**ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH CONTROL BILL 1962**

**Legislative Council 3 October 1962, pages 1219-20**

Second reading

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.

It relates to the oriental fruit moth, a pest of deciduous trees, though it is not found extensively in South Australia. However, its presence has been noticed during the last few years in some Upper Murray areas. Vigorous efforts have been made to eradicate it by the Department of Agriculture and by a committee formed in the Renmark area, but it has not been eradicated. Two methods of action are necessary to achieve its eradication, the first being the application of suitable and timely sprays, and the second the strictest attention to orchard hygiene.

With assistance given to the local committee by the department, much money has been spent on sprays and their application in the last two years, but unfortunately entomological requirements have not been completely fulfilled. It is difficult in a horticultural area to secure the complete co-operation of all growers. Some persons are happy to live with- a pest and do not attempt to eradicate it, but others are desperately keen to destroy it. Up to the present no direct contribution has been made by the industry as a whole. Individual horticulturists have expended much time and money, which is in accordance with the practice of most primary producers of protecting their properties from pests and animal diseases. Many individuals have spent heavily in combating this pest, but the industry generally has not been able to organize a full-scale effort.

The Government has spent about £12,000 in the last two years in combating this pest. This has certainly considerably reduced its incidence in some places, but the pest has spread in others and the area now infested is somewhat greater than previously, although the infestation is less intensive. Various organizations have approached the Government about the problems arising from this pest and from red scale in citrus trees and have asked for legislation to enable the appointment of boards to deal with them. The object is that these boards will be enabled to raise money from growers to undertake a concentrated attack on the pests. This request has been carefully con­sidered but the Government believes that such legislation, dealing with boards in general, would be too wide in some respects, so it has been decided to deal with pests separately. It is proposed that similar legislation will be introduced regarding red scale, but this Bill deals specifically with the oriental fruit moth.

The clauses of the Bill are easy to understand. Clause 3 deals with interpretation, definitions and so forth. Clause 4 enables the Governor, by proclamation, to declare any area in the State to be a district for the purposes of the Act. Clause 5 provides for the registration of orchards within a district. Clause 6 provides for a poll to be held on the question of whether an oriental fruit moth committee shall be appointed in a district, and sets out the conditions under which a poll shall be conducted. Honourable members will note that before a committee can be appointed it will be necessary for at least 60 per cent of those persons who voted on the question to favour such an appointment, and not less than 30 per cent of all persons qualified to vote and entitled to vote must have voted on the question. The constitution of the committee is dealt with in clause 7, which provides that it shall consist of five members, four of whom shall be persons, who are entitled to vote at the poll and who may, in the Minister’s discretion, be nominated by such organizations or associations within the district as the Minister shall approve. The fifth member of the committee is to be nominated by the Minister and to be the chairman. The term of office will be three years. Power to make regulations dealing with appointments and other matters is vested in the Governor. Clause 8 provides for the dissolution of a committee by a poll.

Growers may request a poll on the future of the committee. It is necessary for 10 per cent of the registered growers to petition for a poll, and the Minister must hold a poll not more than once in three years if so requested by petition. The petition will determine whether the growers wish the committee to continue. Certain provisions deal with the winding up of the committee should the growers vote against its continuance. Clause 9 provides that the committee shall take what steps it deems fit for the control and eradication of oriental fruit moth. It has the power, if authorized in writing, to enter upon land and premises to do its lawful task and to paint, spray, fumigate and so on, can establish and administer a fund; purchase and hire equipment; borrow money; appoint liaison officers; and it can demand and recover payment of fees and charges from owners and so forth.

The committee has a number of other powers, all of which are self-explanatory. Clause 10 provides for contributions to the committee by the growers within a district following the successful holding of a poll. The committee, by notice in the Government Gazette, may from time to time require persons registered under this Act, in the district to which the committee is appointed, to pay to the committee contributions of such amounts or at such rates as the Minister shall from time to time approve towards the general cost of the administration of this Act. In other words, the committee has the power to levy contributions, provided it has the Minister’s approval. The other clauses dealing with obstruction of the committee, protection, general penalties, and the power to make regulations are self-explanatory I submit the Bill for the consideration of the Council.

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