**SPARROW DESTRUCTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1921**

**House of Assembly, 11 August 1921, page 207**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. T. Pascoe)—**A Bill similar to this was introduced by my predecessor (Hon. W. H. Harvey) in 1919, but the Council rejected it. I was one of those who helped in its rejection, but I think the reason why the Council refused to agree to it was largely because we did not then quite realise what its effect would be. It was placed on the Agenda Paper by the Western Australian representative for discussion at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Adelaide last year. On my advice however, he withdrew it, as it was a matter affecting only the interests of Western Australia and this State. Subsequently we had a conference in regard to the question, and so far as I can see all: that we are asked to do and all that the Bill provides for, is to perform a neighborly action to a neighboring State.; This measure will not cost us anything. Under it all that the Government will do will be to proclaim Western Australian officers inspectors under our Act, but those inspectors will receive no salary from the South Australian Government, as they will be paid by their own State. I have been informed by the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture that one station manager objected to the Western Australian inspectors coming on to his station near the border, and refused to allow them to take any action to kill sparrows; but the owners of the station subsequently repudiated his action and apologised for it. The Bill will simply allow the Western Australian inspectors to come into South Australian territory for a distance of 50 miles in order to ensure the destruction of sparrows. Most of our territory near the border is unoccupied. There may be one station that is just within 50 miles of the boundary. It seems to me that we were mistaken two years ago when we rejected the Bill then before the House.

The Hon. W. G. Duncan—Did you not vote against it?

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE—Yes; but having a fuller knowledge now of what the desire of the Western Australian Government really is, I think we are asked to do a very little thing at no cost to ourselves, and which we might well do as an act of grace to a neighboring State. One thing I may mention in connection with this measure is that the East-West railway line passes through country in South Australia which is not held on any lease, but as soon as it gets over the border it goes into territory all of which is leased by some Western Australian people, although some of it may not be stocked. Another peculiar thing is that right up the Western Australian border good water can be obtained, but on our side of the border there is only one bore within 50 or 60 miles of the boundary from which stock water is obtained. I move the second reading.

The Hon. D. J. GORDON—This is a measure which I consider we might deal with very promptly. The matter has been before the House beforehand by passing the Bill we will be fulfilling the requirements of a neighboring State without any expense to South Australia. I see no reason why any time should be taken up in the , consideration of a measure which carries on the face of it a request from the Western Australian Government for co-operation with Sonth Australia in dealing with the sparrow pest. I hope the measure will be passed, and the Western Australian Government given every facility for dealing with the pest with which that State is threatened.

Bill read a second time and passed through Committee.