

of the report was sent the suggestion that the its attitude to the pro- the report was also for- ber of Parliament for his

re not been received from proper examination to be ns of local government proposals. It follows that ot yet in a position to als of the committee, ments of councils and ven if the Government e recommendations of the hout any necessary mod- e impracticable for the ed for consideration by the present session. How- erties of the land values ill obtain and, in order eulties until such time an be considered, this order to increase the d values councils. As e committee's report, such solve the problem, but e Government necessary proposed by the Bill in mediate needs of these

Local Government Act nit of the general rate councils rating under land ound, whilst section 244 of the general rate and to exceed 1s. 3d. in the d by clauses 3 and 4 to 33½ per centum in the councils so that the maxi- be increased to 1s. 4d. maximum total of the rate increased to 1s. 8d. 246 now provides that, ouncil whose assessment values, the general rate 1½d. nor more than 4½d. der section 247 the total special rates is not to ind.

nt by some district coun- system that, as regards are similar to corporate l values in townships ose in corporate towns. used by clauses 6 and 7 ating under land values

shall have the same rating limits as those proposed by clauses 3 and 4 for municipal councils, that is, a limit of 1s. 4d. in the pound for the general rate and a limit of 1s. 8d. in the pound for the total of the general and any special rates. It should be noted that, under subsection (2) of section 214 a council may declare a differential rate for any part of its area and that, under section 234, a district council may declare a further differential rate for lighting or sanitary purposes within any ward or township within a ward. It is thus competent for a district council to levy upon township land, which receives the services not given to other parts of the area, a higher rate than the rate levied upon other land in the area. The remaining clauses make other amendments to the Act which are consequential upon the amendments made by clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7. I move the second reading.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

Second reading.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Midland—Attorney-General)—The Dog Fence Act, 1946, makes provision for the establishment of a dog proof fence across the northern part of the State. In order to maintain this fence, provision is made for the rating of pastoral land south of the fence and for the payment to the lessees of land on which the dog fence is situated of sums to be applied towards the maintenance of the fence. The Act is administered by the Dog Fence Board. This Bill is introduced for the purpose of making some administrative changes in the Act which have been suggested by the board. The scheme of the Act is that the dog fence is to be erected and maintained by the lessees of the land on which the fence is situated. In instances, however, part of the fence may be situated on Crown lands and the board has suggested that, in such a case, the board should undertake the duty of establishing and maintaining the fence. Power to carry out this work is accordingly given by clause 2. Where practicable, the board would arrange for this work to be done by a lessee of land in the vicinity and the clause provides that the board may make arrangements of this nature.

As before stated, the scheme of the Act is that lessees of land upon which the dog fence is situated are to be paid an annual amount which is to be applied by them towards the

maintenance of the fence. On occasion, the fence is situated on the common boundary of two properties and is thus owned jointly. In such cases, it is obviously desirable that the obligation to maintain the fence should be undertaken by one of the joint owners either on the basis that one should undertake the maintenance of the whole fence or that a portion of the fence should be maintained by each of them. In order to enable arrangements of this nature to be made, clause 3 authorizes the board, in such circumstances, to make the payment in question to such of the lessees as undertakes the obligation to maintain.

Clause 4 is ancillary to clause 2. If the board itself is to undertake the work of establishing the fence on Crown lands, it will be necessary for the board to borrow money for the purpose. The clause therefore authorizes the Treasurer to borrow, under the Financial Agreement, any amounts necessary for this purpose and for the Treasurer to lend to the board any moneys so borrowed. The Bill is limited to two matters arising out of the administration of the 1946 Act. The first is to allow the board to erect and maintain a fence on Crown lands, and that seems only right and proper. The second matter relates to fences on a common boundary between two properties owned jointly by those people, and gives the board power to make arrangements with either one or both of the lessees to maintain the existing fence.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Can the board borrow an unlimited amount?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—The board will erect and maintain the fence. To make improvements, the board of course must have money, which can be loaned by the Treasurer. That money is then repaid to him.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—I understood you to say that the Treasurer had power to obtain an unlimited loan.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—Only a loan of the amount necessary in respect of a fence on Crown lands. I move the second reading.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### AGENT-GENERAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—Hon. members will recollect that last year a Bill came before Parliament to extend the term of the present Agent-General,