**CORNSACKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1935**

**House of Assembly, 10 October 1935, page 904-5**

Second reading

Having obtained leave the Commissioner of Crown Lands introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Cornsacks Acts, 1931 to 1934.

Bill read a first time and Standing Orders so far suspended as to enable the second reading to be moved without delay.

Second reading.

**The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Albert—Commissioner of Crown Lands)—**The object of this Bill is to extend the operation of the Cornsacks Act, 1931, for another year. The Act of 1931 provided a simple method whereby a merchant selling cornsacks to a farmer on credit could obtain a security for the price in the form of a lien over the farmer’s crop. The simplicity of the method arose from the fact that no document had to be signed by the farmer and the memorandum of lien signed and registered by the merchant was a short and simple document which could be registered for a fee of Is. It put the merchant in the same position as a bill of sale holder, that saved the farmer fees amounting to at least £1 11s. 6d. which he would have had to pay for the preparation and registration of a bill of sale. The Act has been very considerably used by the merchants and the Government believes it has given satisfaction both to merchants and farmers. The Government is advised that there is still a substantial number of farmers whose financial position is such that they cannot obtain cornsacks on credit without giving security and for this season it is expedient to extend the Act for a further year. If any further extensions are asked for subsequent to that now proposed, the Government will doubtless have to consider whether the Act should not be made permanent. There is really no new principle involved, since the law at present confers liens on various classes of persons for work done or services rendered, irrespective of the consent of the person liable to pay for such work or services; and the scheme of the Cornsacks Bill is only a further extension of this well recognised principle. The Bill will be of considerable advantage to farmers as it will enable them to get their cornsacks at cash prices, the sellers knowing that it will not be necessary after harvest to compete with antecedent debts in order to obtain payment. The Bill only carries into effect a principle which members already recognise, and it has worked beneficially. It was originally enacted by another Government in 1931 without any serious objection, and I ask the House to agree to it again. I move the second reading.

Mr. LACEY secured the adjournment of the debate.