**PHYLLOXERA BILL 1899**

**Legislative Council, 9 November 1899, page 256**

Second reading

The CHIEF SECRETARY, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it proceeded on the principle that prevention was better than cure. It would enable persons interested to take action for the prevention of a pest which had appeared in Victoria and New South Wales. The measure gave the vignerons of South Australia power to rate themselves, appoint inspectors, and take such other actions as might be necessary to eradicate and prevent the spread of phylloxera. The disease had fortunately not yet appeared here, but it had broken out across the border. Two years ago the Government took the matter up, and Dr. Cockburn, who was then Minister of Agriculture, introduced a Bill in another place dealing with the matter. Some defects were pointed out in that measure, but these had been remedied in the present Bill, which had been submitted to the leading vignerons of the colony, and had practically been drafted upon their suggestions. In clause 5 were given the names of the gentlemen who were to constitute the first board—Thomas Hardy, George Fullerton Cleland, Henry Maydwell Martin, William Patrick Auld, Herman Buring, Benno Seppelt, Maurice William Holtze, and Arthur James Perkins. The last two were the Government nominees. The colony was to be divided into six districts, each returning a member, two others being nominated by the Government. The provisional board would hold office until March, when a board would be elected as set out in the Bill. The members would be elected for two years. A roll would be prepared of all vignerons holding vineyards exceeding an acre in extent. Each elector, it was provided, could only vote in respect of one district, and would have "one vote if the area of the vineyard in respect to which he is named in the roll is one acre and does not exceed ten acres; two votes, if such area exceeds 10 acres and does not exceed 25 acres; three votes if such area exceeds 25 acres and does not exceed 50 acres; one additional vote for every 50 acres or portion of 50 acres after the first 50 acres of such area". In Part III would be found provisions relating to the creation of a fund and the rating and its extent. Clause 19 gave the system of rating thus:—"An annual rate per acre may be declared by the board off 3d on all vineyards exceeding one acre in extent which have been, are now, or may here­after be planted with vines, if when and so soon as such vines shall have attained the age of two years; of 6d. on all such vineyards which have been so planted for four but less than eight years; and of 1/ on all such vineyards which shall have been so planted for eight years or longer. Every winemaker and every distiller shall pay a rate of 6d. for every ton of grapes annually purchased by him”. The collection of the rates was to be in the hands of the Commissioner of Taxes, who would pay them to the Treasurer to the credit of an account to be called the phylloxera fund. The rates would be collected, levied, or recovered in the same manner as the land tax is, and would be recoverable with and under like penalties for delay or default in payment. In clause 24 the Treasurer was authorised to pay out of the fund such costs, expenses, and compensation as might be necessary in the administration of the Act. Part IV dealt with the appointment of inspectors. Every member of the board would be an inspector ex officio. Upon receipt of a report the board would "Quarantine all such area or areas of such vineyard within a radius of two chains from any spot or spots where disease is or is suspected to be until the nature and extent of such disease has been ascertained; cause all quarantined areas to be clearly indicated by flags, fences, or other similar means; cause all vines in such quarantined area to be destroyed with bisulphide of carbon and afterwards uprooted and burnt; take such other precautionary measures as it may deem necessary to prevent the spread or continuation of the disease; and upon being satisfied that no disease exists immediately release such vineyard from quarantine”. These were the powers given under the Bill, and they would enable the board to deal effectively with any vineyards which might unfortunately be affected by phylloxera. With regard to compensation, clause 34 provided:—"No compensation shall be paid in respect of:—(a) Any vineyard which shall have been unused or abandoned for two years prior to destruc­tion. (b) Any loss sustained by reason of or in connection with the destruction of any diseased vine or grapes brought into the province, or any package containing, or which may have contained, or come into contact with any such vine or grapes." Clause 35 stated:—"If the fund for the time being should prove to be insufficient for the payment of all claims for compensa­tion in full, the Treasurer may, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, advance the amount required, and all such advances shall be paid as soon as may be out of future accruing rates. No compensation shall be claimed or payable except against or out of 'The phylloxera fund." Part IV dealt with offences and penalties, and Part VIII with a number of miscellaneous matters. Clause 46, dealing with small vineyards, provided:— "In the case of all vineyards or gardens containing vines which are less in extent than one acre, the owners or occupiers thereof shall be exempt from registration and taxation under this Act, but shall nevertheless be subject to all the other provisions of this Act, and the penalties for non-compliance therewith. And any such vineyard or garden containing vines may be declared a quarantine, and the vines therein destroyed." The first schedule set forth the six districts into which the colony would be divided. It might be interesting to give some figures with regard to the wine-making industry. The excellence of our wines was generally admitted, and that many parts of the colony were eminently adapted for the growth of vines was evidenced by the appreciation in which our wines were held not only in Australia but in London. According to the latest returns there were 19,000 acres of vines in the colony, producing 1,342,000 gallons of wine, of an estimated value of £400,000. We exported last year 514,000 gallons, valued at £78,000, whereas 10 years before we only exported 180,000 gallons, worth £44,000. Those figures would show the magnitude of the industry, and how desirable it was to take precautions against so fearful a disease as phylloxera.

On the motion of the Hon. C. WlLLCOX the debate was adjourned till Tuesday next.

**PHYLLOXERA BILL 1899**

**Legislative Council, 15 November 1899, page272**

Adjourned debate on second reading (See page 256.)

The Hon. J. L. STIRLING did not intend to oppose the Bill, because it was the outcome of a desire on the part of those engaged in the vinegrowing industry to tax themselves to protect their own in­terests, and when producers desired to do that the Legislature should assist them. He understood that the provisions of the Bill were perfectly satisfactory to those con­cerned. There had been some objections, principally from the Tanunda district, but they had been withdrawn, as it was said that those who objected were induced to do so by misrepresentation.

On the motion of the Hon. F. BASE­DOW the debate was adjourned till next day.

**PHYLLOXERA BILL 1899**

**Legislative Council, 16 November 1899, page 275**

Adjourned debate on second reading. (See page 272.)

The Hon. F. BASEDOW said the Bill was a step in the right direction, and if it had been prepared by the Government he would have complimented them on it. It was, however, initiated by the parties interested—the winegrowers. There was considerable opposition by some growers to a former Bill of the same nature, bat that had been largely overcome. The Bill was drafted by a committee appointed by the winegrowers, and had been very care­fully considered by them, and also discussed at several public meetings. He hoped it would be the means of preventing the introduction to South Australia of a pest that had been a great scourge in other countries, and which even now was to be found in Victoria and New South Wales. If the pest got any 'hold in this colony it would be nothing short of a calamity, and the wine industry, which was one of the most important here, would suffer irre­trievable injury. He would not go into the details of the Bill, but would content himself with heartily supporting the second reading.

The Hon. C. WILLCOX said the Bill was a most important one from a com­mercial point of view, and he cordially supported it. Viticulture had assumed large proportions in South Australia, and he commended the Government for intro­ducing a measure which would enable the vignerons, who deserved every considera­tion from the Legislature, to prepare against and cope with the dreaded phylloxera. He was told that if the disease once got a hold of vineyards they would in three years be utterly ruined. Those interested in the industry were willing to submit to a tax to enable them to deal with the dis­ease, and he hoped the Bill would pass as quickly as possible.

On the motion of the Hon. A. R. ADDI­SON, the debate was adjourned.