DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BlLL 1959

**House of Assembly, 16 September 1958, page 718**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister Lands)** obtained leave and introduced a for an Act to amend the Dog Fence **a** 1946-1953. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move

*That this Bill ~be now read a second t**ime*

This is a simple Bill. Its object is to provide that owners of any part of the dog fence as defined by the Dog Fence Act, who fail to inspect or to maintain in a proper condition, the dog fence or to take all reasonable means to destroy wild dogs in the vicinity of the fence shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of not less than £50 and not more than £100. The Act already provides that it shall be the duty of the owner of any part of the dog fence to maintain the fence and destroy wild dogs, and section 23 provides that if the Dog Fence Board is satisfied that any owner has failed in his duty the board will carry out the necessary work and recover the costs from the owner as a debt.

While it is the intention of the board to exercise its powers where fence owners fail to meet their obligations it is felt that the exercise of these powers is not sufficient to secure the co-operation of owners, some of whom are apathetic, to the detriment of the interests of themselves and adjoining landholders. It is believed that a penalty clause would act as a stronger deterrent to neglect on the part of owners and the Bill provides that owners may accordingly be prosecuted for failure to carry out their obligations. Clause 3 accordingly so provides, while retaining the liability of owners to pay the cost of action taken by the board on default. The proposal is supported by the Stockowners Association, which has two representatives on the board.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.