**VINE BILL 1878**

**Legislative Council, 17 September 1878, page 962**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. T. Playford),** in moving the second reading said the Bill was to provide against the ravages of the vine bug, the *Phylloxera vastatrix* which had caused such extensive ravages in France, and was extending its operations to Germany. Victoria had unfortunately been visited by the plague. It was found in some vines near Geelong, and the Victorian Parliament at once passed a short Act to destroy the vines there and prevent any being grown on the spot for five years . This Bill was founded on the Victorian Act . Since the bug had been destroyed near Geelong no further outbreak had occurred. Still the *Phylloxera vastatrix* might break out again and be con­veyed to this colony even among the vine leaves. The person who owned the vineyard first infected with (the phylloxera was also a nurseryman who had been in the habit of striking vines for sale, and there was a likelihood that vines were distributed far and near. This measure would place the Government of the day in a position to take action immediately should it be discovered that the disease had broken out in our vineyards. No remedy had been found for the disease except that of uprooting and destroying the vines. He had gone through the Bill with Dr. Schomburgk, who thoroughly agreed with the principles of it.

Mr. KRICHAUFF desired to know whether the Victorian Act actually provided that no compensa­tion should be paid to persons whose vines were destroyed. He suggested that a similar measure should be introduced for dealing with the Colorado beetle pest.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. T. Playford) said that the Victorian Act pro­vided that no compensation should be paid to the owner of the vineyard. This was only right, as no injury was really done to him as his vines would be totally destroyed by the disease. He would take a note of the hon. member’s sugges­tion in reference to the Colorado beetle pest.

The motion for the second reading was then carried, the Bill committed, passed without amendment, reported to the House, the report agreed to, and the third reading made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.