**DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1861**

**Legislative Council, 20 August 1861, pages 635-6**

Second reading

The Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY moved the second reading of the Dog Act Amendment Bill. It was a short Act to amend the Dog Act passed last session. The particular object of the Bill was to reduce the fee from 10s. to 5s. It also increased the penalty for a breach of the law. He thought hon. members would consider the Bill an improvement of the old law. He moved that it be read a second time.

The Bill being read, the Council went into Committee.

In Committee.

Preamble postponed.

Clause 1, "Penalty for keeping unregistered dog over three months old."

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the indefiniteness of the word "months " denoting the age of dogs. It should be specified whether the months were lunar or calendar.

The Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY moved that the word "calendar" he inserted before "months."

Carried.

The Hon. Captain SCOTT thought three months rather too young an age to make dogs liable to a tax.

The Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY asked the Chairman for his opinion as to the power of the Council to make any alteration affecting the penalties set forth in the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN considered that the Council had power to make an alteration affecting the age at which dogs should be taxed.

The Hon. J. H. BARROW considered it was not merely a question of penalties, but of revenue, for if the age at which dogs were subject to the tax were altered from three months to six, not only would the payment be deferred, but as many of the dogs might die between the two periods, so much would be lost to the revenue altogether. He thought puppies of three months old might be just as troublesome as those of six months, and he would almost as soon have the one as the other at his horse's heels (Laughter.)

The Hon. C. G. EVERARD thought pups of three months old were perfectly useless, and should not be taxed.

The Hon. W. SCOTT thought six months a better age at which to commence the tax.

In reply to the Hon. C. Davies, the Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY said the former Act fixed the age when the tax should commence at six months.

The amendment was then put and lost.

A verbal amendment suggested by the CHAIRMAN was then carried, and the clause passed as amended.

Clause 2. "Dog may be substituted for registered dog dying."

The Hon. G. M. WATERHOUSE observed a peculiar form of expression, permitting the owner of a dog which had died to keep another "in the room thereof." What room was referred to? Ordinarily dogs were kept in kennels— (laughter)—he proposed that the words "the room" be struck out and the word "lieu" be inserted.

The amendment was agreed to, and another verbal alteration being effected, the clause was passed as amended.

Clause 3 passed as read.

Clause 4 passed with a verbal amendment.

Clause 6, "Travelling expenses may be paid to registrars."

The Hon. A. FORSTER thought the clause somewhat indefinite. It did not specify what registrars were referred to. He would propose the insertion of the words "under this Act." It did not appear that the payment of registrars under the Dog Act were especially referred to.

The CHAIRMAN considered the preamble indicated suf­ficiently that all that followed referred to the Dog Act.

The clause was then passed as printed.

Clause 7, " This and Dog Act of 1860 to be one Act."

At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN the word "construed" was inserted instead of "read together." (This Act and the Dog Act of 1860 shall be "construed" as one Act.)

The Hon. G. M. WATERHOUSE would take the opportunity of saying that he would have preferred seeing the Acts consolidated. Unprofessional persons could not understand the numerous Acts that were passed, and were often put to great inconvenience and expense in buying several Acts, while one consolidated Act might have been passed to answer the purpose of several on the same subject. It was important that the people should be enabled to understand the laws with as little difficulty as possible.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that there was no commencement clause.

The Hon. C. DAVIES thought the Date of Acts Bill provided for that.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no such Act at present.

The preamble was then passed with a verbal amendment.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill, and its third reading was made an Order of the Day for the next meeting of Council.