**VERMIN BILL 1898**

**House of Assembly, 23 November 1898, pages 405-6**

Second reading

**The Hon. J. L. STIRLING** said this was a Bill of a non-contentious nature which had had a peaceful passage through another place, and had come to receive the assent of the Council. Clause 4 of the Act of 1895 provided for District Councils declaring rates as follows:—“It shall be lawful for any District Council to declare an annual rate of not exceeding 3d. in the pound on all ratable property in the district for the purpose of providing funds to pay for the destruction of rabbits and foxes, and such, rate may be levied and recovered in the same manner as the general rate under ‘The District Councils Act. 1897:’ Provided that land enclosed with a vermin-proof fence, which in the opinion of the District Council is erected and maintained in an effective manner, shall be exempt from such rate.” It had been found owing to the depopulation of the pastoral country that wild dogs had made considerable inroads into districts in which they were not plentiful before, and owing to the frequent visits of foxes introduced by another colony that a new pest had grown up. The Bill provided in section 1 that—“All funds provided pursuant to section 4 of the Act No. 63-4, being An Act to amend the laws relating to vermin may be applied for the destruction of wild dogs as well as for the destruction of rabbits and foxes.” There was also a provision that—“All funds provided pursuant to section 5 of the same Act may be applied for the destruction of foxes as well as for the destruction of wild dogs.” Clause 3 read—“Section 7 of the said Act, relating to the enforcement of laws relating to the suppression and destruction of rabbits, is hereby extended to the enforcement of laws relating to the suppression of wild dogs and foxes;” and clause 4—“Section 1 of. this Act and section 3 of the Act No. 634 shall not apply to any District Council until a proclamation shall have been published by the Governor declaring that the said sections shall apply to such district.”. That applied to the South-East. He did not think anything could be said in opposition to the Bill, and he moved that it be read a second time.

Carried.