**WILD DOG AND FOX DESTRUCTION BILL. 1889**

**Legislative Assembly, 30 October 1889, pages 1378-9**

Second reading

The MINISTER of EDUCATION (Hon. J. H. Gordon) moved the second reading of the Bill. The measure, he believed, was much required by pastoralists, as great damage was being done by wild dogs to the sheep. The foxes in the south-east had multiplied so much that they had become almost as much a nuisance as the dingoes. The scalp-money would be raised by taxes, clauses 3 and 6 stating:—A tax is hereby imposed of the sum of 6d. on every square mile, or portion of a square mile of land held under any lease from the Crown, which tax shall be due and payable by the lessee on the thirty-first day of January in each year, commencing on the thirty-first day of Januarys one thousand eight hundred and ninety, and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said province, and shall be applied to the formation of a fund for the purpose of paying for the destruction of wild dogs and foxes, as hereinafter provided.” Then “ The Treasurer of the said province is hereby authorised to pay out of the proceeds of the said tax, in respect of all wild dogs or foxes killed upon any lands outside the boundaries of any corporation or district council. a sum, to be annually fixed by the Commissioner and notified in the Government Gazette, not exceeding ten shillings for every such wild dog or fox ” Clause 12 provided for the limitation of the Act It stated—44 No liability shall be imposed upon the Com­missioner or Treasurer by virtue of this Act for the payment of any scalp money, except to the extent of the amount which shall for the time being be standing to the credit of the fund created by this Act and available for the payment of scalp money, and nothing herein contained, or hereby implied, shall affect or alter any covenant or liability made by or imposed upon, or hereafter to be made by or imposed upon, any lessee with reference to the destruction of vermin.” The Bill on the whole was a simple one. and would commend itself to members cognisant of the interests of pastoralists. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. H. SCOTZ seconded the second reading of the Bill, and said the thanks of all pastoralists were due to the Government for introducing the Bill, and especially to the Attorney-General for his trouble to get the Bill introduced on a previous occasion. He did not agree with the provision for taxation. The owners of sheep, the persons most interested In the matter, should contribute these taxes.

The Hon. J. BOSWORTH thought the Bill was a desirable one, and which would prove a benefit to sheepowners and others. The settlers would be willing to pay the taxes themselves rather than that there should be no measure at all. A beneficial system of organised destruction would be started if the Bill were passed. He would support the second reading.

The Hon. A. HAY thought that when there were large portions of Crown lands left unoccupied the Government should bear part of the expense. There could be no doubt but that the Bill was required, as immense damage was done to the sheep by the wild dogs. He thought the Government for unoccupied lands should contribute to the general fund.

The Hon. J. WARREN supported the Bill, but he did not do so as strongly as he would have if the preceding Bill had not been passed, as the Government might make an improper use of money raised. He hoped the Government would contribute in proportion to My unoccupied Crown lands, wnloh not dealt with

might Effect seriously the efforts of the supporters of the Bill Id seeking to keep down the vermin which did •uoh harm to the flocks. He hoped the Government \*t the eleventh hour would see their way olear to do something to help the settlers to destroy the dogs. He supported the seoond reading, and hoped the Bill would be passed.

The Bill was then read a second time.

In committee.

All the clauses and the schedules passed.