**MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.1942**

**Legislative Council, 25 August 1942, pages 426-7**

Second reading

**The Hon. A. P. BLESING (Northern—Minister of Agriculture**)—In view of the arrangements recently made between the Commonwealth and the State for the pulping, drying, and exporting of eggs it is necessary to ask Parliament to agree to a further provision in the Marketing of Eggs Act. The need for the amendment is not due to any defect in the principal Act, but merely because the proposed transactions are in the form not contemplated when the Act was passed. As members are now aware the Allied nations are now compelled to economize to the most in the use of shipping space, and the necessary accommodation for the export of eggs in shell in refrigeration chambers is no longer available. The British Government desires that in future eggs exported from Australia shall be in the form of powder. Arrangements have now been completed between the Commonwealth and the State Governments for the erection of an egg drying plant in South Australia. The details are as follows:

(a) The State Government will provide the land, (b) The State Government will erect the building in accordance with agreed plans and specifications and supervise the erection. The Commonwealth and State Governments will share the cost of the building equally. The building will belong to the State Government after it is no longer required for egg drying, (c) The Commonwealth Government will be responsible for the purchase and installation of the drying plant (which includes plant for pulping as a preliminary to drying) and will own the plant after the war. The Commonwealth Government will have the right to remove the plant when it is no longer required for egg drying, (d) When the plant is installed it will be operated by the Egg Marketing Board, (e) The Commonwealth will purchase the eggs for export and the Egg Marketing Board will pulp and dry the eggs on behalf of the Common­wealth.

When last year’s Bill was drafted it was not contemplated by those who framed the Bill that the board would process eggs belonging to other people. It was thought that, the board would itself be the owner of all the eggs which had to be processed. The Bill was drafted on this basis. In view of the proposal that the board will process eggs belonging to the Commonwealth, and operate plant for that purpose, it is necessary to extend the board’s powers by legislation. The Bill therefore enables the board to pulp, dry and process any eggs whether belonging to itself or to any other person or body, as well as to make contracts and arrangements for this purpose. The board is also given power to purchase, take on sale, construct, erect and maintain any premises, machinery, plant and equipment required for such pulping, drying, or processing. The Bill is limited in its scope to this one matter arises directly out of the war and is of some considerable importance. I ask members to assist by having the Bill passed tomorrow so that it can go to another place to be put through quickly. If this is done the board willbe able to operate immediately the dryingof eggs becomes necessary, which may be soon. I move the second reading.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured adjournment of the debate.