**WILD DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1929**

**House of Assembly, 6 August 1929, page 624**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. G. F. Jenkins)—**Provision is made under the Wild Dogs Act, 1912, for the rating of pastoral lands and for the payment of the proceeds of the rate into a fund called the Wild Dogs Fund. The moneys in this fund are used for the purpose of paying for scalps and tails of wild dogs. Section 7 provides that the Treasurer shall subsidise the fund at the rate of a pound for every pound of the rates raised as beforementioned. In the Act of 1912 the total amount to be so paid by the Treasurer in any one calendar year was fixed at £2,100. This amount was increased in 1919 to £4,000. The amounts required in past years for payment for scalps have steadily decreased. The number of scalps paid for in 1923 was 34,397. This number has decreased year by year, so that last year the number was 17,201, and this year, owing to the different arrangements made under the Act passed last session for the payment of scalps, it is estimated that the number of scalps which will be presented for payment will be about 10,000. The amount which it is expected to raise by the levying of rates during the current year is £5,700, although the rates were in November 1928, in the case of land within vermin-fenced districts, reduced from 9d. a square mile to 6d., and in the case of other land, reduced from Is. a square mile to 9d. It follows, therefore, that the amount which will be raised by the imposition of rates will of itself be sufficient to meet the estimated cost of payment for scalps in the current year, and that the maximum of the Government subsidy, as now fixed at £4,000, is higher than is necessary in the existing circumstances. Clause 2 therefore amends section 7 of the principal Act and provides that the Government subsidy in any one calendar year shall not exceed £2,000, instead of £4,000, as at present provided. Under section 8 of the principal Act the Treasurer is empowered to make advances to the fund pending the collection of rates. The section provides that interest at the rate of 3 per cent, per annum is to be paid on these advances. This rate of interest, which was adequate in 1912, is insufficient to cover the cost to the Treasury at the current rates of interest. Clause 3 therefore amends section 8 of the principal Act, and fixes the rate of interest payable on the advances made by Treasurer under the section at 5 per cent, per annum. In four years the Wild Dog fund has grown until to-day there is a credit of £16,401. Having that in mind, the Government last year on my recommendation, decided to reduce the tax from 9d. and Is. to 6d. and 9d.

The Hon. T. Butterfield—Why not increase the scalp payment?

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDs The Government are in communication with the Federal Government, and have asked them to increase their subsidy from 5s. to at least the amount paid by the South Australian Government. A few days ago I told the deputation from the Stockowners’ Association that if the Government could induce the Federal authorities to increase the scalp payment from 5s. to 10s,

I was prepared to recommend to Cabinet that the payment be increased to a similar amount in South Australia. The trend of communication into South Australia is north to south and this means that so long as South Australia pays a higher rate than the Federal Government, doggers in the Northern Territory will attempt to bring their scalps to South Australia for payment. I move the second reading.

The Hon. T. BUTTERFIELD secured the adjournment of the debate until August 7.