**HOMING PIGEONS PROTECTION BILL1905**

**Legislative Assembly, 20 September 1905,**

Second reading

The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN, in moving the second reading, said he had been asked to father this important measure in the Council. Last year a Bill on almost similar lines was introduced into the Assembly, but time did not permit of so important a matter being dealt with. The measure was one that appealed to all lovers of natural history. Homing pigeons were in use something like 3,000 years ago. His Majesty the King and the Prince of Wales were both supporters of the very interesting sport of homing. The homing pigeon had played a very considerable part in wars before now. Both in the South African war and the Russian and Japanese war homing pigeons were found to be excellent and safe means of communication. Then the revenue of the Railway Department benefited to the extent of several hundreds of pounds per annum by the carriage of these pigeons to the spot from which they were flown. Only a little while ago a large consignment was sent to Oodnadatta. The object of the Bill was to prevent people shooting pigeons passing over their land. Some people were so unsportsmanlike that they assembled near where pigeons where to be liberated in order to shoot them as they passed. (Mr. Riddoch—''‘Nonsense.”) He could assure Mr. Riddoch that it was a fact. (Mr. Riddoch—‘Surely people cannot be so cruel.”) Pigeon shooting was one of the most cruel sports in existence. It was not proposed to deal with pigeon matches, though he sympathised with the Premier when he said he would like to see a clause introduced that would put a stop to the practice. This Bill only protected the bird while it was in flight. If a pigeon alighted on a farm or a garden the owner or occupier was entitled to shoot the bird if he so desired. The son of his (Mr. Moulden’s) next-door neighbor had a number of pigeons, and would it not be the height of selfishness on his part to shoot those pigeons because they used the atmosphere above his freehold land? He might be legally justified, but not morally, in doing so. The homer afforded an excellent ex­ample to every member of Parliament, in the fact that the moment it was liberated it started for home. (Mr. Howe—“What do you mean?”) If the conscience of any member pricked him he should imitate the pigeon and go straight for his own loft. All parties in the Assembly joined in saying that this was an excellent measure, and he hoped it would receive the same support in the Council.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said that so far as the Government were concerned they supported the Bill. It would do no injury, and they saw no reason why they should oppose it.

Second reading carried.