

I know what is involved. We always like to have *Hansard* available the next morning so that we can read it but sometimes honourable members themselves are not available to check their own copies of *Hansard*. *Hansard* likes to produce something that is readable and acceptable to members themselves. In view of the honourable member's request I shall ask that everything possible be done to speed up the system to assist members.

#### AMUSEMENTS DUTY (FURTHER SUSPENSION) BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This short Bill will further suspend the levy of amusements duty under the Stamp Duties Act until July 1, 1967. Under the existing legislation amusements duty will automatically come into force again on July 1 of next year. As honourable members know, the collection of this duty has been suspended since entertainment tax was imposed by the Commonwealth as a wartime measure in 1943. Although this tax was abolished in 1953 the State did not re-enter the field and therefore since it is not the policy of this Government at present to re-impose amusements duty this Bill is introduced for the further suspension until the end of June in 1967.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

For some time it has been the practice of cattle-owners to attach permanent ear-tags to their cattle instead of branding them. Under the Brands Act, however, it is illegal to punch a hole in the ear of cattle for the insertion of a tag; ear-tags are permitted only in the case of sheep. The purpose of the Bill is to legalize the practice of attaching ear tags to cattle. It is considered desirable to encourage this practice because it saves unnecessary damage to hides from branding and permits easy identification of offspring of artificial insemination in the bull-proving programmes conducted by the Artificial Breeding Board.

Clause 4 accordingly inserts in the principal Act a new section 21a which expressly permits an owner of a registered brand or stud-stock brand to attach an ear-tag to his cattle. Subsection (2) of the new section limits the matters which may be specified on ear-tags to recognized brands and numerals to identify particular stock. The other subsections provide that, in making a hole for the insertion of an ear-tag, the owner shall not interfere with an existing earmark or tattoo and that the owner will not be making an earmark that is unlawful by virtue of other provisions of the Act unless the hole is unnecessarily large.

Clauses 5, 6 and 8 are consequential amendments in order that the penal provisions of the Act relating to earmarks will not apply to an owner when inserting an ear-tag. Clause 7 permits the use of a special brand to identify cattle that have been artificially inseminated (by the Artificial Breeding Board or independently by the owners) or that are the progeny of cattle that have been artificially inseminated.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 28. Page 701.)

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES (Southern): Before I make my contribution to this debate I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed yesterday on the motion of sympathy to the relatives of Sir Walter Duncan. I speak as someone who has been here only a few years, but nevertheless I feel that I knew Sir Walter well. All the oratory and sincere tributes paid to him yesterday cannot really describe the wonderful character I believe Sir Walter had. Probably nobody will ever be able to describe his wonderful cheerfulness under all circumstances, and I doubt whether we shall see in this Parliament his equal for the individuality of character for many years to come. He was surely the classic example of the desirable individuality in a member of Parliament. There was no sense of conformity in his make-up. I, and other members, will remember for a long time his original line of thought and action.

First of all, in dealing with the Bill, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader, the Hon. Mr. Story, about housing in country areas. I believe all honourable members of this Chamber are well aware of the great contribution the Housing Trust has made to

outainers and, in an effort to help cream, no increase in price has been made since 1957. As mentioned earlier, the consumer in the metropolitan area of Adelaide has been used to a high viscosity cream and it is considered that any attempt to place a cream of low viscosity on the market would be unlikely to meet with success.

#### WOMBATS.

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE: A few weeks ago I asked the Chief Secretary whether the Government would take steps to see that wombats were not entirely eliminated in certain districts. Has he a statement to make on that matter?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: This, too, is a matter which came under the notice of the Minister of Agriculture, who referred it to the Minister of Fisheries and Game, and he reports throughout the State there is an open season for both species of wombat from January 1 to June 30. In the Counties of MacDonnell and Robe, and Portree Station, all of the State west of a line from the Australian border 135 degrees longitude to the top of Spencer Gulf (including all of the Peninsula) there is no close season. Of course, this excludes sanctuary and reserved

Wombats can cause considerable damage, particularly in relation to fences. Ample opportunity exists under present regulations for landowners to reduce wombat numbers if they are in excess proportions. There has been a certain amount of publicity concerning commercial utilisation of wombats for pet food and other uses. Reports have been exaggerated and there is no likelihood of the animals being hunted to the extent suggested. Officers of the Department of Fisheries and Game will do a check on the situation. It cannot be stated that wombat numbers at present are as low as to warrant complete protection under the Animals and Birds Protection Act.

#### COUNCIL RATING.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice): In view of the wave of discontent prevalent in the municipalities, is it the intention of the Government to set up a commission to investigate existing systems of rating and to report to Parliament?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Investigations have been made in the past by the local government rating committee as to the existing systems of assessments, and the proposals put forward by the committee have been considered by the Government. So far these proposals have not

received acceptance by councils generally, although it is understood that the matter is now being considered by bodies representing local government. It may be that in the near future a request will be made to the Government to investigate the matter. Under these circumstances it would not appear necessary to set up a commission to inquire into the matter.

#### SURVEYORS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Surveyors Act, 1935-1956. Read a first time.

#### BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The object of this Bill is to prohibit the placing or application of unscourable substances on the wool of sheep. The reason for the proposed prohibition is that manufacturers have complained that Australian wools have sometimes been found to contain tar, enamel paint and other unscourable substances and the special treatment necessary to get rid of those substances from wool increases the cost of manufacture considerably, and consequently adversely affects the price the primary producer can expect to receive.

In order to meet this problem section 28 of the Brands Act was amended in 1955 so as to read as follows:

A paint brand shall be made with a substance prescribed by regulation and shall be of a colour prescribed by regulation.

Pursuant to this amendment regulations were promulgated to ensure that only scourable branding fluids would be used for registered paint brands, and (as black substances could be mistaken for tar), that the colour black should not be used for any paint brand. However, this does not prevent the use of black or unscourable substances for purposes other than branding, for instance, placing unregistered marks on sheep or tar on wounds. Fortunately such acts do not occur frequently but when they do occur the whole industry in South Australia is affected and the Government feels that the only effective means of protecting the industry in this State is to prescribe a penalty for such acts.

Accordingly, clause 3 amends section 70 of the principal Act by inserting therein a new paragraph under which it will be an offence to

place or apply on any sheep or on the fleece or skin of a sheep, whether for the purpose of branding or otherwise, any tar, paint or other substance that is black in colour or any substance whatsoever, other than raddle, grease crayon or a substance prescribed as a scourable substance or as one with which a paint brand may be made. The maximum penalty for the offence will be £25 or three months' imprisonment. The objects of the Bill are obvious to honourable members who are interested in the wool industry. There are now alternatives to the old black brands, including tar. It is a matter of presenting our wool in the most saleable form.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The principal object of this Bill is to make some concessions concerning land tax payable on land used for primary production. The Bill will also reduce the present rates of land tax on all land exceeding \$5,000 in value. In addition the Bill abolishes the absentee land tax and provides that no tax is to be payable when the amount of tax would be less than £1 (instead of 5s. as at present). The first and most important of the amendments is effected by clause 7, which introduces a new section into the principal Act, section 12c. The new section provides that the Governor may by proclamation declare any area in the State to be a defined rural area. Any taxpayer liable to pay tax on any land within a defined rural area may then apply to the Commissioner for a declaration that his land be declared rural land. If the Commissioner is satisfied that the land is land used for primary production he can make a declaration accordingly and the taxpayer is then to be charged with land tax assessed on the basis of the unimproved value of the land considered as land used for primary production.

The object of this special provision is to give a measure of relief to genuine primary producers who are using their land as land for primary production, where the land is situated in an area which, owing to subdivisional or other commercial activities, has increased considerably in value. Honourable members will appreciate that it is, to say the least of it,