

and New South Wales, the branding laws are much less strict than they are in this State; and when from time to time consignments of sheep and cattle are sent from those State to South Australia, having possibly a few illegally marked beasts among them, it creates no little inconvenience if the whole consignment is held up while the offending animals are segregated. Little harm can arise from the introduction into the State of crop-eared stock, so long as the animals are intended for immediate slaughter; and, therefore, in order to make the existing law less stringent it is proposed by clause 7 of the Bill to allow sheep or cattle to be introduced into the State with earmarks made contrary to the Brands Act so long as they are slaughtered within 10 days or any other time fixed by the Minister, at the Abattoirs or any other place approved by the Minister. This is the principal amendment made by the Bill. The others are of less importance. I move the second reading.

The Hon. W. G. DUNCAN secured the adjournment of the debate until September 21.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. J. Cowan)—

This Bill makes some minor amendments of a miscellaneous character to the Brands Act, 1913. The principal amendment made by the Bill is in connection with the law relating to the introduction into the State of sheep and cattle having earmarks of a character not at present permitted by South Australian law. Under section 51 of the Brands Act, 1913, it is laid down that in the case of cattle not more than one-third of the ear shall be affected by the making of any earmark thereon, in the case of sheep no earmark shall exceed three-quarters of an inch in length or half an inch in width (unless it is a slit), and no earmark shall be made on cattle or sheep by means of a crop, that is to say, a straight cut by which a part of the ear is taken off. Section 61 (d) of the Act makes it an offence to introduce into the State from any other State any sheep or cattle having earmarks made contrary to the provisions which I have just mentioned. Considerable difficulty has of late been encountered in connection with the administration of these provisions. In other States of Australia, for example Victoria