**NATIONAL PARK AND WILDLIFE RESERVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1960**

**House of Assembly, 15 November 1960, pages 1825-6**

Second reading

**The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS (Minister of Lands)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the National Park and Wildlife Reserves Act, 1891-1955. Read a first time.

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—I move—

*That this Bill* fee *now read a second time.*

Its objects are—

(а) to bring up to date the designations of certain persons who, by virtue of the offices they hold, are commissioners as provided by section 2 of the principal Act;

(b) to increase the maximum penalties that could be fixed under the bylaws from £5 to £100;

(c)to empower the commissioners to demand and accept a payment not exceeding £1 by way of expiation for a prescribed minor offence from per­sons guilty of such offence; and

(d) to require extracts or summaries of bylaws relating to wild life reserves to be exhibited for the purpose of inviting public attention to such by-laws.

Clauses .3 and 4 give effect to the first two objects referred to. Clause 5 adds a new section 7a to the principal Act whereby the Governor may make regulations fixing an amount not exceeding £1 as an expiatory payment for any specified offence. The amendment has been specially sought by the commissioners who recommend that such regulations be made to apply to such minor offences as driving vehicles on ovals, lighting fires at places other than the prescribed places, remaining in the park after closing time, picking flowers, etc. Such regulations will, under the Acts Interpretation Act, be laid before Parliament and be subject to disallowance.

Section 8 of the principal Act requires copies of the by-laws prescribing any penalty for an offence relating to the park to be exhibited at the principal entrance gates of the park. The section does not apply to by-laws relating to wildlife reserves which, the commissioners point out, have no principal entrances. It is also unnecessary and unduly expensive to exhibit all the by-laws at all the entrances to a reserve. The Government feels that a summary or extract of relevant by-laws, printed in large characters and displayed at prominent places on the boundaries of a reserve, would better serve to invite public attention than a comprehensive display of all the by-laws in small print at the principal entrances, if any. Clause 6 of the Bill adds a new subsection (2) to section 8 of the principal Act, making provision accordingly.

Mr. BYWATERS secured the adjournment of the debate.