**ANIMALS AND BIRDS PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1928**

632 Animals and Birds Protection [COUNCIL.]

**Legislative Council, 22 August 1928, pages 631-2**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. J. Cowan)—**This Bill is introduced for the purpose of making several amendments of an administrative character to the Animals and Birds Protection Act, 1919. Under that Act as amended last session, a game licence, which authorises the holder to take animals and birds for sale, may be restricted in its operation to any specified portion of the State.

Members will remember that that amendment was brought in because of the damage done to property by men who were hunting for opossums. In future, when licences are issued, they will be issued for the hunter to get game only on specified areas of land. They will not be entitled to roam over the whole of the country as they may feel inclined. Clause 2 of this measure provides that a game licence may be issued subject to the further restriction that the licence shall authorise the holder only to take the animals and birds specified in the licence or any animals and birds other than the animals and birds specified in the licence.n Clause 3 makes an amendment to section 26 of the principal Act consequential upon the amendment made by clause 2. Clause 4 gives the Governor power to make regulations prohibiting throughout either the whole or any portion of thenState the shooting for sale or sale of any specified animals or birds. This power is sought so that if at any time it, appears that the numbers of any class of animals or birds are being reduced to such an extent that it is desirable to take steps to check the depletion the Governor may make regulations prohibiting or restricting the shooting for sale or the sale of any specified animals or birds either throughout the State or in any specified districts. The chief object of the last clause is to prevent the wholesale slaughter of game, ducks in particular, for sale. I have been advised that last year 42 tons of ducks were sent by rail from this State to Victoria.

The Hon. J. Jelley—That includes the weight of the crates, I suppose?

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE—That is immaterial. The fact remains that thousands of birds were killed and sent to Victoria for sale there. People in this State seldom have an opportunity of buying ducks that have been shot because better prices for them are offered in Victoria. Not only are the ducks getting fewer in number, but those who shoot them use what is known as a swivel gun, which they can operate quickly, and they can practically mow the ducks down. It would not be an extravagant statement to say that they get 40 to 50 and sometimes more by one shot.

The Hon. J. Jelley—Is not the use of those guns prohibited?

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE—A lot of things are prohibited, but we are informed that those weapons are still being used. It will in future be. found necessary, not only to protect our birds, but also to protect fish in the interests of those engaged in the fishing industry. I move the second reading.

The Hon. W. H. HARVEY secured the adjournment of the debate until. August 28.