**BARLEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1953**

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**Legislative Assembly, 29 September 1953, page 821**

Second reading

**The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS (Minister of Agriculture)—**I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The Bill is introduced following on an agree­ment between the Governments of Victoria and South Australia concerning an amendment recently made to the Victorian legislation, and contains only one provision, namely, that an officer of the Victorian Department of Agri­culture shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Australian Barley Board and inform the Victorian Minister of Agriculture as to the matters coming before the board. Although such a provision may at first sight appear unimportant, it is, in view of the events which have happened, essential to the continuance of the barley marketing scheme.

As members know the Australian Barley Board is constituted under laws of both Victoria and South Australia and the board cannot exist unless both the Victorian and South Australian Parliaments pass identical laws as to its constitution and the two Gov­ernments agree to make the necessary appoint­ments. The board consists of five members. There is a chairman, who happens at the moment to be a South Australian, Mr. Spafford. There are two grower representatives from this State and one from Victoria. The other member is a representative of brewers and maltsters, and he is at present a Victorian. Thus, in effect, each of the two States provides two ordinary members of the board, and South Australia the chairman. This arrangement is equitable, having regard to the fact that South Australia produces substantially the greater part of the barley handled by the board. Early this year, however, the Victorian Government decided that Victoria had insufficient influence on the board and introduced a Bill providing for an additional Victorian member to be appointed, and also declaring, in effect, that unless the board were re-constituted with the additional Victorian member before September 7, it would go out of existence. This Bill was passed.

The South Australian Government, which regarded the constitution of the board as satisfactory, did not agree with the Victorian proposal and took no steps to amend our Act in order to enable the ideas of Victoria to be carried into effect. But in order to avoid a breakdown in the barley marketing scheme negotiations have taken place between the two Governments and an agreement has been reached pursuant to which Victoria has further amended its Act so as to repeal the provision for an additional Victorian member, and to substitute in its place a clause stating that an officer of its Department of Agriculture should have the right to attend meetings of the board as an observer. The South Australian Government agreed to amend our Act so as to include a similar provision.

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This Bill will carry the arrangement between the Governments into effect, and when passed will be deemed to have come into operation on September 1. Thus, there will be no legal break in the existence of the board, and the barley marketing scheme which has given general satisfaction will be able to continue for the period already approved by Parliament. In discussing this matter with me the Victorian Minister of Agriculture said that his Government felt it had not been getting sufficient information about the operations of the board, and would like to be better informed. As a result of the representations it was agreed that South Australia should allow Victoria to have an observer on the board, which has agreed to furnish monthly to the Victorian and South Australian Ministers of Agriculture information about its activities, so that both Ministers will be properly informed.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjourn­ment of the debate