**VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1957**

**House of Assembly, 8 October 1957, pages 966-7**

Second reading

**The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, for the Ho C. S. HINCKS,** having obta ined leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Vermin Act, 1931-1954. Read a first time.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, for the Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands)-- I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

Among other things, it provides that an owner or occupier, after receiving notice so to do must destroy all vermin on his land and half the width of adjoining roads. During what are termed the simultaneous vermin destruction months the land holder is under an obligation to destroy vermin whether or not he receives specific notice for the purpose.

In 1945 the law was extended to provide that a landholder must destroy rabbit burrows on his land and adjoining roads but this duty is limited to a case where notice to destroy is given by the council or other appropriate authority. There is no general duty to destroy burrows during the simultaneous vermin destruction months and the purpose of this Bill is to provide that such a duty will apply.

Accordingly, a number of amendments are made to the Vermin Act for the purpose of imposing on landholders the duty to destroy burrows during the simultaneous vermin destruction months without notice. However, as is now provided in the Act relating to the destruction of burrows after notice, it is provided that it is to be a defence to show that, owing to the physical features of the land in question, it is not practicable to destroy the burrows.

The only other amendment made by the Bill is contained in clause 2 and clause 3 The Act provides that the months for simultaneous vermin destruction may be changed from time to time with respect to any area and it is felt that adequate notice of what months are simultaneous vermin destruction months should be given to landholders. Clause 2 therefore requires the council to give at least a fort­night's notice of the advent of a simultaneous vermin destruction period by publication of a notice to that effect in a newspaper circulating in the locality. Clause 3 (6) provides that it is to be a defence to proceedings if it is proved that the requisite advertisement was not given.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.