The Hon. W. SCOTT thought six months a better age at which to commence the tax. In reply to the Hon. C. DAVIES, the Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY said that the former Act fixed the age when the tax should commence at six months. The amendment was then put to the vote. A verbal amendment suggested by the CHAIRMAN was then carried, and the clause passed as amended.

Clause 2. "Dog may be substituted for registered dog styling.

The Hon. G. B. WATERHOUSE observed a peculiarity in the clause—namely, that the words "other than in the room thereof." Was that room referred to? Ordinary dogs were kept in kennels—places where the words "therein" would be inserted and the word "there" be inserted. The amendment was agreed to, and another verbal alteration made, and the clause passed as amended.

Clause 3. passed as read.

Clause 4. passed with a verbal amendment.

Clause 5. "Fees paid as are payable to registrars." The Hon. A. FORSTER thought the clause somewhat inadequate. It did not specify what registrars were referred to. He moved the insertion of the words "under this Act." It did not appear that the payment of registrars was in any way connected with the Act. The CHAIRMAN considered the preamble indicated sufficient that all that followed referred to the Dog Act.

The clause was then passed as printed.

Ch. 33. This and Dog Act of 1869 to be one Act."

At the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN the word "const" was inserted instead of "constr." The Act and the sub-section shall be construed as one Act."

The Hon. G. B. WATERHOUSE would take the opportunity of saying that he would have preferred seeing the Acts consolidated. Unprofessional persons could not understand the Act, and when they were passed, and were often treated with great inconvenience and expense in buying several Acts, while one consolidated Act might have been passed to answer the purpose of several on the same subject. It was important that the people should be enabled to understand the laws with as little difficulty as possible. The CHAIRMAN suggested that there was no commencement of the Act.

The Hon. C. DAVIES thought the Date of Acts Bill provided for the clause.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no such Act at present. The preamble was then passed with a verbal amendment.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill, and its third reading was on Order of the Day for the next meeting of Council.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of a message from the House of Assembly, signifying the concurrence of the House with the amendments of the Council in the Post-Office Act Amendment Bill.

ASSESSMENT ON STOCK ACT AMENDMENT BILL—DEBATE RESUMED.

The Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY said, in moving the second reading of that Bill, the subject had been well discussed during the last session. The object of the present Bill was to raise the scale of the assessment on stock. The former Act contained a maximum and minimum, but the present Bill, by raising the word "situation," was to be in the present Bill, and had led to much discussion elsewhere. The Bill as originally laid before Parliament did not contain the word "situation."—(Laughter.) The assessment being levied simply according to the carrying capacities of the runs. Particles holding poor runs would not be assessed to the same amount as if they had good runs. Much land would be not worth taking up in consequence of its poor quality; it had been proved that a great deal of colonization was to be done by the visitation of the colony where the sheep were to be brought to the mile. It was desirable in their legislation to facilitate as far as possible the production of exports, and that would be done by the new Bill. He had already said that the word "situation" was not in the Bill, originally introduced into Parliament, but had been inserted in the other House; he had reason to consider the matter, but he might say that he thought any alteration the Council might make in that word would probably meet with opposition from the other House, and the Bill would thereby be imperilled. Rather than such a result should happen, hon. members had, in the previous session, presented a Bill to the Government in the private feeling on the matter. The Government would take every guarantee that the work would be done by the party entrusted with it in the house. The matter had been an important one since 1858, and it was desirable that it should be settled. It was desirable that the assessment should be made according to carrying capacities of the runs. They were formerly assessed according to the number of sheep actually upon them, but that plan was attended with inconvenience. They had a plan to travel over the country, and the occupier could place what sheep on the run he thought best.