**SOUTH-EAST DRAINAGE BILL 1877**

**House of Assembly, 18 December 1877, page 2114**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. T. Playford),** in moving the second reading, said the Bill was to enable the people within the limits of the Drainage Board to elect their own Board. A great deal of ill-feeling had been caused by the Board being nominated by the Government. The Board as proposed in the Bill would be constituted precisely the same as District Councils. It would be placed under the control of the Crown Lands Department instead of the Public Works Department. Corporations and District Councils were already under the Crown Lands Department, and it was thought better that this Board should be under the same control, especially as the Surveyor-General, who took great interest in the drainage in the South-East, would have it under his more immediate care. He only proposed to strike out one clause, namely, that providing that the members should be remunerated at the rate of one guinea per meeting each. Members of District Councils had to work for nothing, and he did not see why members of this Board should not do the same. It would be competent for the ratepayers to allow expenses and refreshments, or something for the stalling of the members’ horses, as was done in connection with some District Councils. The measure was an important one, and he hoped it would be passed this session. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was carried, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Bill was then formally taken into Committee the House afterwards resuming, and the Committee obtaining leave to sit again next day.