**GAME ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1891**

**Legislative Council, 28 October 1891, pages 1741-2**

Second reading.

**The Hon. E. WARD**, in moving the second reading, said the Bill really provided for a close season for kangaroos. It would be a pity if the fauna was allowed to be exterminated. (Hear, hear.) He remembered that thirty years ago it was no uncommon thing for stations to pay for 30,000 or 40,000 scalps per annum, and there were more kangaroos on the country than the country was capable of carrying sheep. (Hear, hear.) That was changed now, and in those parts scarcely a kangaroo was to be seen. (Hear, hear.) Kangaroo-skins had risen in value, and if kangaroo fences could be invented it would pay better to breed kangaroos than sheep. He did not intend to pass the clauses as contained in the Bill, and he had several alterations to make, which he hoped would meet the view of several members who did not approve of the Bill as it stood. He agreed generally with the new clauses indicated by Mr. Stirling. He asked for the second reading to be agreed, to and then he would consult with Mr. Stirling in reference to the new clauses. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. J. L. STIRLING had for years viewed with regret that not only kangaroos but many other fauna were becoming extinct. Legislation for their protection had, however, so far had a desirable effect. In 1888 no less than £73,000 worth of kangaroo-hides were exported; in 1889, £47,000; in 1890, £44,000; and 1891, £43,000. The real cause for diminution of kangaroos was the license given to lessees to kill them at any time on Crown lands. In the past they had been regarded as a pest because their skins were not of the present value. In order to carry out his views he had suggested a number of amendments. Kangaroo Island produced a skin far above the value of that in any other part of the colony. The kangaroos’ habits were nomadic. He proposed that the Governor might have power to proclaim breeding reserves, and that no one should be allowed to kill kangaroos without license from Crown lessees. If they prohibited lessees from killing for a certain season they should give them a *quid pro quo* in licenses, and enable them to encourage the industry. Another clause he proposed imposed penalties. He also suggested that the Governor should have power to establish kangaroo farms. Much of our country would be more profitably used for that purpose than for any other. He did not believe they could keep kangaroos in by fences. Though joeys had been found at all seasons, there was a recognised breeding season, and a close period would enable the kangaroos to put their young in a position to do for themselves. He did not anticipate any opposition to the Bill.

The Hon. F. KRICHAUFF said some little time ago gentlemen interested in kangaroo-skins in the United States addressed letters to Australia expressing the hope that the Legislature would take steps to prevent the extinction of the kangaroos. He had brought the matter before the Assembly in that direction. It was to the interest of the kangaroo - hunters themselves that the game should be protected. He therefore hoped that some districts should be for a number years protected, because so far as he knew the kangaroos bred all the year round.

Bill read a second time.