The Hon. J. E. CORDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.
Second reading.

The Hon. G. D. ROWE (Attorney-General).

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Object of the Vermin Act is to reduce the population of vermin, that is, to reduce the numbers of verminous animals in the state. The Bill seeks to achieve this by providing for the appointment of a Vermin Officer to reduce the population of vermin and to impose penalties on persons who fail to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Section 3 substitutes for sections 43 and 44 of the principal Act new sections 43, 44 and 45. The new section 43 (1) makes it an offence for any person, without lawful excuse, to remove or destroy the cause of damage or removal, and to place the owner of any vehicle, the driver of any vehicle, or any other person engaged in the removal of vermin from a property, in a position where the removal of vermin is not lawful or authorised by the Act, or in a position where the removal of vermin is not lawful or authorised by the Act.

The penalty for the offence is a fine not exceeding $200 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months. Subsection (2) of the section has the same effect as the repealed section except for an increase in the penalty as stated earlier. Subsection (3) of the section empowers the court in addition to the fine and imprisonment to order the removal of any vermin or cause of damage or removal.