**CAMELS DESTRUCTION ACT AMEND­MENT BILL 1926**

**House of Assembly, 25 November 1926, pages1888-9**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. T. Butterfield)—**The Camels Destruction Act, 1925, passed during last session, provided that occupiers of land may, within certain limits and upon giving certain notices of their intention so to do, destroy camels trespassing upon their land. Many lessees of pastoral lands have taken advantage of this legislation with the result that a large number of straying camels have been destroyed in the pastoral areas of the State. One result of this course of events, however, has been that the camel owners, finding the pastoral leases closed to them for the purpose of depasturing their camels, have driven their camels into the various Government reserves. In very many cases no licence fees have been paid in respect of the camels on the reserves and as the Act of last session does not applyto these reserves, the authorities are unable to take any effective steps to reduce the number of camels concentrated in these reserves The South Australian Stockowners' Association has approached the Government on the matter, and has pointed out that hundreds of camels which were previously running large on lessees holdings, have been turned loose on the reserves. These camels, in many instances, eat out the reserves and then smash down fences and make their way on to ad­joining leasehold land. The Stockowners*’* Association, therefore, has suggested that the Camels Destruction Act, 1925, be amended so. that these reserves be brought within the scope of the Act and so that power to destroy unlicensed camels trespassing on these reserves be given. Clause 2 therefore inserts, two new sections in the principal Act. New section 3 provides that the Commissioner of Crown Lands may, in respect of any Crown lands, dedicated or reserved lands, give public notice in two issues of the “Government Gazette” and of both of two daily newspapers circulating in the district, and in one issue of a weekly newspaper circulating in the district of the intention to destroy tres passing camels on the land concerned. After the expiration of one month from the publication of the latest notice any Crown lands, ranger or person authorised in that behalf by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, may destroy all camels found trespassing upon the land within three months after the expiration of the one month as beforementioned. The section further provides that the Commissioner of Crown Lands may avail himself of the provisions of the section from time to- time. New section 4 provides that if a licence is granted, pursuant to paragraph (e) of subdivision II. of section 245 of the Crown Lands Act, 1915, in respect of any camel and the said camel has attached round its neck a disc issued for the purpose under the authority of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, then, for the purposes of the principal Act and of new section 3, such camel shall not, during the term of the licence, be deemedto be trespassing upon any land. Under this- section if a camel is licensed under section 5 of the Crown Lands Act, 1915, for the purpose of being depastured on any Government reserve and an authorised disc is attached round its neck, there will be no power under the Act to destroy the camel while on the reserve, or even if strays from the reserve, so long, as the licence is continued in force and the authorised disc is attached to the camel. This Act has been of considerable benefit, because the camels which have been running in­discriminately over the northern portion of the State have been a curse during recent years. The purpose for which they were encouraged *to* come there has been superseded by motor transport largely, and now the pastoralists desire to get rid of them. In one or two in­stances where the pastoralists had the right to shoot camels they have shot carrying camels, which has inflicted hardship on the carriers. This Bill will give protection to owners who take out licences. There are thousands of camels in the north which are a nuisance, and the right of the Crown to destroy camels on reserves at any time will be a very useful provision. Dur­ing the past year we have been able to destroy many camels under the Stock Diseases Act, and this Bill will, to some extent, reduce our difficulties.

Mr. NICHOLLS secured the adjournment of the debate until November 30.