**VERMIN DESTRUCTION BILL 1882**

**Legislative Council, 2 November 1882, pages 1457-8**

Second reading

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it had been brought forward in consequence of complaints made by sheep farmers of the mischief done by wild and mongrel dogs, and who were quite willing to tax themselves in order to secure immunity from these animals. The animals described as coming within the meaning of the Bill were—Kangaroos, wallabies, and other marsupials, dingos or native dogs, dogs run wild, dogs at large, rabbits, eaglehawks. There was power in the Bill for Boards to be appointed amongst owners of flocks, and it provided that persons owning a certain number of sheep should be eligible for election on the Board. In the settled districts the Chairman of the District Council ought to be electedto the Board, or private persons. There was power to make a rate to meet the expenses of the Act, and although the sums in the schedule paid as a reward for the destruction of these animals seemed high, sheep owners were paying £1 per head at the present time. The Bill was copiedfrom the New South Wales Act, which had been found to have a beneficial effect there. The amounts paid by the schedule would be large, but the Government hoped to be recouped by the extra number of sheep the runs would carry.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed.

Clause 4*.* Governor may appoint Board.

The Hon. A. B. MURRAY moved to insert after "office," in line 23, "the retiring Directors to be eligible for re-election."

Carried

Clause 5. Passed.

Clause 6. On appointment of Board assessment to be made.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE thought this was cumulative.

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) said it was intended that it should be.

The Hon. J. CROZIER thought this was hardly reasonable.

The clause was passed.

Clauses 7 to 15. Passed.

Clause 16. Board may require declaration.

The Hon. J. CROZIER thought the Directors of the Board would know more about the matter than a Justice of the Peace, and he moved to insert after "Justice of the Peace" "a Director of the Board."

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) said the Government wanted a check on the Board, to see whether they were paying for destroying vermin, and it was for this reason that a Justice of the Peace was wanted to make a declaration.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE said that it was better a declaration should be taken before a Director, who would know all the circumstances of the case, and he would be much more careful.

The Hon. T. HOGARTH thought the system pro posed by the Hon. Mr. Crozier would act very much in the same way as the District Council, of which there was no complaint.

The Hon. A. HAY said, as a matter of fact, scalps would have to be taken before some one connected with the Local Court, not a Justice of the Peace, and the declaration mentioned in the Bill was a declaration that the scalps that had been destroyed were from vermin that had been killed within the district.

The Hon. D. MURRAY thought it should be stated, in the Bill who was to receive the scalps and what was to be done with them.

The COMMISSIONERof PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) said the Bill provided that the scalps should be produced to the Board, and they should decide how they should be disposed of.

The Hon. D. MURRAY thought the clause had better stand as it was.

The Hon. M. SALOM also supported the clause as worded in the Bill.

The Hon. J. CROZIER said he felt that every facility should be afforded to those who destroyed the vermin to recover the scalp-money. If, however, the Council were against him he would not press the amendment.

The clause was passed.

Clauses 17 to 20 were passed.

First schedule.

The Hon. A. B. MURRAY moved to strike out the word "every."

Carried.

The preamble and title were passed

The Council resumed, the report of the Committee was adopted, and the Standing Orders having been suspended, the Bill was read a third time and passed.