**LOANS FOR FENCING SUSPENSORY BILL 1930**

**House of Assembly, 12 August 1930, page 596**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CEOWN LANDS (Hon. R. S. Richards)—**This Bill is introduced for the purpose of affording some measure of relief for district councils and occupiers of land who have obtained loans for fencing from or through the State Bank. The scheme of the Loans for Fencing Act, 1919, provides for the making of loans for fencing to district councils by the State. Bank. The councils in turn make loans for fencing to occupiers of land in their districts. These occupiers are responsible for the repayment of the loans to the councils who, however, are, solely liable to the bank for the repayment of the amount advanced to the councils. In the case of an occupier of land outside a district council district, the bank may make loans for fencing direct to the occupier. The failure and partial failure of the crops in certain parts of the State have made it most difficult for persons who have received assistance under the Loans for Fencing Act, 1919, to keep up the payment of instalments of principal and interest. This Bill therefore follows the precedent set by the Vermin Act Suspensory Act, 1915, and empowers the Commissioner of Crown Lands to suspend payment of the instalments of an loan for fencing for any period not exceeding two years. This power may be exercised in respect of any loans for fencing granted to a district council or an occupier of land before July 1, 1930. The period of suspension may commence from any date not earlier than July 1 1930, and shall expire not later than December 31, 1932. The effect of the suspension will be to relieve the district council or occupier from making any payments at all during the period of suspension and the term of the loan will be extended for a period equal to the period of suspension, so that the instalments payable will not be altered, but carried over during the period of suspension. Interest at 6 per cent, per annum on the amount of the loan unpaid will be charged during the period of suspension, and will be payable at such time after the expiration of the period of suspension as is fixed by the bank. Power is given to fix different periods of suspension, within the limits prescribed by the Bill, for different councils and occupiers, so that the relief afforded can be conditioned according to the necessities of the particular case. In every case where the Commissioner, in respect of any loan, grants a suspension under the Bill to a council, the obligations of occupiers to repay the loan to the council will be correspondingly suspended and the same relief which is afforded the council, will be extended to the occupiers liable to make repayments to the council in respect of the loan in question. I move the second reading.

Mr. REIDY obtained the adjournment of the debate until August 13.