**VERMIN BILL 1914**

**Legislative Assembly, 7 October 1914, pages 854-5**

Second reading

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. F. W. Young) —This is a measure, the subject of which is to give effect to a policy similar to that indicated in the previous measure. There has been a desire that the Government should consolidate many of the laws, and on the Notice Paper to-day we have three such notices. Several more similar Bills are ready to be brought in at the right moment. This Bill alone, if carried, will achieve something that will be a feature of the Parliament now sitting. The Bill has been carefully drawn by the Parliamentary Draftsman. There may be instances in which the exact wording is not the same as in existing laws, because an attempt has been made to give the same effect in better language where better language was deemed desirable. Those matters will be brought clearly before the Committee, members of which will have an opportunity to study the Bill and satisfy themselves and the two Houses that the measure is a consolidation of the existing laws of the country. I move the second reading.

Mr. DENNY—I am bound to say that we have started in a very small way on a useful practice. Every legal practitioner must have noticed the considerable difference there is in the Commonwealth procedure and that of this State. Almost every Act that is now passed by the Commonwealth Parliament brings all the existing legislation on that particular subject right up to date. We are now doing that in a small way, but we are leaving several Acts in exactly the same position as they were before. I still think, notwithstanding the explanation of the Premier, that we are tampering ourselves, especially when we have had the opportunity of looking onto the Standing Orders. The rule says—“Every Bill for the consolidation of law shall, after its second reading in the originating House, be referred to a Select Committee, who shall have power to send for persons, papers, and records....” If referred to the Joint Committee, what can we consider? Nothing but the amendments made by the Joint Committee. The second reading of these Bills is a farce, as whatever the Bill is we have to pass it. The motion to introduce a Bill is merely formal, and the second reading in future, from the point of view of discussion by this House, will be a perfect farce.

Mr. Rudall—Do you suggest a discussion on the whole merits of the Bill ?

Mr. DENNY—Certainly not. But assuming the House proposed consolidation in connection with one clause against the wish of the House, what course have we? The new departure most objectionable, and the House is making a big mistake, and what the Premier has indicated should be done after the second reading, no ill effects would follow, and the Standing Orders would be complied with.

The Treasurer—We would have to proceed under the old methods.

Mr. DENNY—To some extent. The Premier knows that consolidating amending Acts is not a common practice. Joint Standing Order No. 18 makes it a solemn farce by preventing discussion on the second reading of consolidating measures. I ask the Premier, apart altogether from party aspects, that such matters may be brought before the House.

Bill read a second time, and referred to the Joint Standing Committee.