**VERMIN ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL 1928**

**House of Assembly, 2 October 1928, pages1149-50**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. G. F. Jenkins)—**The Vermin Act, 1014, makes provision for the erection of fencing capable of keeping out rabbits, wild dogs, and other vermin. Two classes of fence are described in the Act in the Second and Third Schedules thereto, and are known respectively as rabbit proof and vermin fences. In order to facilitate the erection of fences of this description, it is provided that loans may be made by the Government for that purpose. The main purpose of this Bill is to provide for an additional type of fence to be known as a dog-proof fence. This fence is fully described in Clause 9 of the Bill and is incorporated in the principal Act in a new Schedule thereto. The insertion of such a provision necessarily involves the making of a number of consequential amendments to the principal Act in order to give effect to the provisions of Clause 9. These amendments are therefore set out in the Schedule to the Bill. Section 207 of the principal Act provides that where an occupier of land within a Local Government area erects a boundary fence consisting of a rabbit proof fence, he may require the adjoining occupier to contribute to the cost. Interest at the rate of 4 per cent, per annum is payable on this proportion of the cost from the time the demand for payment was made. Clause I alters the rate of interest from 4 per cent, to 6 per cent., thus bringing the Vermin Act in line with the provisions of the Fences Act. Under section 209 of the principal Act, if an occupier of land erects a rabbit-proof, dog-proof, or vermin fence on the boundary of his land and a road, and any other occupier of land adopts any means whereby his land is enclosed by such fence, he is required, under the circumstances outlined in the section to pay to the owner of the fence interest at the rate of 5 percent per annum on half the value of the fence for so long as he continues to have the use of the fence in this manner. Clause 6 again brings the principal Act into conformity with the Fences Act, and increases the rate of interest payable from 5 per cent, to 8 per cent. Clause7 is a drafting amendment only, while clause 8 provides that the maximum penalty imposable on any person who leaves open any gateway in a rabbit-proof, dog-proof, or vermin fence shall be increased from £20 to £50. This will be in accordance with the penalty under the Crowe Lands and Pastoral Acts. I move the second reading.

Mr. PEDLER secured the adjournment of the debate until October 3.