EIGHT MILE CREEK SETTLEMENT (DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1970

**House of Assembly, 26 November 1970, page 3128**

Second reading

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Eight Mile Creek Settlement (Drainage Maintenance) Act, 1959-1965. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It makes a number of amendments to the rating provisions of the Eight Mile Creek Settlement (Drainage Maintenance) Act. The principal Act, as honourable members are no doubt aware, provides for the maintenance and upkeep of the drainage system serving portions of the hundreds of MacDonnell and Caroline, and imposes a levy upon landholders in the area by which the cost of such maintenance may be defrayed.

For the purpose of levying rates, the Land Board constituted under the Crown Lands Act is charged with the duty of making an assessment of the unimproved value of all land within the area. It is felt that this function can now, following the establishment of a separate Valuation Department, be carried out more appropriately by the Valuer-General. The Bill therefore amends the principal Act to enable the board to utilize the services of the Valuer-General. The principal Act provides for an appeal against a valuation in the first instance to the Minister followed by a further appeal to the Local Court. Now that the Land and Valuation Court has been established, it seems appropriate that this further appeal from the decision of the Minister should be heard by that court. The Bill therefore makes an appropriate amendment to achieve that purpose. The Bill also raises the interest payable on overdue rates from 5 per cent to 10 per cent a year. This brings the principal Act into conformity with the Crown Lands Act in this respect.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows: Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts a definition of the Land and Valuation Court in the principal Act. Clause 3 amends section 5 of the principal Act. The amendment enables the Land Board to delegate its valuing functions to the Valuer-General.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is making a second reading explanation, and there is too much audible conversation.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: New subsections (2) and (2a) are substituted. These subsections provide for reports to be made by the valuer and furnished to the landholder. Clause 4 makes a consequential amendment. Clauses 5, 6, 7 and 8 provide for an appeal from a decision of the Minister on a question of valuation to be heard by the Land and Valuation Court. Clause 9 amends section 13 of the principal Act. The section as amended will provide for a penalty at the rate of 10 per cent a year to accrue on overdue rates.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.