**SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE SCHEME AMENDMENT BILL 1910**

**House of Assembly, 29 November 1910, page1229-30**

Second reading

**The PREMIER,** in moving the second reading, said doubts had arisen whether the South-Eastern Drainage Act Amendment Act, 1908, relieved the district councils from the care and maintenance of the bridges and culverts which carried main and district roads across the drains in the south-eastern drainage district. Legal opinions had been given on the subject which were in conflict with each other, and the councils claimed that the Act imposed on the south-eastern management board the duty of looking after and maintaining the bridges and culverts, although the roads themselves continued under the care of the councils, which were bound to keep them in order. The Act was not intended to rerelieve the councils of any part of this duty, and the Bill in clause 3 made it quite clear that the obligation was still imposed on the councils. Clause 4 added several sections and reserves in the Hundred of Mount Muirhead to the district under the jurisdiction of the management board, which in the Act of 1908 was called “the south-east.” The reason for this was that a. small part of the course of the Reedy Creek drain, one of the principle drainage works in the district, was situated just outside the council districts which were in­cluded in “the south-east” and ran through or close to the sections and reserves mentioned in this clause. By the amending Act of 1909, this portion of the drain was placed under the control of the management board, as it was seen to be important that the whole of the course should be under one authority; but that was not suffi­cient to give the board power to rate those lands for the cost of maintenance. The holders of the lands had recently applied to the board to cleanse the drain, and it was only fair that they should bear a fair proportion of the cost. No doubt they were willing to do so, but in the absence of rating power there was no means of charging them. The effect of enlarging the south-east, so as to include the lands in question, would be to give the required power. The Bill, as introduced, did not provide for giving holders of the added lands any voice in the election of the assessment and management boards. It was considered that, owing to the smallness of the area, it was not worth while to make special provision; but the Act of 1908 made provision with regard to the piece of County of Cardwell comprised within the southeast, by deeming it to be included in the adjoining district. Similar provision should be made as regarded the area now added, so an amendment had been prepared to place it in a ward, and deem it to be within the adjoining district of Kennion. A new clause had been prepared to supplement section 10 of the amending Act of 1909, which also dealt with adding areas to the south-east. The section provided for placing such an area within a ward, but it might be found convenient for election purposes to deem it to be within a district other than that in which it was really situated. That would carry out the policy of the Act of 1908, as regarded part of County Cardwell, and of the proposed amendment of the Bill, as regarded part of the district of Mount Muirhead.

On the motion of Mr. SENIOR, the debate was adjourned until November 30