kirkpatrick.

Mr. Moule moved to add to the paragraph the following words:—"Provision should also be made that persons cultivating land outside district councils may apply to the Commissioner for and receive advances to protect their crops as if they were within district councils." Question put and carried. Paragraph passed as amended.

Sub-paragraph 2—The word "fifty" was substituted for "hundred" in the seventh line.

Mr. Ward proposed to add to the paragraph—"The provisions of Act No. 478 of 1890, providing for the loan of netting through district councils, should also be extended to the vermin districts to be proclaimed as recommended, and in such cases netting should be advanced through the Vermin Boards." Question put and lost. For—Messrs. Ward and White. Against—Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Osman, and Moule. Paragraph passed as amended.

Sub-paragraph 3—The words "between sunset and sunrise" were added. Passed as amended.

Sub-paragraph 4—Passed as printed.

New sub-paragraph, proposed by Mr. Osman and carried—" (5.) That lessees of the Crown should be compelled to carry out any conditions of their leases as to the destruction of vermin or erection of vermin-proof fencing."

Mr. Ward proposed and Mr. White seconded—"That Mr. Osman, a member of this Commission, be paid one guinea per day when travelling to and from and attending meetings of the Commission (since ceasing to be a member of Parliament) in addition to the ordinary allowance to members." Question put and carried. For—Messrs. Ward, White, and Moule. Against—Mr. Kirkpatrick.

The Commission adjourned until the following day at 11.30 a.m.

Thursday, July 13th, 1893.

[At Parliament House.]

Present—

Hon. F. W. Holder, M.P., in the chair.

Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C.
Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C.
Mr. J. W. White, M.P.

Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.
Mr. J. J. Osman.
Mr. J. Moule, M.P.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
The secretary laid on the table reports on the vermin question from the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. To be acknowledged.
The chairman's draft report as amended was reconsidered.
Paragraphs from 1 to 5 were passed as printed.
Paragraph 6 amended and passed.
Sub-paragraphs 1 and 2 passed as printed.

Sub-paragraph

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE.

[WITNESSES IN ORDER OF EXAMINATION, WITH NUMBERS OF QUESTIONS.]

GOYDER, G. W., Surveyor-General.—(2) Nearly all the colony from the Glenelg River as far as country east of Fowler's Bay, and from the Gawler Ranges to Goyder's Lagoon, affected by vermin. (3) Would describe as vermin wild dogs and rabbits principally. (4) North, North-East, and South-East the most infested districts. (5) Fences have been of great service in checking vermin. (7) The fence between New South Wales and South Australia is of the greatest service. (12) Refers to the expenditure in the destruction of vermin. (13 to 16) Deals with the country affected by the Morgan to Winnininnie Fencing Bill. (17) Breeding grounds are upon the lands of the small holders and on the unleased lands. (18) The only way to get rid of the vermin is to subdivide the country infested into fenced blocks. (19) It is useless and unnecessary expenditure for Government to send out vermin destruction parties. (30) The only way for lessees to effectually deal with vermin is to vermin-proof fence outside boundaries and destroy the vermin inside. (31) Would recommend fencing both county and hundred boundaries. (32 to 34) Refers to the proposed fence in the Mutooroo country. (35) Does not approve of proposal to fence surface waters. (44) Would divide the country into areas of about 200 miles. (45 to 49) Conditions in leases for the destruction of vermin. (50) Victorian border fence of great benefit. (51) Would be of greater value if continued from Francis to the Glenelg river. (52) Amount of money advanced to district councils for fencing. (55) Government are taking no steps at present to destroy vermin on Crown lands. (57) the rabbits are decreasing in the South-East. (67) The tame dog going wild is worse than the real dingo. (70 to 75) Refer to means adopted by rabbits and dogs to get water in a dry season. (88) All Government fences should be properly inspected. (91 and 92) Special conditions to fence in some of the South-East leases. (96) Explains how money received by Government as scalp rate is applied. (99) It might be well, as a matter of policy, for the Government to destroy and keep destroyed the vermin on Crown lands. (102 to 104) Explanation of mode of using poisoned grain. (112) Government should erect fences only in such localities as would prevent the spread of vermin. (115 to 119) Refer to the Victorian border fence. (121 to 128) The proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie. (137 to 139) Expense of fencing the colony. (145) Dogs decreasing in the Pinaroo country. (146 to 150) Increase of vermin in the North-East. (154) No consideration due to lessees abutting on Government land. They should fence. (155) It would be better for the Government to assist the lessees than for the country now held to be abandoned. Supplementary evidence.—(1) Lands leased on the Victorian border with conditions to fence. (2) Destruction of dogs. (3) Expenditure on repairs to Victorian border fence.

WAITE, PETER.—(158) Vermin difficulty began, 1882. (163) Must fence country on N.S.W. border, in order to clear it of vermin. (164 and 165) Particulars of stock in that country (166). Attributes decrease to rabbits and dogs. (167 to 171) Refer to attempts to clear land. (173) Border fence effectual in resisting wild dogs. (174) Tame dogs or half-bred dogs will jump the fence. (175) Government should fence county boundaries. (178a) Fence should belong to Government. (181 to 184) Refers to cost erecting and maintaining fence. (188) Suggests a line of fence from Winnininnie to the south-east corner of Kimberley, thence due east to the province boundary to the 50-mile post. (189) Dogs worse than they were. The rabbits now in hand. (190 to 192) Means of destroying the rabbits. (194) Unable to stock portion of run on account of dogs. (198) Lessees would assist the Government to protect boundary fences if erected. (200) Gain to the State in consequence of increased produce if Government contributed half the cost of fencing. (205) Description of fence suitable for boundary fence. (212 to 214) Refer to alterations in Scrub Act, by declaring stock roads. (215 to 217) Would rate all leases inside boundary fence alike. (223) Estimates of wire netting, rabbit and dog-proof fence. (235 to 239) Refer to rent paid for land. (245) Length of proposed fence would be 136 miles. (251) Increased annual value of the district would be £100,000.

DUFFIELD, THOMAS, Chief Clerk, Crown Lands Office.—(256) Have charge of office arrangements in connection with destruction of wild dogs and foxes. (258) Tax paid once a year. (260) Pay 5s. for each scalp now, in 1891 price was 10s. (264) System been in force since 1890. (265) 29,279 dogs and four foxes scalps been paid for since 1890. (277) Had previous experience of the subject of vermin destruction. (290) Between £3,000 and £4,000 annually received from the lessees on account of the scalp fund.

SELLS, WILLIAM B., Sheepfarmer.—(291) Vermin first particularly troublesome about five years ago. (292) Country referred to Gawler Ranges, Yardea. (293) Rabbits came from the South and spread all over the run. (294) Paid for 50,000 scalps. (295) Occupy 1,000 square miles. (296) Before vermin infested the country 70,000 sheep were shorn, but they have been reduced to 17,000. (297) Decrease attributed to rabbits and dogs. (298) Adopt poisoning and trapping to destroy vermin, but want fence from Mount Middle Back to Streaky Bay to prevent vermin coming on land. (303) Vermin-proof fence cost £67 a mile at Strzelecki Creek. (306) Proposed fence should be erected by the Government. (315 to 318) Refer to fence designed by Mr. Waite. (319) To destroy vermin in North-West country enclose dams and lay poisoned water and traps. (322) Known rabbits live through dry season without water. (326) Drought destroyed rabbits. (330) Dingo does not jump fence. (332 to 334) Reference to fence proof against both dogs and rabbits. (335) If

Sub-paragraph 3 was amended by striking out the words "permanent or artificial waters" in the first line and inserting in lieu thereof the words "artificial or permanent waters, except running streams."

Mr. Ward proposed to further amend the paragraph by adding—"This provision, however, should not apply to country stocked with cattle only." Question put and lost. The paragraph was passed as amended.

Sub-paragraphs 4 and 5 passed as printed.

New sub-paragraph, proposed by Mr. Moule and seconded by Mr. Osman, and carried—"Your Commissioners desire on conclusion to represent that the matter with which they have dealt is urgent and should be attended to without delay."

The report as amended was agreed to and signed.

On the motion of Mr. Osman the thanks of the Commission were accorded to Mr. Holder for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the Commission.

Satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the secretarial duties had been performed, and a special vote of £35 was granted to the secretary in consideration of extra services rendered.

It was arranged that Mr. White, M.P., take charge of the report of the Commission in the House of Assembly, and that the Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C., undertake the matter in the Legislative Council.

The Commission adjourned.

(335) If fence erected lessees should only pay interest on the cost. (338) Vermin first made appearance in 1890. (341) Length of proposed fence 180 miles. (342) Cost from £55 to £60. (349) If fence were erected it would increase the carrying capacity of land. (373) Description of fence at Strzelecki Creek. (376) Lessees not in position to fence themselves.

SHAKES, JAMES, Stock Salesman.—(386) Acquainted with the country lying to the north of River Murray, and bounded on the east by the New South Wales border, through which proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would run. (387) Fence would be very beneficial. (388) Fence from Winnininnie along country boundaries to south of Braemar country, and then due east to the fifty-mile post on the province boundary would be useless. (390) Dogs most difficult to deal with. (395) Acquainted with South-East district. (396) Rabbits chief difficulty there. (397) Well informed on the matter of cost of vermin-proof fencing. (398) Could put up good fence from Morgan to Winnininnie at cost of £52 10s. a mile. (399) Description of such fence. (410) Fence proposed would be proof against dogs. (421) Fence erected by hanging wire netting on to the top wire, and doing away with other wires would be no good; sheep running against it would knock it down.

WARNES, THOMAS, of Koomooloo, Sheepfarmer.—(434) Necessary to erect fence from Morgan to Winnininnie. (435) Describes unoccupied country in that district. (436) Poison and traps best way to destroy vermin. (438) No use to fence dams, unless everybody does so. (442) Proposed fence which, instead of going to Morgan, should run eastward from a point south of Braemar to the fifty-mile post on the border would only benefit two or three people. (444) Rabbits not causing much injury in that country. (446) In respect to the country east of the Burra, the Act should be amended so that small holders of ten, twenty, or thirty miles should be dealt with, as farmers are under the district councils, and have netting supplied to them. (447) Lessees and Government should both bear portion of cost of erection of the fence. (448) Hold ninety-six square miles of country in that district, but so infested with dogs, that it is no use trying to do anything with it. (449) Lessees on west side of proposed fence should contribute less towards the cost than those on the east side. (450) Those whose land abuts on the fence should be the lightest rated, as vermin comes about the fence and their land suffers most. (451) Lessees fifteen miles or under from fence should contribute. (453) Held country since 1870. (458) Crown property now and infested with dogs. (462) About ten or twelve years since rabbits caused loss. (473) If fence erected it would increase carrying capacity of the country. (478) Dogs breed in the Pualco Ranges. (486) If land is fenced Government would get increased rental.

HAMILTON, WILLIAM.—(488) Have had experience with vermin in the country east and north of Streaky Bay and in the North-East. (489) Dogs are the worst trouble. (490) Employ poisoned water, traps, shooting, and baits to destroy. (496) The Pualco Ranges breeding grounds for vermin. (498) Land that is so badly overrun with vermin is the country included in the 1888 leases principally. (500) Expense great, and it was uncertain who would get the property, so that lessees did not trouble to destroy the vermin. (503) During last year lost 9,000 sheep. (504) Loss on account of rabbits, drought, and dogs. (505 to 507) Carrying capacity of run decreased from sixty sheep to the mile to forty sheep to the mile in consequence of rabbits. (508) Only means of remedying is to vermin-proof fence and kill the vermin on the country. (509) The Government should bear half the cost of the fence. Small holders should be allowed an extended time for payment. (514) Small holdings would pay if country is fenced with vermin-proof fence. (515) Lessees would contribute to cost of fence from Morgan to Winnininnie. (516) Fence from Winnininnie to south of Braemar, and then east to the 50-mile post on the province border would not suit. (517) Design and estimate of vermin-proof fence. (526) If simultaneous actions taken, can now cope with the rabbits. (529 to 533) Suggested extension of fence from Winnininnie with estimate as to amount of country affected, and cost of erection. (538) Decrease in number of rabbits in the North-East country due to both drought and destruction by lessees. Unless vermin-proof fencing put up, in two good years rabbits would be as bad as ever. (552) Would be of benefit to fence the eastern boundaries of hundreds in addition to fencing the country boundaries. (557) Proposed fence north of the line would prevent dogs getting east of the Bendleby Ranges. (563) Good number of rabbits will live through a drought. (565) Koonamore is 840 miles in extent, and good average country. (566 to 570) Refer to rabbits living on moisture from roots. (571) Saving effected by doing away with two wires in fence would be £2 5s. a mile, and with three wires £3 7s. 6d. (572) Fence as designed by Mr. Waite would not be effectual. (573 to 574) Manner of using poisoned water for dogs. (577 to 580) Cost of erection of vermin-proof fences.

MILLS, SAMUEL, Sheepfarmer.—(581) Part owner of Teetulpa in the North-East; Chandada Run, Streaky Bay; and also Lake Everard. (582) Necessary to erect vermin-proof fence between Morgan and Winnininnie. (583 to 587) Fence should be continued north of Winnininnie. (588 and 589) Government should pay half cost of erection of fence, and lessees within 15 miles should contribute the other half. (590 and 591) Those adjoining fence should pay more than those who are back as they can make use of the fence. (592) Could pay in ten instalments. (593 and 594) Rabbits cleared out in the North-East. At Chandada and Lake Everard very bad. (595 and 596) At Chandada, out of 43,000 sheep lost 18,000 or 19,000; and at Lake Everard, lost 6,000 out of 13,000. Largely caused by dogs at Lake Everard, but at Chandada chiefly by rabbits. (597) Country could be protected by erecting fence from point, halfway between Point Lowly and Franklin Harbor, to Streaky Bay. (601) Advise fencing in all the waters in the North-East country. (602) Estimate cost of fencing per mile from £46 to £50. (603 to 610) Refer to class of fence best to erect. (633 to 637) Refer to cost of fencing.

BECKER, G. A., Inspector of Vermin Districts and Improvements.—(638) Supervision extends principally over country in North and North-East. (639) Country rather bad with vermin, but considerably better during the last three or four years, in consequence of drought and poison. (642 to 646) Describe condition of country with respect to rabbits. (647 to 651) The Morgan to Winnininnie fence necessary work. The lessees should erect parallel fence along hundred boundaries if necessary. (659 to 670) Refer to conditions of North-East country with respect to vermin. (671 to 688) Rabbits

live on roots of trees and bushes during dry season. (689) Been inspector since 1885. (691 to 693) Means employed for destruction of vermin failures, because not simultaneous and continuous. (694 to 698) Reference to condition in leases for the destruction of vermin. (699 to 706) Refer to vermin-proof fencing small areas. (707 to 709) Lessees would be willing to subscribe half cost of fence. (717) Nothing in the leases compelling destruction of wild dogs. (725 to 728) Government have power to enter on leased land and destroy the vermin.

HÜBBE, SAMUEL GEORGE, Inspector of Vermin Districts and Improvements.—(733) Inspected recently the country west of Port Augusta, the Gawler Ranges, and the country north of Streaky Bay. (734) Rabbits in that country decreasing, dogs increasing. (735) Decrease in rabbits due to drought and action of lessees in poisoning. (738) Carrying capacity of country has not been materially interfered with in consequence of the rabbits. (739 and 740) Increase in dogs due to rabbits. (741 to 744) Deals with method of destroying dogs. (745) Vermin-proof fencing waters better than running long lines of fencing. (746) Lessees should be compelled to fence in all the waters on their country. (750) Know country north-east of the Burra. (752) There, two years ago. (754) Country then badly infested with rabbits. (756) Fence on county boundaries better than fencing hundred boundaries. (764) Fence proposed would not be of much use unless lessees blocked on. (767) Government should get guarantee that cost of fence would be repaid before erecting it. (782) Condition in all leases since 1888 making it compulsory to destroy vermin. (803 to 807) Hideaway country infested with dogs and rabbits in 1885. (812) Systematic fencing with vermin-proof fence only way to deal with difficulty. (815) Vermin-proof fence on Victorian border proved useful. (818) Rabbits burrow under the fence. No use to fence unless looked after. (822) Dogs will not jump over barbed wire. (827) Government should destroy vermin on their own land. (831) Government should fence in water on Crown lands. (833) Government expended £300,000 between 1881 and 1885 in vermin destruction. (838) Fence on the New South Wales border is an efficient fence. (845) Lessees will not spend much in vermin destruction if they hold land on short terms. (851) Fence constructed without the middle wires would not be efficient. (853) Saving would be £5 at very outside. (860 and 861) Rabbits in North-East country not so numerous as they were in 1883 and 1884.

McKAY, JAMES J., Station Manager.—(862) About thirty-three years experience in connection with pastoral pursuits. (863) Principally in Gawler Range country and on the west coast. Little experience on the Murray. (865) Rabbits more difficult to cope with than wild dogs. (866) Best way of dealing with the rabbit difficulty in open country is by means of poisoned sandalwood twigs. Fencing is of no service. (869) Rabbits can climb fences. (874) If fences erected should be at cost of owners and lessees of land. (875) Government should bear cost if on unoccupied Crown land. (879) Fences are of more use as protection against dogs than rabbits. (886) If fence constructed with a hood rabbits could not get over.

BOYLE, THOMAS, Inspector under Western Vermin Board, Victoria.—(890) District extends from the South Australian border to within twelve miles of Horsham, comprising an area of 1,700 square miles. (893) Rabbits have decreased in the inside country, but in the outside country they are very bad. (895) Dogs increasing in consequence of fence on 32nd parallel of latitude having got burnt. (897) When fence was in good order it was effectual in keeping back dogs. (898 to 902) Description of fence effectual in checking rabbits and dogs. (903) Victorian border fence good for rabbits but dogs go over it. (906) Only advantage of the fence is for adjoining holders to block on to. (910) Wire netting is the best means of coping with the rabbit difficulty. (911) Fence on 32nd parallel erected at cost of Government. Only charge made to settlers was for interest on the outlay amounting to about £5 a mile. (914) Only settlers who joined on contributed. (916) It is not fair to charge adjoining holders only. Others who are protected should be charged *pro rata* according to distance. (918) The vermin boards pay for maintenance of fences. (919) Revenue of vermin boards derived from rates levied on lessees. Some land rated at 7s. and some at 10s. a mile. (922) Revenue applied to maintenance of fences, payment of officers and destruction of wild dogs. (923) For dog scalps—10s. paid by vermin board, 10s. by shire council, and 10s. by Government subsidy. Total, 30s. per scalp. (925) About 200 scalps paid for annually in district. (927) Government granted £25,000 for purchase of wire netting, which shire council supplied to the lessees, to be repaid in ten yearly instalments of 10 per cent. (928) Payment for netting first charge on land. (932) Netting great benefit in Western District. Settlers could not grow any crops without it. (933 to 935) Means employed in destruction of rabbits and dogs. (942) The dingo will jump a higher fence than the domestic dog which has gone wild. (943) Surface waters, excepting shire council dams, not fenced. (945) Rabbits exist on roots of bushes without water. (951) If adjoining owners do not fence, boundary fences will not be much good. Lessees are not compelled to vermin-proof fence. (955) They should be compelled to do so. (973) Tame dogs that have gone wild are the worst kind. (976) Have 60 or 70 miles of fence to inspect. Thirty miles would be enough. (983) Vermin board supply poison for rabbit destruction. (985) Better to have netting put in the ground than pegged on surface. (988) The Government destroy vermin on all Crown lands, reserves, and selections that are in their hands. (991) Vermin board have power to compel Government to destroy vermin on Crown lands. The same remedies apply to the Government as to private persons.

MUSSEN, JAMES, Secretary Lowan Shire Council, Victoria.—(995) Shire council is responsible to the Government for netting supplied. (966) Shire council's security is that the amount is a charge on the land. (997) Have had difficulty in collecting amounts when land mortgaged. In cases where land forfeited Government responsible. (1002) Shire council's claim is prior to mortgagee's. (1006) Government give council money for purchasing the netting and give ten years to pay it. The shire council is simply a medium of distribution and collection.

WALKER, JOHN, Newspaper Proprietor, Nhill, Victoria.—(1010) Vermin boards are appointed by the lessees. (1012) Travelling expenses of the boards are paid out of rates. The Government do not either appoint or pay them.

PLUNKETT, G. D. E., Clerk of Mayurra and Mount Muirhead District Councils.—(1019) Council expended £300 a year each in the destruction of rabbits on unoccupied country and lands dedicated

to the drainage board. Revenue received for commonage nearly all absorbed on rabbit destruction. (1023) Unoccupied land in Mount Muirhead district to a great extent the source of the trouble. (1024) The Government should destroy vermin on unoccupied Crown lands. (1027) Forest lands within districts are exempt from necessity to destroy vermin. (1030) Vermin-proof fencing is an efficient means of checking the spread of vermin. Country should be fenced in small areas. (1034) No trouble ordinarily with respect to payment for netting supplied by councils. (1035) Mode of distributing the vote for wire netting could be improved on. (1036) No need for Government to erect fences if district councils have same facilities as private persons to fence their boundaries. (1038) If district boundary fences on private lands, should be power to charge the owner pro rata. (1044) About two-thirds of rent received for commonage is spent in rabbit destruction. (1050) Victorian border fence is no good as it is. If completed to the coast it would keep back dogs, foxes, and rabbits. (1056) Farmers use poisoned wheat, traps, and ferrets, and some wire-net their boundaries to protect crops from rabbits. (1057) Country from Mount Graham to Mount Burr is breeding ground for rabbits. Act has not been enforced. (1062) Pay trappers 15s. a week and 6d. a dozen for small rabbits. (1065) Would compel owners to destroy rabbits, but not to fence. (1066) Cheaper and better to fence land than employ rabbit parties. (1068) Holders after fencing land must kill their own rabbits. Government do not assist. (1070) Value of land reduced 50 per cent. in consequence of rabbits. (1073) Councils supply poisoned wheat at cost price. (1074) Rabbit Suppression Act should be amended in direction of giving shorter notice to destroy. (1078) Rabbit preserving works, similar to those in Victoria, best and most efficient method of clearing the country of rabbits. (1079) Wire netting is only supplied for boundary fences. (1085) District Councils Act might be amended to give councils power to encourage establishment of rabbit preserving works, by allowing them to take up shares or by granting bonuses.

MCCOURT, THOMAS, Grazier, Millicent.—(1089) In district twenty-three years. (1090) Four years ago could run 3,000 sheep; now come down to 300 in consequence of rabbits. (1092) Carrying capacity of the whole district reduced 50 per cent. (1093) Destroy rabbits with poisoned wheat and by trapping. (1094) Cannot deal with vermin at present without wire netting. Government should be compelled to clear vermin off Crown lands. (1096) All infested land should be fenced. (1098) Government might assist in establishment of freezing works. (1099) If vermin-proof fences are erected every man should bear cost of his own. (1100) Not sufficient money granted at present to applicants to get wire netting required by them.

MILLHOUSE, RICHARD G., Commission Agent, Millicent.—(1103) Land values have depreciated to a very considerable extent in consequence of vermin. (1105) Government should appoint some one to see provisions of the Act carried out. If present law is carried out, nothing else necessary. (1111) At present district councils are not carrying out the Act.

BARKER, EDWARD, Bootmaker, Millicent.—(1116) Only way of dealing with vermin is to fence land with wire netting. (1117) Rabbits cannot get under netting if stone is used. (1118) Phosphorised wheat is the best means of destroying rabbits.

SUTHERLAND, WILLIAM, Chairman Kennion District Council.—(1122) Been in district twenty-five years. (1123) Have suffered to a certain extent from the rabbit difficulty. (1125) Wire-netting the country in small areas best means of dealing with it. (1127) Present system of the Government making loans to councils is a good one. (1128) Not much risk in supplying. (1130) Council should have power to compel people to keep fences in order. (1133) Government should keep their own lands clear of vermin, especially forest lands.

SUTHERLAND, PETER, Farmer, Millicent.—(1135) Twenty-five years in district. (1136) Have experienced difficulty with rabbits during last seven or eight years. They came from the direction of Mount Gambier. They travel from east to west. (1139) If the fence on the eastern boundary were completed, it would prevent them from coming. (1140) Vermin-proof fencing one of the chief things in dealing with the difficulty. Then rabbits could be destroyed on flat country by dogs, and in the rough country by traps and poisoning. (1144) District councils cannot enforce the law with respect to vermin destruction unless wire netting is put up. (1147) Rabbits are more or less bad all over the South-East country.

BELLENGER, ARTHUR HERMANN, Farmer and Grazier, Millicent.—(1150) Expended £150 in five years for rabbit destruction. (1151) Efforts successful since had wire netting. (1153) Wire netting is absolutely necessary. (1154) Rabbits do not climb. (1155) Cannot get under if stone is put along the bottom of the fence. (1157) Government cannot lose much in advancing money for an extensive system of fencing if the councils are careful. It would be a good thing if the Government were to subsidise freezing works to the extent of one-half or two-thirds the cost. (1160) Kill rabbits by trapping and poisoning, and the little ones by fumigation. Box traps are very good when burrows are not too large. Killed 8,000 rabbits on 240 acres.

HOGAN, MICHAEL, Farmer, Millicent.—(1164) Sustained loss in consequence of the vermin. (1165) Best way of dealing with the question is to establish a rabbit preserving company. (1166) It would be of great benefit to wire-net small blocks.

PICK, JAMES, of Braemar, North-East.—(1167A) Dogs chief difficulty. Rabbits not much trouble at present. Can cope with rabbits without much difficulty. Unless something is done to stop ravages of wild dogs it will be impossible to stop in the country. (1169) Lost 600 wethers out of 4000 in twelve months in consequence of wild dogs. (1173) Nothing important can be done until all dams and waters are fenced. (1174) Line of fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would greatly assist. (1175) A fence 3ft. 6in. wire netting and two barbed wires required. Wild dog, as a rule, does not attempt to jump fence. (1177) Fence on county boundary better than fence on hundred boundary. (1181) Government should give great assistance in the erection of the fence, in consideration of the rent they are getting, and that unless something is done people cannot keep the country. (1185) Government should contribute to the cost of keeping unoccupied land clear of vermin. (1186) Lessees should be compelled to fence all waters on their land, and the Government on unoccupied lands. (1188) Would approve of an arrangement by which the Government paid half the cost of fencing, and the settlers affected the other half. (1190) Government would get increased rental

rental if fence erected. (1192) Settlers on both sides should contribute to the cost of fence. (1200) Since Government resumed land nothing has been done on blocks to destroy vermin. (1202) Government should bear cost of destroying vermin on Crown lands. (1205) Vermin question in South-East totally different to North-East. (1206) Vermin question in South-East not of much difficulty north of Mount Gambier. Rabbits worst around Millicent and along coast to boundary of the colony. Mount Schank and the Hundred of Caroline are bad. (1209) District councils quite able to cope with vermin question in South-East. (1211) Dogs do not come from the unoccupied Crown lands on to the Braemar country more than they do from the country to the South-East. (1214) Leases should contain conditions to destroy vermin. (1215) Waters should be fenced and kept shut for three months during the summer from sunrise to sunset. (1226) The settlers would be willing to pay half the cost of the fence if time were given, and the payments made easy. (1233) Money advanced by Government for purchase of wire netting should be used to enclose large blocks. The distribution has not been judiciously dealt with by the district councils. (1236) Present means of dealing with vermin question in the South-East are sufficient. (1246) Impossible under present conditions to keep sheep on Braemar country.

LIVINGSTONE, JOHN, Grazier, near Mount Gambier.—(1250) Seen very great difficulty with respect to rabbits. (1252) They have been very bad about Millicent and Mount Schank. (1255) Phosphorised grain in plough furrows most effectual mode of destroying them; would discourage trapping; ferrets and dogs much better. (1255) If country fenced in in large squares, no difficulty in dealing with rabbits. (1257) If everyone were compelled by the district councils to kill the rabbits at one time, no further action would be necessary. (1258) People would not object to bear cost of erection of fences, if Government would supply netting at cost price, and charge only same rate of interest they pay, provided terms of payment were made easy. (1260) There would be no danger of loss to the Government. (1261) Would enclose country in blocks of not less than 2,000 or 3,000 acres, and insist upon poisoning the vermin. (1262) It would be a good idea to wire-net fence the railway line from Mount Gambier to Beachport. (1264) No wild dogs in country referred to; some on the other side of Penola; for rabbit destruction good idea to protect tame cats. (1267) Rabbits about the same now as they were three years ago. (1276) Poisoned water no good in South-East. (1277) People from Mount Gambier to Tantanoola would fence railway line, as proposed, if Government supplied the wire to them on the same terms as supplied to the district councils.

DAVISON, FRANCIS, Mayor of Mount Gambier.—(1278) Resided at Mount Gambier twenty-five years. (1280) Government should supply wire netting at cost price, and convey it on the railway free of charge. (1281) Small holders pay higher rate for quantity required than it would be supplied at in large quantities. (1286) Duty of Government to destroy the vermin on their lands. (1287) It would help very materially if country vermin-proof fenced in areas of 1,000 or 2,000 acres. (1299) Wild dogs no trouble in district. (1293) Better for Government to purchase netting and supply at cost price, than to advance money. (1294) Land on border line leased with conditions to fence. (1298) Condition not carried out in all leases. (1309) District councils are in some instances neglecting their duty relating to vermin destruction. (1310) Power should be taken out of their hands and an inspector appointed. (1311) Rabbits bad in the hundred of Caroline; value of land reduced 10s. an acre; if boundary fence erected, great help in enabling people to cope with pest. (1320) Great advantage if fences erected on hundred boundaries. (1322) Tax should be levied on landowners to pay for erection of fence. (1327) Rabbits spread over the country within last two years. (1336) Fences erected sufficient for purpose of keeping out both rabbits and dogs. (1337) Recommend wire netting as an effective means of vermin destruction.

LAURIE, J. P. D., of Laurie Park.—(1340) Have experienced losses from rabbits, but they are now kept under. (1341) Chairman of Naracoorte District Council. (1343) Council kill rabbits with poisoned wheat. (1344) Wire netting used in district, but not much use except to keep rabbits coming from the outside country. (1346) Fence erected keeps back both rabbits and dogs. (1349) Government should destroy vermin on Crown lands. (1350) Hold 6,500 acres of land. (1351) Rabbits came on to country about twenty years ago. (1353) Experience difficulty with foxes. They kill sheep, lambs, and poultry. (1358) Only small holders got netting through district council. The large holders supplied themselves. (1360) Vermin pest in the district not of such magnitude as to require interference of Government. (1361) The railway lines from Bordertown to Kingston and from Naracoorte should be made vermin-proof. It would cost about £15 a mile to net the fences. (1374) Use phosphorised wheat and wire netting to destroy rabbits. (1382) Rabbit destruction Act all that is required. (1385) Government should continue fence from Frances to the Glenelg.

HUTCHINSON, JAMES R., of Morambō.—(1387) Rabbits have made considerable difference in carrying capacity of land. (1388) Killed rabbits with poisoned wheat and with apple jam and strychnine. (1390) Dingoes not very bad. (1394) Destroy dogs with traps and poison. (1397) Government should destroy vermin on unoccupied lands. (1399) Fencing is the only thing to prevent spread of dogs and rabbits. (1400) Five feet fence with wire netting required to keep back dogs. (1401) District councils are doing their best to compel landowners to destroy vermin. (1408) Boundary fence of value. Should be continued from Frances to the Glenelg. (1413) Would not pay to fence Fairview country, as land is too poor. It would not pay if the Government were prepared to pay half the cost of the fence.

BOUCAUT, RAY PARKIN, Chairman of the South-East Land Board, and Sub-inspector of Credit Lands.—(1419) Resided in district twenty years. (1422) Rabbit trouble first began fifteen or sixteen years since. (1423) Not as plentiful now as they were. (1424) Wire net fencing and poisoning best means of getting rid of them. (1428) Great deal of unoccupied Government land from the Murray to the border, and nothing done to check the vermin. (1429) Government should destroy vermin on unoccupied lands. (1431) If the unoccupied lands were offered at a peppercorn rental, people would take it up and destroy vermin. They should be assisted in getting netting at a reasonable rate. (1432) Wild dogs bad north of Bordertown in the unoccupied country. (1435) Rabbit pest not farmers' question to any large extent. Farmers secured by wire netting. (1442) Dogs bad in Pinaroo country. (1449) All leases contain condition to destroy vermin. Lessees in the unoccupied country doing nothing to destroy. (1451) Stock was removed from country in consequence of the presence of vermin.

PEAKE, ARCHIBALD HENRY, Clerk of the District Council of Naracoorte.—(1457) Rabbits been kept in check of late. (1459) Applications for wire netting granted in all cases, so far as funds would permit. (1460) Not supplied to large holders. (1461) District councils done all they could to clear country of vermin. (1463) The Vermin Destruction Act requires amendment in clause 34, *re* notice to be given. (1464) Council supplies phosphorised grain at cost price. (1469) No complaints for some time in consequence of gates on main roads. (1476) Rabbits decreasing in consequence of measures taken under the Rabbit Suppression Act. (1477) Government could do more than they are doing by granting more wire netting. (1478) Council pays for destruction of dogs and foxes. (1479) Paid for thirty or forty during last two years, mostly of a mixed breed between the dingo and tame dog.

McMAHON, THOMAS, Blacksmith, of Naracoorte.—(1480 to 1494) Description of capabilities of McMahon and Templer's patent stump-jumping rabbit-poisoning grain distributor.

RANKINE, JOHN, of Bordertown.—(1496) Been in the district over twenty years. (1497) Had a great deal of difficulty both with rabbits and dogs. (1499) In some seasons half the crop has been lost in consequence of the rabbits, and one-third loss in stock. (1501) Great many rabbits on the unoccupied Crown lands, and Government are doing nothing to keep them down. (1503) Government should either clear their land of vermin or fence it. (1504) No chance of re-letting it in consequence of vermin. (1507) Netting great help to private persons in killing the vermin. (1508) Present method of distributing netting may be improved on by a number of persons making joint application and enclosing larger areas. (1512) Wire netting the only cure against rabbits. (1514) Dogs kill from six to a dozen sheep every night. (1516) Fence does not keep dogs back as perfectly as it does rabbits. (1519) Fence on northern boundary of hundred of Tatiara erected by Government and maintained by the council. No levy made on adjoining settlers. (1523) Fence not properly erected. Barbed wires too far above the netting. (1525) Border line should be constructed from Frances to the sea. (1527) Government should enclose the country in large areas of, say, 100 square miles, and levy a compulsory rate. (1538) Land not fenced with vermin-proof fence, but keep vermin down by poisoned grain. (1543) Pinaroo country not fit for occupation till vermin destroyed. (1545) Dogs worse than rabbits. (1548) Vermin fences not well supervised.

FERGUSSON, GILBERT, Bordertown.—(1551) Been in district two years. (1552) Suffered loss in consequence of vermin. (1553) District councils doing all they can to cope with the difficulty, but not the Government. (1554) Government should destroy vermin on Crown lands. (1556) If Rabbit Destruction Act were enforced, both as regards the Government and private lessees, wire netting would be required only by those around the fringe country. (1558) No use to attempt to kill off vermin without netting. (1559) If fence erected on boundary, all people benefited should contribute to cost. (1561) Most difficulty in dealing with dogs. (1562) Received great benefit from vermin-proof fence which has been erected. (1563) Lost 200 sheep in the last two years through dogs. (1564) Fence not a barrier to dogs. Not properly constructed, and dogs jump through it. (1565) Border fence 4ft. wire netting with two top barbed wires, making it 5ft. in all. Dogs jump through. (1567) Dogs come from the desert. Came through fence when burnt. (1570) Employ traps to destroy the dogs. (1571) Phosphorised wheat scattered in furrows for rabbits. (1573) Compelled to destroy vermin on the land. (1574) Council carrying out its duties with respect to the Act fairly well. (1578) Government should complete the Border fence.

BARRETT, FREDERICK WILLIAM, Farmer, Wirrega.—(1581) Suffered severely from vermin pest; rabbits principally. (1582) Use wire netting. (1583) Without wire netting it would be useless to attempt to clear the land of vermin. (1585) Get netting supplied by council. (1586) Almost all land netted. (1590) Less expensive to the Government and to holders if several were to combine and ring net their land. (1591) Doubtful if Government would get increased rent for land if they erected fences and enclosed certain blocks. Lot of poor land.

ROHDE, J. A., Farmer, Mount Monster.—(1596) Could do nothing with land until fenced with wire netting. (1599) Government should grant netting to those who have not means to buy it. (1605) Got netting from Government, not from district council.

STODDART, DAVID, Chairman Tatiara District Council.—(1619) Have had very much trouble with vermin, but since netting granted to council there have not been so many complaints. (1620) Present system of granting netting would be improved if, instead of giving it to each applicant separately, they were grouped and enclosed in large blocks of 4,000 or 5,000 acres. (1622) All enclosed should contribute to payment by a rate on the land. (1624) Unoccupied Crown lands in district breeding grounds for vermin. (1625) Government should share responsibility of destroying the vermin with the settlers. (1628) Refer applications for netting to inspector for report. (1630) No loss on repayments of money advanced for fencing. (1634) Declined to grant applications for netting from Mount Monster, because land did not warrant it.

ROBERTSON, WILLIAM, Rabbit Inspector for District Council of Tatiara.—(1647) Duties are to serve notices on owners and occupiers, and see that they kill the rabbits on the land. (1648) Vermin Destruction Act not carried out to the letter. (1650) Do not interfere with people who are doing their best, especially when land is adjoining unoccupied Crown lands. (1652) Vermin-proof fencing has been of great service in the district. (1659) Attrell's application not granted because it was not a boundary fence. (1665) Hundreds of dogs get through the fence to the North. (1667) Return showing amount of grain phosphorised by the District Council of Tatiara, from January 1st to March 31st, 1833.

WHELAN, MICHAEL, Clerk of District Council of Tatiara.—(1668) Administer Vermin Destruction Act fairly strictly. (1671) Unoccupied Crown lands badly infested by vermin. (1673) Wire net fencing effectual in stopping rabbits and dogs. (1680) Attrell's application refused because it was clear country, not on the fringe. (1684) System of distribution should be altered so that land would be enclosed in larger areas. (1685) Nothing could be fairer than to enclose the hundreds and levy a rate on the hundred. (1697) Rabbits are decreasing since wire netting was introduced. (1698) Clause 34 of the Vermin Destruction Act, requiring notice to be given in the *Gazette*, is not sufficient. Ratepayers should have personal notice. (1699) If the Government would provide phosphorised

phosphorised wheat for use on the Crown lands, the council would accept the responsibility of distributing it.

- McCARTHY, THOMAS BERNARD**, Police Trooper, Bordertown.—(1702) Report on border fence inspected last March. (1706) Duty, as Crown lands ranger, to report as to whether the rabbit inspectors do their duty.
- KILLMIERS, WILLIAM**, Councillor Tatiara District Council.—(1708) Vermin-proof fencing has been of great service in keeping off the dogs and rabbits. But the fences are not properly constructed. (1709) The netting is too light a gauge and very weak. Rabbits run through. The posts are no good. The straining posts are stringy bark and are soon gone. (1710) When in good repair, fence is a barrier against dogs and rabbits. (1712) Fence should be continued southward from Frances to the sea. (1714) The plan of distributing wire netting is a good one. (1715) Government land is breeding ground for vermin. They should destroy the vermin on it. (1716) Foxes are increasing in the district. They will leap over the vermin-proof fences.
- HOGAN, JOHN**, Farmer and Stockowner, Hundreds of Lindley and Schomburgk.—(1723) The rabbits have been very bad. (1724) They come from the west and north-east; a lot come along the Burra flat. (1726) Wild dogs very bad. (1729) Poison the dogs and kill the rabbits, using sulphur, bi-sulphide of carbon, and steaming. (1732) Rabbits not so bad as they were. (1736) Everyone benefited should contribute to cost of proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie. (1738) If fence erected on county boundaries, all settlers would block on to it. They would be prepared to accept netting, if the Government would supply it at cost price, and give ten years to pay it off, with interest added at 3 per cent. or 4 per cent. (1744) Fence along hundred boundary should be erected as well as that along county boundaries. (1753) Fences along the two boundary lines better than fencing surface waters. (1755) Hundred boundary line best; it would keep back the rabbits better.
- FARLEY, JOHN**, of Point Pass.—(1761) Hundred of Stuart should be included within any fence erected. (1762) Fence should run from the south-east corner of the hundred of Stuart to the north-east corner of the hundred; then west to the county boundary, and on to Winnininnie. (1765) The Government and the lessees on the east and west of the line should contribute towards the cost of erection of the fence. (1766) Rabbits and dogs come from the east. (1768) If proposed fence erected, lessees will block on to it. (1769) Lessees will be bound to abandon the country unless it is fenced. (1775) If the Government pay proportion of cost of fence, lessees would keep it in repair. (1778) Fence along hundred boundaries bad fence to erect, as it would be subject to wash-a-ways, whereas in the county boundary it is level country, and would not be liable to wash-a-ways. (1779) If Act had provided for fence along county boundary instead of on hundred boundary, it would have been far preferable.
- PEARSE, J. H.**, Stockowner, The Gums.—(1783) Acreage of land 120,000 acres. (1784) Spent £300 last year in wages and bi-sulphide of carbon in destroying rabbits. (1785) Trouble been chiefly with rabbits. Losses from dogs also been very heavy. (1786) Rabbits not so bad as they were, but are commencing to breed up again. (1787) Lessees doing best to keep them down. (1788) Last year lost 2,000 sheep out of 22,000 through dogs. (1789) Killed between 50 and 60 dogs during the last twelve months by means of traps and poison. (1792) If everyone compelled to fence dams it would be a great success in destroying vermin. (1794) Government should be compelled to fence their dams. (1795) Dogs increased because country to east of the county boundaries is unoccupied. (1801) If fence erected would enable people to remain on country. It would prevent the vermin coming from the east. (1802) Fence should be erected on county line, taking in the hundred of Stuart. (1807) If Government erected fence they would be recouped by the landholders benefited. (1809) If all the surface waters were fenced in it would be the best way to cope with the difficulty. (1810) In the summer use poisoned sandalwood and poisoned water; and in the winter, trap, and dig in the burrows, and use bi-sulphide of carbon and smoking to destroy rabbits. (1813) Government should clear their own land. (1814) Large area of unoccupied land in district from which vermin come on to occupied land. (1816) Fence on county boundary would enclose more good land than that on hundred boundary; and, as there would be less traffic, there would not be so much difficulty in keeping gates closed. (1817) Settlers too poor to erect fence. State should erect it, and settlers would pay fair interest. (1821) Government should make the repayments easy for settlers.
- MORPHETT, JOSEPH**, Farmer, Hundred of Lindley.—(1824) Rabbits and dogs not particularly bad just now. (1825) The rabbits came into the hundred of Lindley in 1890 from the east. (1829 to 1833) Description of fence on the New South Wales border. (1834) Fence that description will keep out dogs. (1838) Is an effectual check on rabbits. (1839) Fence should be erected on county boundary, taking in hundred of Stuart. (1842) Settlers would be willing to contribute to cost. (1843) Sustained no serious loss in consequence of vermin. (1849) Better for Government to erect a fence than to provide the wire and let the settlers do it. (1855 to 1859) Deals with cost of erection of vermin-proof fence.
- PENDLE, JOHN**, Farmer, Hundred of Eba.—(1862) Been troubled with rabbits very much during last two or three years. (1864) Rabbits came from country to the east. (1866) Poisoned 1,500 rabbits at three small dams in one night with strychnine and paste, painted with a brush on sandalwood twigs. (1869) Dogs very bad at Emu Gully. (1871) Proposed fence should take in the hundred of Stuart, and then run along county boundary. (1873) If vermin-proof fence erected, rabbits could be easily kept down. (1874) Landowners cannot cope with difficulty without Government assistance. (1879) If every man could fence his own holding, it would be better than county boundary fence.
- McINTYRE, JOHN**, Farmer and Stockowner, Hundred of Lindley.—(1882) Had much trouble with dogs and rabbits during last twelve months. (1886) Dogs worse in consequence of land to east being unstocked. (1888) Hold 9,000 acres. Cannot leave sheep in consequence of dogs. (1889) Best means of dealing with difficulty is to put up vermin-proof fence. (1890) Fence should be erected on county boundary. (1891) If erected it would keep back dogs and rabbits. (1892) Government should

should pay half the cost, and the settlers pay interest on the other half. If not done all the country will be thrown up. (1895) Rabbits eat the grass, and dogs destroy the sheep. (1896) Run 2,000 sheep. (1897) If fence erected, could not run more. (1902) Would be willing to pay half cost of fence if Government paid other half. (1905) Tame dogs destroy more sheep than the wild dogs. (1911) Dogs cannot live without water, but rabbits can.

JERICHO, JOHN FREDERICK, Farmer and Grazier, Hundred of Schomburgk.—(1915) Hold on perpetual lease 3,093 acres of land. (1916) Not much trouble with dogs. The rabbits have been a great expense. (1917) Destroy them by digging them out, and killing with dogs. In the summer poison them. (1919) Fence should be erected on the county boundary. (1920) Government should pay for erection of the fence, and the lessees keep it in repair. (1924) Landholders should not contribute half cost. If that is insisted on, fence will not be put up. (1927) People more than five miles away from fence would object to pay. (1930) Fence would be of no immediate benefit, but in good seasons would prevent rabbits spreading over the country.

WARWICK, BENJAMIN, Farmer, Hundred of Lindley.—(1935) Not troubled much with dogs. (1937) Good many rabbits; but not so many as in 1891. (1938) Rabbits come from the country to the east. (1939) A line of fence from Morgan to the fence on the Cockburn railway would be of great benefit. (1940) It would not be fair to leave out the hundred of Stuart. (1941) Would be better to fence along the county boundary, taking in the hundred of Stuart, than to fence the hundred boundaries. (1944) All should be compelled to pay proportion of cost of fence. They should all pay alike whether ten or fifteen miles away. Those abutting on the fence should agree to keep it in repair, and be exempt from any other payment.

MATTHIAS, WILLIAM, Farmer, Hundred of Lindley.—(1948) Not much trouble lately with rabbits and dogs. They were very bad a year or two back. (1951) Best line would be to run fence from the north-east corner of the hundred of Stuart to join county boundary line. (1954) Government should erect fence and country should pay for it. (1956) Rabbits come from outside country. (1957) Can keep them down at present. (1960) If fence is put up, council should insist on destruction of the vermin. (1961) Most of small holders doing their best to destroy vermin.

GIBBS, JAMES THOMAS, Hundred of Lindley.—(1966) Dogs bad. (1967) Worse because country to east is not occupied. (1969) Fence should, if erected, take in the Hundred of Stuart, then cut across in a north-westerly direction to the country boundary and on to Winnininnie. (1970) If fence erected, country will carry more stock. Have to shepherd now. (1971) Government might bear cost of fence as it is for good of country, or they might charge the settlers 5 per cent. on the cost for a term of twenty years. (1972) If fence erected, Government would have better chance of re-letting the land as the leases fell in. (1973) Dry seasons killed off the rabbits. (1975) The pure dingo causes the trouble. (1978) Settlers are doing their best to destroy vermin on their holdings. (1983) Land all fenced with four, five, and six wires. (1994) There should be more than one fence. (1995) Government would be justified in erecting fences if lessees paid half the cost. (1998) Fence on country boundary, taking in the hundred of Stuart, would be far better than one on the boundaries of hundreds.

PFITZNER, CARL FRIEDRICH WILHEIM, Stockowner.—(2002) Hold 32,841 acres, north of hundreds of Schomburgk and Lindley. (2003) Have 2,000 sheep, fifty head of cattle, and thirty horses. (2004) Partly ruined in trying to cope with the rabbits. (2005) Dug them out with spades. First two years used poison and destroyed burrows. (2007) Dogs no bother. Are very bad in country to the east. (2009) Government ought to erect a vermin-proof fence from Morgan to Winnininnie. (2010) The question of erecting that line of fence is a national one. (2013) If fence is erected, a good many of the people who are benefited would pay, but a great portion would buck. (2018) Cost per mile for vermin-proof fence is from £54 to £55. (2019) Particulars of estimate. (2020) Fence would be 4ft. high, which is high enough to keep out dogs, as they will not jump over barbed wire. (2027) District council refused application for netting, because land not worth it. It not to rest with council. (2029) Government should supply netting to any man who was likely to hold his lease. (2031) Hold land under right-of-purchase lease with condition to destroy vermin.

RUEDIGER, JOHN G., Farmer, Hundred of Sturt.—(2036) Rabbits very bad. (2037) Proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie should be erected along the eastern boundary of the hundred of Sturt. (2040) Rabbits come from the east side. (2043) Councils not strict enough in enforcing destruction of vermin. (2048) Hold land on lease with right of purchase. (2053) Area, 1,549 acres.

PENS, JOHN, Overseer for Hay, Graves, & Co., Ben Hideaway.—(2057) The dogs are very bad. The rabbits are not giving much trouble. (2058) Four hundred head of cattle on country. Impossible to keep any sheep. (2059) Had to remove sheep two years ago. (2061) No sheep at all on country between Ben Hideaway and Overland Corner. (2062) Killed about 100 dogs during the last twelve months. Mostly by trapping, a few are poisoned. (2064) Entirely on account of dogs that cannot keep sheep. (2065) Reason of increase of dogs lately is that there has been plenty of water and rabbits provided food, and they have been breeding up. They come from the east to the west. (2067) If a fence were erected, from Morgan to Winnininnie, it would prove of great benefit to people living on the west side of the fence.

BRAND, HENRY, Hundred of Stuart.—(2070) A fence along the county boundary, but taking in the hundred of Sturt, would be best. (2071) Dogs travel from east to west. (2072) Known the country for the last thirty-five years. (2073) Rabbits not much trouble, but dogs are very bad. (2077) If fence erected along county boundary, all interested should pay share of cost. (2079) Adjoining landholders would block on if fence put up. That is only way of getting rid of vermin.

BYLES, H. A., Maildriver.—(2084) Travel road from Burrà to Quoridong. (2086) Good many dogs in the country. (2087) Rabbits less than they were last year. (2088) If fence erected on county boundary it would check the dogs coming from the east.

BALD, JAMES, Grazier, Koomooloo.—(2093) Hold 10,000 acres of land. (2094) Been there eighteen months. Dogs are getting worse and rabbits getting less. (2095) Rabbits decreasing because of number

- number of dogs. (2096) Vermin come from the east. (2097) Fence on county boundary would be best. (2098) Government ought to pay cost if it is erected. (2103) In consequence of dogs last year, out of 1,200 ewes, only reared 100 lambs. (2108) Government doing nothing to destroy dogs on their land. (2109) They should destroy vermin on their land. (2110) Pay 6d. a mile dog-tax. (2115) If fence erected it will improve carrying capacity of land a great deal. (2117) Could pay little towards cost of fence, but people cannot live in country if taxed much more.
- SCHUYLER, HENRY**, Overseer for Mr. Riggs, at Mount Bryan Camp.—(2122) Vermin now about the same as twelve months ago. Rabbits not so bad, but dogs worse. (2124) Dogs come on to the country from the east, because no stock there, and they come in on to the sheep. (2126) A vermin-proof fence, from Morgan to Winnininnie, would be a great help in checking the dogs. (2127) Lessees should pay towards cost of erection of fence according to mileage.
- WARNES, THOMAS**, of Koomooloo.—(2131) In connection with question of vermin-proof fencing, use should be made, as far as possible, of existing fences. Dogs are so bad that on 65,000 acres have only 3,000 sheep. (2132) There are fences at present on the county boundary that would be available for the purpose of netting, and would save over 24 miles of new fence. (2133) If it were not for wild dogs, could carry on 65,000 acres 8,000 or 9,000 sheep.
- PICK, JOHN E.**, Stockowner, Braemar.—(2136) Occupy 18,845 acres under perpetual lease. (2139) Been there fifteen months, and stocked country with sheep. (2143) Lost 800 sheep through dogs. (2144) Rabbits not troublesome. (2147) Dogs not bred on country. They come from the east. (2149) Proposed fence would stop the dogs from coming. (2151) If the fence is erected, the Government should bear part of the cost, and the lessees adjoining on the east and west, within 20 miles, should bear the other portion. (2154) Government should destroy vermin on the unoccupied Crown lands. (2156) It would, no doubt, be beneficial if all the dams and surface waters were vermin-proofed. (2162) The best way of dealing with the question is to erect the fence and prevent the dogs coming in, and make it compulsory for everyone to vermin-proof fence their dams and surface waters. The Government to do the same on the unoccupied Crown lands.
- McBRIDE, JAMES M.**, Sheepfarmer, Kooringa.—(2166) Country situated at Pine Valley and Faraway. (2167) Area 650 square miles. Have between 8,000 and 9,000 sheep, and 500 or 600 head of cattle on it. (2169) Two or three years ago had about 18,000 sheep and 200 cattle. (2171) Decrease is all in consequence of the vermin. (2172) Rabbits not as bad as they were. (2174) Wild dogs are very bad. (2175) Destroy them principally by trapping and poisoning. (2176) Fenced in dams with close timber 3ft. 10in high, but dogs jump over. Barbed wire required over the wood. (2177) If all the dams and surface waters were fenced with vermin-proof fencing, it would be effectual means of getting rid of dogs. (2179) Dogs come from hills to west, and from the abandoned country to the east. Country is overrun, and will have to be abandoned unless something is done to check the plague. (2180) During last three years have had 12,000 sheep, beside the lambs, killed by dogs. (2181) If vermin-proof fence is erected from Morgan to Winnininnie it will have the effect of checking dogs. (2182) The Government should erect the fence and charge lessees a fair tax, extended over a number of years, in proportion to distance from the fence. (2183) Would rate for fifty miles back on either side. (2186) Lessees complain of inaction of Government in respect to unoccupied land. (2188) Putting up twenty miles of vermin-proof fence on county border at cost per mile of about £50 or £55. (2194) Lessees would be very glad to pay their proportion of cost of erecting fence, and keep it in repair if Government erect it. (2195) It would increase the carrying capacity of the country. (2196) If boundary fence were put up, all the lessees would fence, and country would all be fenced in in two or three years.
- SMITH, ANDREW**, Manager of Mutooroo Station.—(2203) Dogs and rabbits not very troublesome. (2205) Province boundary fence is proof against dogs and rabbits. (2209) Fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would prove of very great service. (2210) The lessees on the east side should pay half the cost of the fence. (2213) Destroy dogs by wire netting and poisoning and trapping. (2215) It would not be of much use to compel landowners to vermin-proof their dams and surface waters unless constantly looked after. (2217) Dogs will live a long time without water. (2220) If Government erect the fence from Morgan to Winnininnie that will be all that is necessary. The lessees ought to do the rest.
- McBRIDE, ROBERT JAMES**, Station Manager at Pine Valley and Faraway.—(2224) Lost over 10,000 sheep in three years in consequence of the dogs. (2226) During eighteen months killed 126 dogs at Faraway and Pine Valley with poison and traps. (2229) Wild dogs could be coped with if every one were compelled to vermin-proof their dams. (2232) Government should be compelled to destroy vermin on unoccupied Crown lands. (2233) Dogs are working from west to east. From the unoccupied land in the ranges. (2234) The proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie, if erected, would prove of assistance. (2235) The lessees should bear their fair proportion of cost. (2236) Rabbits are not bad at present. (2239) Erecting fence along the county boundary at cost of about £56 a mile. (2241) Fence is four wires, two barbed wires, and wire netting.
- DUNEMANN, CHARLES**, Grazier.—(2245) Rabbits not so bad as the dogs; can cope with the rabbits; out of 1,936 sheep on March twelve months, shorn only 1,130 owing to dogs. (2247) Trapping and poisoning to get rid of them. (2249) Would be a good thing for Government to compel people to vermin-proof fence their dams. (2252) Government should be placed on same footing as the lessees with regard to destruction of vermin on Crown lands. (2253) Proposed fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would be of no assistance, as dogs come on to the country from the west.
- HALFORD, WILLIAM HENRY**, Grazier, Counties of Burra and Kimberley.—(2261) Rabbits are very bad when there is water about; they are scarce now; the dogs are very troublesome. (2265) The unoccupied lands should be fenced off, and all natural waters fenced in. (2266) Both the county and the hundred boundaries should be fenced. (2267) The Government might allow cost of fence to be refunded in ten annual instalments, the first to be paid after one season's benefit, or they might erect the fence and charge 5 per cent. interest on the cost, and any persons adjoining pay as for an ordinary six-wire fence with a little over for vermin proofing.

- WADE, WM. JNO., Owner of Panaramity Station.—(2273) During past year have had very much difficulty in dealing with both rabbits and dogs. (2275 to 2280) Particulars of fence erected, which keeps out rabbits and dogs. (2283) Are compelled to shepherd. (2284) Dogs come principally from the east, on account of lot of country lying idle. (2287) Would be of great assistance if all were compelled to vermin-proof all dams and surface waters. (2288) Line of fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would be of great advantage. (2289) Government should pay half the cost and parties benefited on either side the other half. (2291) Settlers would block on to it if fence erected. (2294) Government should not be compelled to destroy vermin on their own land, if they assisted in erection of vermin-proof fences. (2298) If country is fenced, the Pualco country would be taken up. (2299) If the fence on the hundred boundary as well as that on the county boundary was erected, all the unoccupied Crown lands would be taken up. (2303) If the Government erected fence proposed, should expect them to pay half cost incurred in erecting sixteen miles of fencing on the boundary. (2307) All are not carrying out conditions of lease with regard to vermin destruction. (2312) Government should erect fence on county boundary, which is better than the hundred boundary, as the hundred boundary is too much south of the pastoral blocks. (Supplementary evidence.) Further particulars with regard to fence erected, and losses and increase in sheep and also more detailed reply to question 2290.
- GROWDEN, FREDERICK, Grazier, Counties of Herbert and Kimberley.—(2320) Have to shepherd stock. (2321) Dogs very bad during last three years. Lost 1,000 sheep through dogs. (2329) No use to vermin-proof fence wells and dams with unoccupied Government land all about, where dogs can get water. (2330) Government should destroy vermin on their unoccupied country. (2332) It would be a good step towards getting rid of the vermin if made compulsory to fence all waters. (2333) Rabbits can be coped with easily. The only way to deal with the matter generally is for everyone to vermin-proof fence. (2334) The Government should assist by giving concessions. It would meet the difficulty if the Government were to provide the netting, and take payment in ten yearly instalments. (2339) The erection of a fence on the county boundary would be the deathblow to settlers on the western side, as it would fence the vermin on to the land. (2342) The dog trouble is all from the west side and, if fence is erected, it should be on the hundred boundaries, to divide the farmers from the graziers. (2343) They should pay equally. (2344) The farmers objected to fence on hundred boundaries before, because they were asked to pay three times as much as the pastoralists. (2354) Settlers would rather have netting supplied to them to erect their own fences. (2362) The farmers hold the rough country where dogs are bred.
- McLACHLIN, HUGH PATTERSON, Sheepfarmer and Grazier, Paratoo.—(2370) Had much trouble with rabbits and dogs for the past three years. (2372) Lost from 15 to 20 per cent. of sheep in consequence of dogs. (2374) All dams are vermin-proofed. (2377) If all were compelled to fence dams and surface waters it would assist in destruction of vermin. It would not be effectual in exterminating the dogs. (2379) Government should undertake to fence all their waters the same as the lessees. (2382) Hundred boundary fence would to a certain extent be better than the fence on the county boundary, as it would separate farmers from graziers. (2383) Parties on both sides should contribute to cost when their land abutted on fence, and the Government should take the same position as others. (2388) Land is lightly stocked as they are afraid to stock because of the dogs. (2394) Dogs come principally from within hundreds from the west. (2399) It would be of more advantage to the settlers to have wire netting supplied to them than to erect the proposed fence. (2400) They would repay on time payment. (2401) The most beneficial thing would be for the Government to advance wire netting to be paid for by instalments.
- DEY, A. MCGREGOR, Grazier, Winnininnie.—(2404) Lived in district five years. (2405) Been much troubled with rabbits and dogs. (2406) Rabbits worst. (2411) Government ought to either fence their land or destroy vermin. (2419) The best thing that could happen to the country would be for the Government to allow the rent to be expended in fencing the pastoral leases. (2423) Fence erected on county boundary will pay. It would be wise also to fence the hundred boundaries. (2424) Rabbits not as bad as they were twelve months ago. They have been poisoned. (2428) Fair for lessees to pay half the cost of erection of proposed fences and Government the other half. Lessees to keep fences in repair.
- BRENNAN, JOHN, Pastoralist, Siam and Coralbignie.—(2437) Have been very much troubled with wild dogs. Rabbits have been got rid of. They have been killed and destroyed by the drought. Now they are down could be kept down with poisoned sandalwood twigs and wheat, poisoned water, and wire netting. (2442) Dogs are causing serious loss. (2447) Destroy them by trapping. No use attempting to destroy with poisoned water except in drought. (2449) Dogs come from the unoccupied country. (2455) In consequence of dogs Government losing considerable amount of rental. (2465) Government should destroy vermin on Crown lands adjoining leased lands. (2472) If Government fenced off unleased areas it would not be fair to charge half the cost to adjoining holders. (2482) If Government are prepared to pay half cost of boundary fences, those benefited might be rated to make up the other half. (2491) Everyone tried best to keep down vermin. (2494) Best plan for Government to adopt to destroy dogs is to fence the country.
- TURLEY, STEPHEN, Laborer, Port Augusta.—(2503) Suffered from rabbits in the hundred of Willundunga. (2504) If get wire netting could clear them off.
- DIXON, J. A., Manager of Padura Run.—(2516) Wild dogs are a great scourge. (2515) Steps taken to cope with them are poisoning and trapping. (2519) Dogs jump 3ft. 6in. wire net fence. (2521) Would not get over if barbed wire on top. (2522) If every run was fenced it would be very much better than the Government erecting long lines of fence. The Government might assist by paying half the cost. (2523) Unoccupied country adjoining, on which Government are doing nothing to destroy the vermin. (2528) If Government were to erect fences between the unoccupied country and leased land, lessees would be prepared to pay half the cost. (2536) Netting is the only thing that will prove satisfactory in dealing with the difficulty. (2538) If Government were to provide wire netting to lessees, in the same way as it is to farmers, it would be availed of. (2539) Present fences in most cases would be suitable for netting, with barbed wire on top of posts. (2540) It would

would be of great assistance if everyone were compelled to fence in dams and surface waters. (2544) Country held under conditions to destroy vermin and conditions are complied with. (2547) There is more unleased country than leased land in district. (2551) Wire net fence with two barbed wires on the top would keep any dog out. (2554) It would be an inducement for the lessees to fence their runs if it were provided that they should own fencing improvements, so that the incoming tenants should pay the outgoing tenants for them. (4560) Killed 130 dogs since last November.

MORPHETT, HURTLÉ WILLOUGHBY, of Carooona.—(2562) During 1889 and 1890 rabbits got very numerous, but at the end of 1891 and 1892 they got killed out, and there are now a very few left. (2563) Dogs have been trouble for a long time. The great trouble began in year 1889-90. (2565) Memorandum showing losses in consequence of wild dogs from 1889 to 1893. (2566) Dogs come from the south. (2572) Steps employed in destroying dogs are trapping and shooting. Few are got with poisoned water. (2574) If country were isolated and dogs shut off, could cope with difficulty. (2576) Wire-netting fence with two barbed wires is sufficient to keep out dogs. (2578) Half cost of erection of fences not sufficient for Government to pay if they allow vermin to breed on Crown lands. (2579) Better for each holding to be fenced separately. (2581) Erection of fences would be justified by increased product of land. The Government would be able to let lands at present unoccupied. (2585) It would help in getting rid of dogs if people were compelled to fence and keep dams closed at night, and lay poisoned water. (2586) Government should be compelled to destroy vermin on Crown lands. (2589) If fence erected lessees on whose land it abutted should be compelled to keep it in repair. (2590) Pay 20s. a head for destruction of dogs. Receive 5s. from Government, which is raised by a rate of 6d. a mile. (2597) If Government erect fences would agree to have proportion of cost, say little under half, deducted from compensation money due on expiry of lease. (2603) If dogs increase very considerably it will lead to the abandonment of the country. (2613) Bulk of dogs are pure dingoes. (2617) Pastoral lessees would largely avail themselves of wire netting if supplied to them by Government on easy terms of payment. (2618) Return showing number of dingoes destroyed at Carooona from May, 1888, to May 12th, 1893.

SUTHERLAND, HUGH, Manager, Carooona Station.—(2619) Confirms statements with respect to vermin question made by Mr. Morpsett. (2622) The only way to cope with the vermin question is the use of wire netting and barbed wire. (2624) Chief breeding places for dogs are in the South towards Franklin Harbor, on the unleased Crown lands. (2626) Cheaper for Government to help the lessees to fence than to destroy the vermin on Crown lands. (2627) Rabbits will live on roots without water. (2636) Rabbits will travel six or seven miles to get water.

KNOWLES, THOMAS, of Nonning.—(2637) Known district seventeen years. (2638) Been troubled very much of late years with rabbits and dogs. (2643) Country that carried in 1888, 74,000 sheep, would now be overstocked at 50,000, in consequence of rabbits. (2644) Rabbits killed all the bushes except the salt bushes. (2646) Giving no trouble at present. The drought killed them. (2648) Would multiply if got series of good years. (2649) Best way to keep them under is to wire net all the waters and lay poisoned water. (2659) Wild dogs first gave trouble in 1889. (2661) More trouble now than they were in 1889. (2662) Are trapping, poisoning, and shooting, to keep dogs down. (2663) They come from mallee country on the coast, which is unleased Crown lands. (2666) If unoccupied land were fenced off, should not be afraid of the dogs. (2668) Wire netting and barbed wire fencing, if properly erected, would be an absolute barrier to wild dogs. (2669) Where Crown lands are fenced off, cost of fence should be paid half by the Government and the other half by the lessees benefited. (2674) Absolutely to have fixity of tenure before anything can be done. (2675) The whole district should pay cost of keeping fence in repair. (2676) The Government should be compelled to destroy vermin or pay to the lessees something towards the cost of destruction. (2678) Rabbits will live without water, getting moisture from roots of bushes. (2688) Return of scalps destroyed at Nonning since February, 1893.

RANKIN, ANGUS, Manager of Siam Station.—(2692) It is necessary, to be effective, that each individual lease should be fenced. It is no good to erect one line of fence. (2693) Destroyed fifty dogs at Siam this year. (2696) Would make it compulsory to fence holdings. Where land abutted on Crown lands, Government should contribute half the cost. (2698) Rabbits will not live in saltbush country without water. They will live on other bushes. (2701) If Government supplied lessees with wire netting to be paid for in ten annual instalments, with interest added, it would be of great assistance.

BEVISS, EDWARD, Overseer of Thurlga Station.—(2705) Rabbits first became a nuisance about five years ago; they came from the south. (2708) Suffered very serious loss, as they killed all the bushes in many places, making a great difference in carrying capacity of the country. (2717) Rabbits not giving much trouble at present, as they were killed by the drought. (2721) Poisoned water and poisoned sandalwood most useful means of destroying the rabbits. (2723) Not any great results from phosphorised wheat. (2724) Dogs been very bad for three or four years past, and have increased very much lately. (2726) Doing utmost by trapping and poisoning to destroy vermin. (2728) If runs were fenced in, could cope with vermin on the land. (2729) Better to fence in each individual holding than to run long lines of fence to cut off the invested country. (2730) Dogs come from unleased Crown lands to the south. (2732) As Government require lessees to destroy vermin, they should keep their own lands clear. (2737) Fence 4ft. in height, with 3ft. of wire netting, and two barbed wires would be proof against dogs. (2738) It would be fair for cost of boundary fences, to cut off infested country, if erected, to be divided between Government and the lessees. (2739) A lot of dogs would be killed if an Act were passed making it compulsory that all surface waters, dams, and waterholes should be fenced. (2741) Pay 20s. for pure yellow dingoes, and 10s. for half-bred dogs. (2746) Strychnine more effectual than arsenic for poisoning dogs. (2749) If fence were erected to cut off the Crown lands, and then the provisions for the destruction of vermin strictly enforced on the part of the Government as well as private persons, it would prove effectual in ridding the country of wild dogs. (2752) The best way to cope with the difficulty is to divide the country into vermin districts, and have an assessment made; the money to be applied to paying

paying for scalps. (2762) As the Government are doing nothing to destroy the dogs on the unoccupied lands, cannot cope with the difficulty sufficiently to be enabled to hold the country. (2772) Government and lessees would be assessed alike to provide a scalp fund. (2779) Blacks' dogs are a great nuisance; their dogs should be limited. (2784) Rabbits will climb over net fence 2ft. 6in. high; they will also bite through wire netting.

HAMP, JOHN CHIP, of Thurlga.—(2794) Been in district thirty years. (2796) Lost a good deal by rabbits. (2799) The only way in which fencing would be beneficial would be to enclose each separate lease. (2802) The amount contributed by the lessees—6d. a mile—is not sufficient to provide for a scalping fund. Even if it were 1s. rate the Government should subsidise it. (2807) It would not pay the lessees to fence at the present rate of rental. The country should be divided into vermin districts for the purpose of rating, and committees should be appointed who would fix the rates to be levied and the amounts to be paid for scalp money. (2810) The committee should be elected by the taxpayers in the district. (2812) Three persons would be sufficient for the committee.

BEVISS, ARCHIBALD, Storekeeper, Yardea Station.—(2815) In district eighteen years. (2817) Disapprove of Government erecting vermin-proof fence, which would prove of no benefit. The fence would be 250 miles long, and would cost not less than £50 a mile. Maintenance and interest would cost £650 a year. (2818) Rabbits get under the fences, bite through the wires, and also crawl over. (2819) Rabbits decreased very much of late. They have been killed off by the drought. (2821) A vermin district should be proclaimed, and the Government and lessees assessed alike. A levy of 1s. or 2s., or perhaps for the first year 2s. 6d., a mile should be made. (2822) The Government should have the handling of the money. (2826) Forty shillings could be paid for dog scalps, and threepence for rabbits'. (2827) Blacks' dogs are a trouble. They ought only to be allowed to keep useful dogs.

PARTRIDGE, THOMAS, Manager of Yardea Station.—(2834) Rabbits first made appearance about twelve years ago. They began to get numerous about six years ago, and four years ago they overspread the country. (2836) They destroyed the bushes, and reduced the carrying capacity of the country. (2838) It has been reduced one-third. (2839) Rabbits decreased very much on account of the drought. (2841) Paid the blacks in one season for over 100,000 rabbit scalps. (2842) Found phosphorised wheat ineffective. (2843) Rabbits will no doubt increase and become a pest again if seasons are good, but will not overrun the country as they did before, because a great number of bushes on which they lived have been entirely destroyed. (2845) Wild dogs first became a serious trouble about three years ago. (2847) They are coming up from the unoccupied country to the south. (2851) Better to declare vermin districts than to fence with vermin-proof fencing, district suggested having for its boundary a line from the south-east of Lake Gairdener to a point north of Port Augusta; then another line from Lake Gairdener to the coast, north-west of Streaky Bay, between Streaky and Denial Bays. (2852) Area included in proposed district 27,500 miles. (2854) It would take a rate of 2s. 6d. a mile at first, but rate could be reduced as dogs became less numerous. (2855) Government should contribute to rate. (2856) Country is not worth wire netting. It would not pay to enclose each lease. (2857) Vermin-proof fencing in district would cost £60 a mile. (2859) Owners would not object to pay 2s. 6d. a mile rate. (2862) Would only apply money raised to destruction of dogs. (2865) The scalping system so far as rabbits are concerned is useless. If it were made compulsory, and were done before summer sets in, to enclose all wells, dams, and natural waters that last long without rain, it would be effectual in destroying both rabbits and dogs. (2868) People interested in district proposed, would recommend suitable persons to the Government, and the Government would appoint people to administer the fund. (2870) Ordinary station fencing with wire netting attached will not keep out dogs. With a barbed wire on top it would keep them out. (2874) If Government supplied wire netting to pastoralists on same terms as it is supplied to farmers, lessees in district would not avail themselves of it. (2882) Unless something is done to check the ravages of the dogs, the country will be abandoned. (2883) Dogs nearly all pure dingoes. Blacks keep great number of dogs, and when they shift camp they leave dogs to spread over the country. (2884) Government should see that the blacks do not keep so many dogs.

CRAWFORD, WILLIAM MILROY, Manager of Yartoo Station.—(2890) Concur with evidence of Mr. Partridge. (2892) Lessees would not go in for fencing because losses have been so heavy with the wild dogs. (2894) Government should take some steps to limit the number of dogs kept by the blacks. (2895) Government should be placed in exactly the same position as the lessees with respect to the destruction of vermin on their lands.

McKENZIE, W. M., of Paney.—(2896) Known district about fourteen or fifteen years. (2897) During that time been very much troubled with rabbits. They were worst three years ago. (2899) The carrying capacity of the country has been reduced half in consequence. (2900) Rabbits not as bad now. The drought killed them. Lessees poisoned thousands. (2903) In a good season they may get bad, but will never increase to their previous numbers. (2905) Wild dogs are much worse. (2906) At Karcultaby stock deceased from 50,000 to 10,000, in consequence of the dogs principally. (2910) Dogs come from the unoccupied lands between Franklin Harbor and Paney. (2912) Government should erect boundary fences, and charge the cost to the lessees on both sides. Lessees only paying half cost when fence was on boundary of Government lands. (2915) Vermin will live a great part of the year without water. (2916) Country will be abandoned unless Government take steps to check the ravages of the dogs. (2923) Best method of dealing with difficulty is to form district, and levy rate on all land within its boundaries. (2943) If the Government would destroy dogs on unoccupied lands, there would not be much trouble in keeping them down. (2947) Prefer rating to fencing. Difficult country to fence. (2951) Agree with proposal to proclaim the whole of the country to south, including Gawler Ranges, vermin district, and rate leased land and Government land alike. (2957) Enough rabbits live without water to breed up again. (2958) Will not overrun country again, as bushes are eaten. (2962) All dogs caught have been pure dingoes. (2972) Lessees could not afford to pay rate of 2s. 6d. a mile. (2975) It would require more than £3,000 to exterminate the dogs.

THOMPSON,

THOMPSON, A. G., of Talia.—(2982) Troubled with dogs, but not with rabbits at present. (2983) Government should rate all the country, leased and unoccupied as well, and raise a fund to be expended on scalps. (2958) It would take rate of 3s. or 4s. a mile to provide sufficient money. (2989) In district council farmers avail themselves of the privilege of obtaining netting on deferred payments to fence against rabbits. It has been a great success in fencing out the rabbits. (2991) Doubtful if it would prove effectual against dogs, if two barbed wires were added, making fence 4ft. (3000) To cope with vermin difficulty formed a vermin fund, and in eighteen months destroyed 370 scalps. Paid 20s. for scalps. About thirty people contributed; all who had sheep in the district as far as thirty miles below Elliston.

CRAWFORD, JOHN, Sheepfarmer, Karcultaby.—(3009) Rabbits got moderately thick seven or eight years ago. Really bad four years ago. At their worst two years ago. (3011) In consequence of the rabbits the carrying capacity of the country and the rental value of the land has been reduced one-half. (3012) Not likely to be bred up again in consequence of having eaten up the bushes. (3016) Losses from the wild dogs have been terrible; in six years lost 42,000 sheep, and all the increase besides, chiefly through dogs. (3020) Dogs come chiefly from the unoccupied Crown lands in the direction of Franklin Harbor. (3024) If that land were fenced off, could deal with the dogs and keep them down. (3029) Best way to deal with the vermin difficulty is to proclaim a vermin district, and levy a rate on all land inside which would provide a fund for destruction of wild dogs. (3032) A rate of 2s. 6d. a mile would bring in £3,200, which would be ample for the first year. (3036) Government should collect the rate and appoint a board of three members to do the work. (3040) Would pay 20s. for scalps. (3044) Government should be responsible for the destruction of dogs on unoccupied Crown lands. (3046) It would not be worth while to erect fences, as cost would be too heavy. (3048) Can deal with the dogs without fencing. (3061) Nothing but fencing will protect farmers' crops from rabbits. (3064) Cheaper for Government to put men on to destroy vermin on Crown lands than to vermin-proof the country. (3069) Board should have power to enforce the enclosing of all surface waters. (3074) Blacks' dogs destroy the sheep; police should see that they kept only one dog each. (3084) Have not found poisoned water very successful in destruction of dogs.

CRAWFORD, WILLIAM MILROY, Karcultaby.—(3090) A rate of 2s. a mile would be quite sufficient. (3091) The dogs that the blacks are permitted to keep should be reduced in number; the Government should instruct the police to destroy the surplus dogs. (3092) Instead of appointing a board for the proposed district, the Land Office could do the work in the same way as they do now with respect to the sixpenny rate. (3093) Unless something is done to destroy the dogs, the leases will be abandoned. (3095) Farmers within the proposed district, who do not keep sheep and hold under a mile, might be exempt from rate.

BETTS, WILLIAM HENRY, Storekeeper and Farmer, Streaky Bay.—(3100) Rabbits were a great nuisance. They reduced the carrying capacity of the run one-half. (3103) They are not so bad as they were. (3105) The drought destroyed them. (3106) No doubt they will breed up again in good seasons. (3107) The only way for agriculturists to deal with them is to fence. (3108) Wire netting supplied to farmers by the district council has proved of great benefit. (3110) Government will be repaid without loss. (3111) Too much waste land in district to get large areas to unite in one line of fence. (3112) Fences have proved effectual in stopping the rabbits. (3113) Rabbits cannot get over the netting. (3115) All are satisfied with liberality of terms on which netting is supplied. People who pay cash should be allowed discount, and price should be reduced to those who pay in five years instead of ten. (3117) Government should destroy the wild dogs on their breeding grounds, the unleased lands between the Gawler Ranges and Franklin Harbor. (3118) The runs afford a breeding ground for rabbits. (3121) To assist settlers with regard to destruction of dogs land should be leased at purely nominal rent. If land cannot be leased Government should fence the dogs up. It would not be just to charge adjoining lessees with any portion of the cost. (3125) No objection to proposed vermin district with rate of 2s. 6d. a mile, if farmers who have no interest in the destruction of wild dogs are excluded. (3130) Agriculturists perfectly satisfied with being able to obtain wire netting on easy terms. (3133) Would assist in destruction of dogs if all waters were enclosed with vermin-proof fencing. (3136) Rabbits kept down with wire netting and poisoned wheat and sheoak tops. (3148) Farmers would not object to pay interest on wire netting advanced. (3155) Wire netting supplied by council only for outside boundaries. (3156) No difficulty in collecting the amounts due. (3157) Still necessary to fence against rabbits in district, but they are less now than they have been during the past eight years. (3169) Farmers suffer no loss from dogs.

PEARCE, GEORGE HENRY, Sheepfarmer, Calca.—(3176) Rabbits are dying out. (3178) Likely they will breed up again in good season. (3180) Poison during month of March with arsenic mixed with bran and chaff. Other means of destruction is trapping. (3182) Good idea to make it compulsory to enclose surface waters, but it is impracticable in many places. (3183) Government have done a good thing in providing wire netting on such easy terms. (3184) Suffered very heavy losses last year from dogs. (3185) Endeavor to cope with the difficulty by trapping. (3187) Dogs come from the Courtaby run principally. (3189) Government should assist the landholders in the destruction of dogs by reduction of rent. (3196) Lost between 600 and 700 lambs beside 600 sheep last year by dogs chiefly. (3202) Dogs causing trouble are all pure dingoes. (3206) Barbed wire fencing is of no use against dogs. (3209) Government should compel lessees to carry out the conditions of their leases, but should do a little more to assist. (3210) Pastoralists are doing all they can to destroy dogs on their property.

HEWISON, WILLIAM THOMAS, of Streaky Bay.—(3213) Dogs and rabbits have been source of very much trouble, but the rabbits are not troublesome at present. (3214) They have eaten up all the bushes and cannot live through the summer. (3216) Government should not do more than they are doing, by granting wire netting, to assist in keeping rabbits down. (3218) Government should assist in killing the dogs by fencing or helping the pastoralists to fence. (3221) Rate should not be levied to provide fund to destroy dogs. Pastoralists should destroy the dogs and the Government allow for it out of rent. (3224) Very hard on the lessees if conditions of lease for vermin destruction

destruction were enforced. (3226) Destroy dogs by poisoning and trapping. (3231) If country towards the coast were cleared of vermin, some of it which is good land would be taken up. (3232) If country were occupied it would be much easier to cope with the vermin difficulty.

SCOTT, ANDREW, Farmer and Grazier, Bramfield, near Elliston.—(3236) Rabbits first gave much more trouble in 1886. (3237) They are bad at present. Wire netting has not been in general use, so they are increasing. (3242) Wire netting keeps out rabbits in a measure, but is not an effectual cure. (3243) They get under the netting and some jump over it. (3246) Nothing better to be done than to encourage the use of wire netting. (3248) Outside people lose from 20 to 70 per cent. of their sheep through dogs. (3252) They come from the scrub country between Polda and Franklin Harbor, which is unoccupied Crown lands. (3257) Government should be placed on same footing as lessees with respect to vermin destruction. (3260) Resolution passed at meeting of pastoralists and other lessees favoring proclamation of a vermin district with rate of 2s. 6d. a mile on all lands for destruction of dogs. (3263) Farmers not owning sheep should be exempt from rate. (3269) Fencing is too expensive way of coping with dogs. (3277) No difficulty with respect to payments for netting supplied. (3280) Vermin Suppression Act works satisfactorily. (3285) Poisoned wheat answers purpose of rabbit destruction. (3290) Council has no power to supply netting for pastoral leases. (3297) If cleared of vermin, and offered at a low rental, land unoccupied between Elliston and Yardea would be taken up. (3301) Not troubled with natives' dogs.

DENNISON, JOHN, Farmer and Grazier, Mount Wedge.—(3311) Have sustained much loss in consequence of rabbits and wild dogs. (3312) When rabbits came first, four years ago, lost all the crops. (3314) Not nearly as bad as they were. (3316) Wire netting should only be supplied to wheatgrowers. Not necessary to take any other steps to deal with the rabbits. (3319) In matter of vermin destruction Government should be placed in the same position as private persons. (3320) Lost about 20 per cent. during last year through wild dogs, and they are increasing at present. (3322) They are coming from between Franklin Harbor and the hundred of Tinkia, which is Government land, unoccupied and unleased. (3325) Settlers are doing their best to keep down the dogs by poisoning and trapping, and they subscribed to a fund to pay for scalps, but were unable to cope with the dogs. (3331) Agree with resolution passed at meeting to form district. (3335) Those who do not keep sheep should be exempt from the tax. (3345) Lessees do their best to comply with conditions in leases to destroy vermin. If lessees are compelled to destroy, the Government should destroy vermin on unoccupied lands.

WIADROWISKI, ANTON, Farmer and Grazier, Elliston.—(3351) Last year had to give up one paddock on account of the vermin, and partly because the rent was too high. (3358) In eight months lost 360 sheep entirely on account of wild dogs. (3367) Rabbits are very troublesome. The Government should do something to keep down the vermin. If lessees are compelled to destroy, the Government should also destroy. (3372) Wire netting is not granted to graziers. It would be of no benefit if it were. (3374) Agree with resolution passed at meeting to form district. (3376) Government should contribute the 2s. 6d. rate, and also give small scalp money. (3378) Can protect against rabbits, but not against wild dogs.

HAWSON, GEORGE GREGORY, Manager of Polda Station.—(3381) Concur in evidence of previous witnesses. (3383) In consequence of dogs, lessees have had to surrender their leases. (3385) Since shearing of 1892 lost 500 sheep in consequence of wild dogs.

MYERS, DANIEL ROBERT, Farmer and Grazier, Elliston.—(3398) Disagree with proposal that settlers assess themselves. The Government should contribute 25 per cent. of all rents of leased lands for purpose. Government should do no more than that. (3400) All colony should be regarded as one district. (3401) Farmers and graziers obtaining netting from Government and erecting vermin-proof fences should have a twenty-one years' extension of their leases from time the fence is erected. (3403) If 25 per cent. of rents set apart for vermin destruction, district councils could administer the fund. (3408) System of supplying wire netting by council is unfair, as, if farmer's land abuts on pastoral lease, the pastoral lessee cannot get wire to do his half of the fence.

CROWE, JAMES H., Farmer and Sheepfarmer, Elliston.—(3415) Describes working of vermin board formed in the district. (3416) Losses through dogs alone in four years were from 4,000 to 5,000 sheep. (3417) Dogs are as bad to-day, or worse, than when they first started. Cannot continue destruction unassisted. (3421) Proposed district is too large. Each county should be proclaimed a vermin district. (3422) Sufficient money would be raised by a rate of 2s. 6d. a mile on all lands to deal with the question. (3426) If Government do not make a stand at once to get rid of dogs the country will be abandoned.

GUNN, WILLIAM, Farmer and Grazier, near Elliston.—(3429) Concur with Mr. Crowe that each county should be proclaimed a vermin district. (3430) Suffer from dogs coming from the unoccupied Crown lands. (3431) Means suggested are the best means of coping with the difficulty.

WOLLASTON, GEORGE G., Sheepfarmer, Lake Hamilton Station, near Sheringa.—(3437) Rabbits have been very bad, but at present are not giving much trouble. (3439) Much more trouble with dogs than with rabbits. (3442) Government should be placed on the same footing as private persons with respect to destruction of vermin. All the dogs come from the unoccupied lands. (3446) Dogs were brought on to the country by the rabbits. (3447) Dogs got much worse during last two or three years. (3448) Best means of checking them would be to fence off the coast country with a dog-proof fence, run so as to shut off the coast and scrub. (3449) Pig netting should be used, as rabbit netting is too frail. (3450) The Government should pay a good portion of the cost, and all inside the enclosed area who are benefited the other portion. (3454) Fence with rabbit net and two barbed wires will keep back dogs. (3459) Failing the erection of fence, proposed a rate should be levied on all land to provide a fund for paying for scalps. (3460) Proposed fence should run from Streaky Bay to a point southwards, so as fence off all the Government lands from the occupied country. (3462) It would be cheaper and better to declare vermin district than to erect fence; fence would be very costly. (3463) If the fence is erected the Government should pay half the cost and the settlers the other half, on easy terms of payment. (3479) Chiefly pure dingoes that cause the trouble.

DEARMAN,

- DEARMAN, DAVID C., Stockholder, Hundred of Homburg.—(3488) Had much trouble during past few years from dogs and rabbits. (3489) Very much better to declare a vermin district and levy a rate to provide a fund for scalping than to erect any fence. (3490) Government should pay a rate on the unoccupied country. (3497) Fencing will not pay, and is not an efficient barrier against vermin; the rabbits bite through the meshes of fine netting. (3501) Council supply netting, not money. (3502) Basis of subscription to the district fund for destruction of dogs is 2s. 6d. per 100 sheep. (3504) Which provided sufficient to pay 10s. per scalp.
- LAIDLAW, WALTER, Farmer, Hundred of Kiana.—(3508) The rabbits first made their appearance five years ago. (3509) Lost 50 per cent. in consequence of them. (3511) Best way of dealing with the difficulty would be to proclaim a vermin district, and levy a rate to provide a scalp fund. (3512) Mistake to pay scalp money for rabbits; would only pay for dogs.
- TELFER, JAMES, Station Manager, Port Lincoln.—(3516) Wild dogs given more trouble lately; can easily cope with the rabbits. (3520) Kill dogs by trapping and poisoning. (3521) Poisoned water no use, as there is too much water about. (3524) A good deal of unoccupied Crown land in district, and Government are doing nothing to destroy dogs. (3525) The Government should be placed in same position as private persons. (3526) Could cope with the difficulty if an Act were passed compelling lessees to pay so much for stock or land, and the Government to subsidise the amount raised. (3527) If vermin districts were declared, and the Government lands were rated as well as leased land, it would assist, but would not be enough. (3528) District proposed is too large; would suit better if district formed by a line from the north of Plank Point running west to Anxious Bay. (3531) Pay 20s. for scalps, and get no assistance from the district council. (3539) Lost 200 or 300 sheep out of 10,000 during the last two or three years through dogs. (3540) The dogs come from the unoccupied Crown lands. (3549) Pastoralists could not afford to avail themselves of netting if supplied to them by the Government on the same terms as it is to the farmers. (3550) Government should subsidise amounts spent in destruction of dogs on private lands as well as on their own leased land. (3559) Rabbits are not giving much trouble to farmers. (3564) Council grant wire netting to nearly every applicant. (3567) Some of the land is so bad that the Council could not recommend it.
- SWAFFER, E. D., Farmer, Hundred of Yaranyacka.—(3573) Rabbit trouble first commenced four or five years ago. They are not very bad and seem to be dying out. Can cope with the difficulty now. (3575) Not necessary to do more than at present in enabling farmers to obtain netting on easy terms. (3577) An association was formed and a rate levied of 1s. a hundred on sheep to form a scalp fund to deal with the dogs. It was in force about two or three years, and a number of dogs were got rid of. (3584) The Government should pay for the destruction of dogs on the unoccupied Crown lands. (3585) Best way of dealing with the question is to raise a fund by levying a tax of so much per hundred on sheep, which should be subsidised by the Government. (3588) District could be formed by a line from Cape Burr to Point Drummond. (3589) Proposal to wire net fence the country is ridiculous. Fences would be liable to destruction by fire, or to be carried away by floods. (3591) Most of the farmers keep sheep, and the dingoes affect them as much as the rabbits. (3595) Rabbits will not increase again, as their natural enemies, cats and iguanas, will keep them down. (3598) Interest should be added on wire netting supplied by the council. (3599) Wire netting should be distributed to individual holders, rather than erect boundary line of vermin-proof fence. (3609) Have wire netting erected which obtained from the Government, payable by ten instalments. (3620) Height of fence is 4ft. Netting and two wires. It keeps out dogs. (3623) Blacks' dogs are a great nuisance. (3628) They should be restricted to one dog for each adult male.
- HAIGH, WILLIAM, Sheepfarmer, Port Lincoln.—(3631) Indorse evidence of Mr. Swaffer. (3632) Do not lose many sheep in consequence of the dogs. (3636) Suffer from coast disease; not from dogs.
- OSWALD, E. P. G., Landholder and Sheepfarmer, Warratta Vale and Big Swamp.—(3639) In district nineteen years. (3640) Suffered heavy losses from dogs, but not much from rabbits, because the country is isolated by wire netting. Can cope with the rabbit difficulty. (3642) Since 1888 lost 18,000 odd sheep, the majority being killed by wild dogs. (3644) They come from the unoccupied country. (3645) Reason they are so thick is that they could easily get rabbits for food for their young in the unoccupied country. Then the dingoes got crossed by the tame dogs, and their breeding powers were invigorated. (3646) The proposition of the Gawler Range people for an imaginary line to bound a district would be no use whatever. It would be better to erect fences, then dogs could be killed. (3647) The cost of fences, if erected, should be paid by a tax levied on all who are protected, in proportion to the land they hold in the protected area. When the fence is on the boundary of Crown lands the Government should pay half the cost. (3649) Each county might be a separate district by being fenced off. (3651) It would not cost more than 4d. per acre, and with ten years to pay it in, would be no great hardship. (3652) Length of fence on Flinders boundary would be about sixty miles, and would cost about £1,800. (3655 to 3658) Pay 30s. for scalps. Sometimes as much as £5 is paid for same dog, as all neighbors contribute something. (3659) Wild dogs have no idea of jumping over netting. (3664) Rabbits will not get through netting fences. (3665) No danger of rabbits breeding up again, as natural enemies will keep them down. If vermin-proof fence is erected from shore to shore, and a rate levied on sheep, or on the land which is unoccupied at so much a mile, the country could soon be cleared. (3683) It would be better, instead of continuing to pay for scalps, to vermin-proof fence along the county boundary and then combine to destroy the dogs.
- PROVIS, F. J., Farmer, Hundreds of Stokes and Yaranyacka.—(3687) Not been troubled much with rabbits, but very much with dogs. (3688) No difficulty in coping with the rabbits. (3689) Had one mile of wire netting from the council, and saved the price of it the first year. (3690) Losses from dogs average 150 sheep a year; keep about 600 sheep. (3693) A vermin-proof fence should be erected along the boundary of the county of Flinders, and the District Councils Act amended, giving power to levy a rate for the destruction of dogs inside. (3697) It would be necessary to levy a rate of about

about 6d. a hundred sheep. (3699) The Government should contribute something for the unoccupied Crown lands, which are really the breeding grounds for the wild dogs. (3702) Member of Port Lincoln district council. (3704) Council comply with all applications for netting if the security is sufficient. (3709 to 3719) Willshire's application was refused, as the security was not considered sufficient. (3723) Fence will not keep out dogs. (3724) Excellent policy for Government to grant wire netting to farmers. Would not grant it to pastoralists. They should be able to pay for it. (3728) Best way of dealing with the dogs is to fence the county boundary line from coast to coast with a dog-proof fence. (3731) The Government should pay half the cost, and when it abuts on Crown lands they should pay all. (3733) Wire netting fence keeps out rabbits and wallabies. (3737) Five barbed wires without net would resist wild dogs. (3738) Two barbed wires above netting would keep them out. (3745) If fence erected it may be fair for all within to contribute to the cost—farmer, squatter, and Government—if a sliding scale were made, those further from the fence paying less than those nearer.

DUTTON, C. W., Station Manager, at Yallana and Coffin's Bay.—(3748) In favor of erecting a fence along the county boundary. (3749) To destroy the dogs after fence is erected a rate should be levied on all who are inside the district, the Government land to pay so much a mile. The cost of erecting the fence should be borne by all within the line. Each should contribute alike, in proportion to area of land held, the Government bearing their share. Where fences are already erected on the boundary, the cost, with the vermin proofing added, should be borne by those living inside. (3750) Lose from 1,000 to 1,500 sheep a year through dogs out of from 35,000 to 40,000. (3751) Six years ago vermin-proof fence was erected at Coffin's Bay, consisting of wire net with two plain wires above, and since that time no sheep have been killed inside, although dogs have been killed immediately abutting on the fence. (3755) Dogs come principally from the Crown lands. (3758) Doing all that could possibly be done to destroy dogs. (3762) Expended £25 within the last six months on destruction of dogs. (3764) Government should contribute to vermin proof the district. That would be cheaper than to supply small holders with netting. (3767) If the Government subsidise scalp money it would not have the same effect as vermin-proof fencing would. It would tend to diminish the numbers, but would not be an effectual cure. The only effectual means is to fence the country. (3771) The district council should be empowered to levy a rate on stock. (3777) Cannot continue to hold the country unless something is done to protect from dogs.

FOULDS, JAMES ANGUS, Farmer, near Cleve.—(3785) Not much trouble with rabbits and dogs, but wallabies very troublesome. (3786) Keep dogs to kill rabbits or they would be a trouble. (3787) Rabbits are very bad on unoccupied country. The wire netting supplied by the Government is a great safeguard against rabbits. (3792) The Government should not be called upon to destroy the vermin on Crown lands, but should pay part of the cost of wire netting the country. (3795) It would not be so costly to wire net the Crown lands as to destroy the vermin. (3798) No use to attempt to destroy vermin without fencing, but it is a waste of money to fence in counties. (3799) If lessees put up wire netting the Government should pay half the cost when adjoining Crown lands. (3801) It would be fair to charge lessees interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on cost of netting supplied to them by the Government. (3810) Conditions of lease cannot be carried out, as it would ruin some if they were compelled to destroy vermin. (3822) Good policy to supply netting to individual holders.

EVANS, HENRY GEORGE, Farmer, near Cleve.—(3850) The rabbits have done little harm, but the dogs have killed several sheep. Can cope with the rabbits. (3851) Erecting four miles of wire netting. (3855) Scheme for settling the country by building a railway from Arno Bay and conserving water suggested as best way to cope with the vermin difficulty. (3860) Dogs come from unoccupied Crown lands. (3865) Government should provide netting only for outside boundaries which might include half a dozen holders. (3867) No good attempting to destroy vermin unless land is fenced.

FORBES, WILLIAM, Farmer, Cleve.—(3870) Farming land should be fenced in by a line of fencing erected from a point twenty miles to the north of Franklin Harbor to Arno Bay. The line should form a half-circle, running round all the farm land, dividing it from the grazing land. (3872) The fence should consist of netting and two barbed wires, and then at certain times every year the farmers within the area should be compelled to destroy the vermin. (3873) The Government should pay their share to the cost of erecting the fence.

MELROSE, JAMES, Chairman of the Franklin Harbor District Council.—(3877) Resided in district sixteen years. (3878) Always a good many rabbits, and they have been on the increase again lately. (3879) The principle of supplying wire netting to the farmers is a good one, but the delays that occur are very inconvenient. (3881) If Government were to grant a larger amount farmers would be prepared to pay interest on the cost at the rate of 3 or 4 per cent. (3882) Sustained very considerable loss in consequence of wild dogs; letter setting out losses sustained. (3884) Government are taking no action with respect to destruction of the dogs. They should be placed in the same position as private persons. (3885) County Jervis would be too large for one district. One district might be formed by starting a line from south of Blank Point and running due west fifty-five miles, thence due south to the coast. (3887) All benefited should contribute to cost of erection of the fence. (3888) Whole district should be rated to destroy vermin inside, Government contributing as well as private holders. (3890) Description of experimental fence erected to test its capabilities in resisting dogs as well as wallabies and rabbits. (3891) Such a fence would cost for erection and materials £45 a mile. (3893) If lower wires were omitted the fence would be a failure. (3899) Recommend fence as described as boundary fence for districts. (3903) Both rabbits and dogs are important questions in the district. (3905) Would rate the district for scalp fund as well as fence it. (3909) Vermin districts could be managed by the district councils. (3911) Councils use discretion in recommending advances for wire netting. (3914) Those whose land is already netted would not be liable to rate. (3919) Council have received from Government wire netting to value of £850. (3920) System suggested would suit both farmers and graziers. (3923) Repayments for netting have been kept up. (3927) Council supplies netting, not cash. (3930) Killed seventy dogs since January.

WAKE,

- WAKE, EDWIN, Farmer, Elbow Hill, Hundred of Hawker.—(3933) Ten years in district. (3935) One thousand bags worse off during last ten years in consequence of the rabbits. (3936) Rabbits not increasing for the last two or three years. (3937) Wallabies are as great a trouble as rabbits. (3940) Got one and three-quarter miles of netting from the council, and found it of great benefit. (3941) It would be less expensive to the State if each farmer protected his own land against vermin. It would be an advantage if three or four combined and fenced together. (3942) It is not possible to clear the rabbits and wallabies off large areas; therefore it would be useless for the Government to fence. (3944) Government should assist settlers to cope with difficulty by supplying them with wire netting. No applicant would object to pay 4 per cent. interest. (3947) Farmers compelled to shepherd their sheep. (3949) Doing best to comply with covenant in lease to destroy vermin. (3958) Would grant wire netting to pastoralists with interest added. (3961) Agree with scheme proposed by Mr. Melrose. (3969) Wallabies are very bad. They breed on the scrubby land adjoining.
- JACOBS, WILLIAM, Farmer, Hundred of Miltalie.—(3974) The only effectual way of dealing with rabbits and wallabies is to pass an Act compelling settlers to combine for a fortnight or three weeks twice a year, and destroy them simultaneously. (3975) Erected a mile of netting to keep out wallabies. (3977) Wire netting best means of dealing with the question. (3978) Best way to deal with dogs is to introduce distemper amongst them. (3985) If dogs were destroyed, farmers would keep sheep.
- McKENZIE, DAVID, Farmer and Grazier, Franklin Harbor.—(3992) It would not be fair to tax the whole district for the destruction of dogs. (3893) Three feet wire netting will not keep out dogs. (3996) If farmers do not keep sheep they should be exempt from the tax. (3997) Government should fence off the unleased Crown lands where the dogs are breeding. (4000) If the country is not fenced it will be abandoned. (4001) Question if proposed vermin district would be effectual without fencing. If lessees are anxious to fence their country, the Government should pay half the cost of boundary fences. (4002) Dogs killed 200 sheep since shearing. Shepherding at present. (4005) Over twenty years since rabbits were introduced at Middlecamp. Wire netting is the only way to protect the crops. (4008) Lost very heavily in consequence of wallabies, which are more destructive than rabbits.
- ROBINSON, H. S., Farmer, Yabmana.—(4012) Would be of no advantage for people to go out in a body to destroy vermin. (4013) Best way is for the Government to supply wire netting as at present. No objection to reasonable interest being charged. (4016) Been troubled with rabbits for the last two or three years. (4018) Kill wild dogs by poisoning and trapping. (4020) Unless something is done to exterminate the dogs sheepfarming will be a thing of the past. (4022) Had twenty or thirty sheep killed in one night by dogs. (4024) Fenced a small area with rabbit-proof fence, and found it of great advantage. (4025) Fence with netting hanging on the top wire and other wires done away with would not be an efficient fence.
- ADAMS, FREDERICK, Farmer, Hundred of Wonna.—(4029) In district about ten years. (4032) Had great deal of trouble with rabbits. They are not very numerous just now; the drought destroyed them last year. (4035) They are breeding up fast now. (4038) When bad they come from the adjoining pastoral country. (4044) Government should be compelled to destroy vermin on the unoccupied Crown lands. (4045) Steps taken to destroy rabbits are poisoning with strychnine and sandalwood and wire-netting dams. (4049) Good thing to erect a line of fence on the west side of Pandappa Range there is a lot of rough country there which is a breeding place for vermin. (4050) The fence would benefit Parnaroo and the hundred of Wonna. (4052) Would continue the fence right into Nackara and on to the railway line. In a southerly direction it should run to the south-west corner of the hundred of King; thence in an easterly direction to the north-east corner of the hundred of Lindley; and from thence to the river at Morgan. (4055) Wire net fences are efficient in checking the spread of vermin. (4059) Rabbits are not doing any serious injury at present. (4062) Cannot cope with the vermin without Government assistance. They could put on a special rate to pay for wire netting. (4065) If land were fenced with wire netting could cope with the vermin. Terowie council will not grant it. They do not care to take the responsibility. (4069) If the fence is erected the whole district should be taxed to pay the cost of fencing. (4072) Farmers would not object to pay interest on netting supplied. It would not be necessary for each farmer to fence his own block. Fences should be erected in certain lines. (4080) Fence along hundred boundaries, provided for by Act of Parliament, would not benefit the farmers; it would fence the vermin on to them. (4084) Dogs are not a source of trouble to the farmers.
- HARDING, W., Farmer, Hundred of Wonna.—(4092) Not suffered much harm from the rabbits. (4093) The Government should be placed in the same position as the lessees with respect to the destruction of vermin. (4094) A fence erected on the line marked out by Mr. Adams would be a good thing. (4098) Fence provided for by Act of Parliament along the hundred boundaries would be useless to farmers. (4099) Not troubled with either rabbits or dogs. (4103) Rabbits are breeding up fast now. (4105) Rabbits at Stuart's Well were killed by drought, not by rabbit party. (4113) Prefer to fence rather than destroy the vermin. (4117) Line of fence from Morgan to Winninnie would not benefit farmers in district.
- SIMS, H. C., Clerk of the District Council of Terowie.—(4125) Had practical experience with respect to the vermin difficulty as an inspector under the Vermin Suppression Act. (4126) The rabbits were far worse six or seven years ago than they are now. The wild dogs are worse now. (4127) If steps are not taken to cope with the difficulty some of the country occupied by the pastoralists will be abandoned. (4129) The best way of dealing with the difficulty would be to fence. The fence should pass through the counties of Hamley and Young, and then come into the hundreds, running west from the vermin-proof fence on the New South Wales border, at a point twenty miles from the river, and running into the hundred of Markaranke. It should be both rabbit and dog proof, and should run east and west, to fence off the Murray, so that the dogs could not get to the water. It would prove a protection against rabbits which breed on the river. (4132) Approve of fence from Morgan to Winninnie on condition that all surface waters within the area should be vermin-proof fenced. (4134) The fringe country should be fenced with a line of vermin-proof fencing, running from Nackara and along the eastern boundaries of the hundreds of Parnaroo and Wonna, through Tomkinson, and along the eastern boundaries of Mongolata, Baldina, Bright, and English,

English, to join the railway line, which should be vermin-proofed to Morgan. (4137) Council do not feel justified in incurring the responsibility of recommending applications for wire netting. (4140) Vermin Suppression Act is not workable. The Government should proclaim certain time for vermin destruction, so that the work could be done simultaneously. (4142) Act requires to be amended with respect to service of notices. (4144) Cruel to enforce compliance with Act on those whose land adjoins infested Crown lands. (4148) Wire netting good means of coping with vermin difficulty. (4165) Better to fence than simply to declare districts and levy rate for vermin destruction. (4177) Dogs live in the Pualco Ranges. (4177) Government should not destroy vermin, but should fence off badly infested districts. (4192) Fence with two barbed wires would be effectual in stopping dogs. (4193) It should be made compulsory for all lessees in the north-east country to fence their dams. (4197) Council pays for wild dogs killed in the district out of money received for registration of dogs.

WATSON, THOMAS C., late of Pitcairn.—(4299) Very much trouble with dogs. Rabbits not so much trouble, but they are breeding up again. (4200) Letters stating losses sustained by wild dogs. (4202) Dogs come from farming districts as well as from the Pualco Ranges, and the unleased Crown lands in the hundreds of Parnaroo, Wonna, Tomkinson, Ketchowla, and Hardy. (4203) There should be two lines of fence erected, one on the boundaries of the counties from Morgan to Winnininnie, and another from the railway line at Nackara running due south between the hundreds of Parnaroo and Hardy, and keeping on the western boundaries of the hundreds, instead of the eastern boundaries, as has been suggested. (4206) The cost of fences proposed should be paid, portion by the lessees and the other portion by the Government. The Government should allow the lessees easy terms, say ten years, to pay it in. (4209) It would be quite fair to charge interest on netting supplied to farmers. (4217) The lessees would be prepared to pay half cost of fence if erected now, because terms are easier than were proposed under the Act of 1891 for the construction of fence. (4220) Line proposed on western boundaries of hundred would be more useful to all parties than that on the eastern boundaries. (4224) Trouble with dogs has increased very much. (4225) The two lines of fences proposed would meet the wild dog difficulty. (4226) Fences should be constructed of wire netting, 3ft. above ground, with one barbed wire 4in. above netting and another 6in. above that, which fence would be dog-proof. (4231) Sheep lost were killed by dingoes, not by farmers' dogs. (4235) Government should destroy vermin on the unoccupied country. (4240) To fence off land infested would be cheaper in the end than to destroy the vermin. (4241) If one line of fence only is erected it should be the fence on the country boundary, but that would not be much good to farmers.

WICKHAM, EDWARD HENRY, Farmer, Grazier, and Storekeeper, Nackara.—(4245) Suffered much loss through rabbits and dogs. (4246) Rabbits worst about 1885. Giving trouble at present time. They are worst at Paratoo and Manunda. (4249) They will breed up again. (5250) The district councils are enforcing the regulations. The rabbits are getting thick in the outside country. They come from the east side. (4255) Dogs are so numerous that obliged to shepherd sheep. People encourage dogs to kill rabbits. (4258) Forest reserve No. 30 is regular breeding ground for dogs. (4263) Applied for wire netting to council and Government, but refused. (4264) Government should be compelled to destroy vermin on their land. (4265) The whole of the forest reserve should be fenced with vermin-proof fencing, and then the vermin inside should be destroyed. (4268) The only way to deal with the vermin difficulty is to erect vermin-proof fence. It is waste of money to do anything else. (4269) The hundred boundary fence would be best, as it would divide the farmer from the squatter. (4273) Cost should be borne by the Government and people benefited. Terms of payment should be made easy. (4284) If price were offered for dog scalps it would bring about the extinction of dogs. No price offered for scalps now. (4290) Coglein district council has not supplied wire netting. They will not incur the responsibility. (4298) Dogs have come to Pualco Range country as a result of it being unoccupied in consequence of resumption by Government. (4304) To protect sheepfarmers from dogs price should be offered for scalps. (4308) All the Government unleased land should be vermin-proof fenced. It would pay to do it. (4316) Inside hundreds it is possible to comply with conditions to destroy vermin, but that cannot be done outside. To clear Paratoo of vermin would cost £20,000. (4320) Fence from Morgan to Winnininnie would injure the country, as it would throw the vermin on to it. (4326) Council do not pay anything for killing vermin.

O'CONNELL, THOMAS, Farmer, Nackara.—(4330) Suffered much loss from rabbits. (4331) Fence between the hundreds of Hardy and Parnaroo would suit both farmers and pastoralists better than a line along the outside hundred boundaries. No other means of dealing with the difficulty. (4333) Good plan if farmers could get netting direct from Government instead of through the district councils, as the councils will not take the responsibility. (4338) Farmers refused to pay for construction of fence when an Act was passed providing for it, because they were asked to pay double as much on the west side as on the other. (4339) If fence proposed to be erected, and terms of payment made easy, they will not object to pay.

HUMPHREYS, W. M., Grazier, Nackara.—(4342) Suffered great loss through rabbits and dogs. (4344) The only way to deal with the difficulty is to destroy the rabbits with poisoned sandalwood and other things. (4349) Wire netting will only do to keep them back; it will not destroy them. (4359) Opposed to the erection of any fence.

EYRES, THOMAS, of Eyres, Black, & Co., late McLean Bros., Rigg, & Co.—(4361) Particulars of width, mesh, gauge, and weight for 100yds. of various kinds wire netting. (4362) Cost of netting and particulars of size, weight, strength, and length of the various gauges of steel wire. (4371) Pig netting would cost much more than ordinary netting. (4376 to 4377) Refers to construction of graduated netting. (4378) Machine for weaving netting on to fence operates too slowly; it will never be used for fencing by the mile.

CHURCH,

CHURCH, JOHN, Manager for Harrold, Colton, & Co., Limited.—(1389 to 4409) Refer to cost, gauge, &c., of wire netting.

HANNAFORD, WILLIAM GEORGE, Chairman of the District Council of Mobilong.—(4410 to 4413) Railway fence should be continued from Tailen Bend to Murray Bridge, as it would shut the rabbits from the water. (4417) Rabbits come from Crown lands. Government should destroy vermin on Crown lands.