**APARIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1935**

**Legislative Council 1935, pages 1096-7**

# Second reading

**The Hon. A. P. BLESING (Northern Minister of Agriculture)—**The Bill makes a number of amendments to the Apiaries Act, 1931. The principal amendment is made by clause 2 which deals with the registration fees. Section 5 of the Apiaries Act provides that all bee-hives are to be registered, and that a registration fee of threepence a hive is to be paid. No fee is payable in respect of any nucleus hive and the maximum fee is fixed at £5. Clause 2 proposes to reduce the registration fee from 3d. to 2d., but removes the exemption in favour of nuclei hives, and the maximum fee of £5. Until a few months ago, the Department charged a fee for giving an inspection certificate in respect of honey intended for export from the State. Following representations from the industry, this fee was removed and in order in some measure to recoup the Department of the loss of these fees and in order to meet some of the costs of the general administration of the Act, fees provided by clause 2 are now proposed. These fees should provide a small increase on the registration fees now charged approved by the South Australian Association.

Section 7 of the principal Act requires beekeepers  to destroy bees and combs infected by disease where .the disease has developed too fully to be cured. Clause 3 provides that frames are also to be destroyed under similar circumstances. Clause 4 makes amendments of Section 8of the principal Act consequential uponthe amendments made by clause 3. In addition, the clause empowers an inspector to destroy hives infected by disease when the lure is incapable of being effectively sterilized. Section 10 of the principal Act enables the Governor, in order to prevent the spread of disease, to proclaim parts of the State into which and from which no bees, hives, or specified appliances are to be moved. Thisprovision was designed so that, on the outbreak of disease, it could be localised. When a proclamation is made, however, no bees, although free from disease, can be moved from or into the proclaimed area. Clause 5 therefore provides that the Minister may authorise the removal from or taking into such a proclaimed area any bees, hives, &c., which he is satisfied are free from disease.

Clause 6 inserts two new sections in the principal Act. New section 13a requires every beekeeper to mark at least one hive in every apiary with his name and usual place of residence. This provision is necessary to secure effective administration of the Act. An inspector may come upon an apiary, but there is often no person in attendance or any other means thereby the inspector can discover who is the beekeeper. It is necessary that this should be disclosed, as in the event of the bees being diseased, the inspector is obliged to notify the beekeeper to take the proper steps to eradicate the disease. Clause 13b is ancillary to the former provision and provides that in any proceedings the allegation that a particular person kept any particular bees is to be deemed proved in the absence of proof to the contrary. Beekeepers move their apiaries from place to place, and, as before mentioned, it is extremely difficult to ascertain the ownership of a particular apiary. If, however, the apiary is marked with the name and address of the owner as before mentioned and an offence is committed inrespect of the apiary, it is reasonable to assume that the person whose name is marked on the apiary is the owner of the bees. Failing a provision such as this, it would in many cases be most difficult in legal proceedings to prove that any person kept the particular bees. I move the second reading..

The Hon. H. G. HAWKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.