



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO ET QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

A.D. 1895.

No. 634.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Vermin.

[Assented to, December 20th, 1895.]

BE it Enacted by the Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the said province, in this present Parliament assembled, as follows:

1. In addition to the powers conferred upon Vermin Boards under the Vermin Districts Act, No. 597 of 1894, Boards may expend any portion of their rates in paying for the destruction of wild dogs or foxes on land which the Commissioner, by notice in the *Government Gazette*, shall declare to be sufficiently fenced by vermin-proof fencing. The Commissioner shall not declare any land to be sufficiently fenced with vermin-proof fencing unless he is satisfied that by vermin-proof fencing and natural or other boundaries or any one or more of such means the same is sufficiently protected against an influx of vermin.

Power to Vermin Boards to pay for wild dog scalps.

2. Loans to District Councils and Trusts and to Vermin Boards under the said Act No. 597 of 1894, with the interest thereon, shall be repaid in equal annual instalments extending over a period of twenty years instead of ten years as provided for in the said Act.

Loans to Boards to be repaid in twenty years.

3. It shall be lawful for District Councils to expend any portion of their rates in paying for the destruction of rabbits, wild dogs, and foxes on unoccupied Crown or waste lands, reserves, or roads.

District Councils may pay for destruction of rabbits, dogs, and foxes.

4. It shall be lawful for any District Council to declare an annual rate of not exceeding Three Pence in the Pound on all ratable property

District Councils may declare rate for destroying vermin

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property in the district for the purpose of providing funds to pay for the destruction of rabbits and foxes, and such rate may be levied and recovered in the same manner as the general rate under "The District Councils Act, 1887": Provided that land enclosed with a vermin-proof fence, which in the opinion of the District Council is erected and maintained in an effective manner, shall be exempt from such rate.

Vermin rates.

5. It shall be lawful for any District Council to declare an annual rate of not exceeding Twenty Shillings per thousand on all sheep owned by any ratepayer and depasturing within the district for the purpose of providing funds to pay for the destruction of wild dogs, and such rate may be levied and recovered in the same manner as the general rate under "The District Councils Act, 1887."

Declaration *re* sheep depastured.

6. For the purpose of ascertaining the sum to be paid by each ratepayer, every person in any district in which the council shall have declared a rate under clause 5 who shall be the owner of any sheep shall make a statutory declaration in the month of September in each year, setting out the average number of sheep he shall have had depasturing within the district during the previous twelve months, and the number so declared shall be the number on which the rate is levied.

Penalty on Corporations and District Councils failing to enforce suppression of rabbits.

7. If, after the expiration of three months after the coming into operation of this Act, any Municipal Corporation or District Council shall fail to strictly enforce the laws relating to the suppression and destruction of rabbits, any adjoining District Council or Municipal Corporation may give notice in writing of such default to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Commissioner shall, immediately upon receipt of such notice, cause an inspection to be made of the municipality or district in respect of which the notice was given by a Government inspector, and by the mayor or chairman, and the vermin inspector of the complaining Municipal Corporation or District Council, and such Government inspector shall, after making such inspection, report to the Commissioner, and the Commissioner may, if he shall be satisfied that the complaint was well founded, give one month's notice to the Municipal Corporation or District Council to strictly enforce such laws; and any Municipal Corporation or District Council failing to comply with such notice shall be liable to a penalty of not less than Ten Pounds nor more than Fifty Pounds for a first offence, and not less than Fifty Pounds and not more than One Hundred Pounds for a second or subsequent offence, to be paid to the Treasurer for the general purposes of the Province.

Councils may form Vermin Boards.

8. Any two or more contiguous District Councils may, for the purpose of more effectively carrying out the provisions of all Acts dealing with the suppression of vermin, each nominate annually one of their members as a member of a Board to be called the Associated District Councils Vermin Board, and the members so nominated shall (unless they cease to be members of the council by which they were nominated,

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nominated, or resign their seats on the Board) continue in office for one year from the date of the proclamation of such Board, and the Governor may by Proclamation in the *Government Gazette* declare the formation of any such District Councils Vermin Board, the names and residences of the members thereof, and the boundaries and limits of District Councils under their control.

9. When any such District Councils Vermin Board is so nominated and duly proclaimed, all the powers given to District Councils by any Act relating to the destruction of vermin within the boundaries of District Councils shall be vested in such Vermin Board, and they shall be empowered to engage an inspector or inspectors and expend such moneys as may be appropriated from its rates by each of the Associated District Councils for the purposes of such District Councils Vermin Board, and generally to undertake such duties and exercise such powers and rights as are conferred by District Councils under any Act dealing with the suppression of vermin. Contributions by all Associated District Councils towards the expenditure incurred by the Associated District Councils Vermin Board shall be made *pro rata* according to the assessment of such District Councils.

Power of Vermin Boards.

10. When any member so nominated shall cease to be a member of the District Council by which he was nominated as a member of the Board, or shall resign, his seat thereon shall be declared to be vacated, and a new nomination by such District Council shall be made: Provided, however, that each of such Associated District Council Vermin Boards shall only continue in existence for three years from the date of the proclamation of such Board, unless the Governor by Proclamation in the *Government Gazette* declares that any such Board shall be continued for a further period from time to time, in which case a fresh nomination of members shall take place as hereinbefore provided.

Resignation of member of Vermin Board.

11. The provisions of Part VI. of the District Councils Act, 419 of 1887, relating to the conduct of meetings of the Council, shall, so far as they are applicable thereto, regulate the meetings of any Associated District Councils Vermin Board.

Part VI., District Councils Act, applicable to Vermin Boards.

12. Section 9 of Act 597 of 1894 is hereby amended by adding the word "or" after the word "provided" in the third line.

Amendment of sec. 9 of Act of 1894.

13. Section 41 of Act 597 of 1894 is hereby amended by providing that every person entitled to vote at any election for a Vermin Board may, subject to conditions provided in this section, give one vote for every fifty square miles or fractional part of fifty square miles of ratable property up to two hundred square miles, and one additional vote for every two hundred square miles or fractional part of two hundred square miles over the first two hundred square miles. This provision shall also apply to joint tenants and tenants in common.

Voting power for Boards.

14. Sections

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Incorporation.

14. Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13 of this Act shall be incorporated with the Vermin Districts Act, No. 597 of 1894, and the other sections of the Act shall be incorporated with "The District Councils Act, 1887."

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to
this Bill.

T. FOWELL BUXTON, Governor.