**WILD DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1928**

**House of Assembly, 2 October 1928, page 1149**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. G. F. Jenkins)—**The Wild Dogs Act, 1912, provides for the establishment of a Wild Dogs' Fund, which is comprised of the proceeds of a rate levied on pastoral land. This fund is subsidised by the Government at the rate of a pound for a pound, and is used for the purpose of securing the destruction of wild dogs in the State. Under the present scheme of the Act, various persons are appointed authorised persons in various parts of the pastoral areas, whose duties are to receive the scalps and tails of wild dogs brought in by trappers and other persons, to count the same, to certify the number, and then to destroy the scalps and tails by fire. These scalps and tails are then paid for out of the fund at the current rate. Various abuses have arisen under his scheme, and at the present time an authorised officer and two other persons, who have pleaded guilty to practising frauds upon the Act, are awaiting sentence. It is obvious that the weak point in the existing scheme is that payment for scalps is made on the certificate of the authorized person, and that no check on this certificate is possible as under the Act the scalps are supposed to be destroyed by the authorised person. Clauses 5 to 8 of the Bill, therefore, amend the Act so that in future authorised persons will certify as at present that tails and scalps of wild dogs have been presented to them for payment by trappers and others, but the authorised person will then be required to forward the tails and scalps to the Secretary for Lands at Adelaide. The tails and scalps will then be counted at Adelaide, and afterwards destroyed. Payment will be made only for such tails and scalps as reach the Secretary for Lands at Adelaide. Clauses 8 and 4 make amendments to the Act consequential upon the provisions of the Bill amending the Vermin Act, 1914, which is now before the House and which provides for a new type of fence for the purposes of that Act to be called a *“* dog-proof fence.” Clause 4 also exempts land within an irrigation area from the rating provisions of the principal Act. I move the second reading.

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