**SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1933**

**Legislative Council, 9 August 1933, page 526**

Second reading

**The Hon. G. RITCHIE (Northern—Chief Secretary**)—This Bill is introduced for the purpose of continuing until June 30, 1935, the surcharge of 25 per centum on succession duties. This increase of succession duties was first imposed in 1927 and since that year the operation of the provision requiring the payment of the increased duty has been extended from time to time. Unless altered by Parliament the law requiring payment of the increased duties will cease to operate on June 30 1934. If, therefore, provision is to be made for the payment of increased duties during the financial year 1934-5, an amending Act must be passed during the present session of Parliament. It is obvious that the state of the public finances is such that this increase of revenue cannot be foregone; consequently this Bill provides that the surcharge of 25 per centum on succession duties will continue to be chargeable until June 30, 1935. In the last three or four sessions I have strongly opposed the re-imposition of surcharges and other increases in taxation originally made for one year only. Last year we were successful in removing one of them, but to remove the surcharge on succession duties would not give the same degree of relief to primary producers as other surcharges which we set out in past years to defeat.

The Hon. T. McCallum—This is one of the worst, if not the worst, of them all.

The Hon. G. RITCHIE—I cannot agree. There are estates that can well afford to pay

the surcharge, which is not as severe as some- which affect primary producers or the trading and commercial community. If it is disallowed, the loss of revenue this year, according to the- estimate of the department, will be between £60,000 and £70,000. I hope the Government will be able to refrain from re-imposing the- 25 per cent, super tax that has been imposed for a number of years on income from, property. That would relieve, either directly or indirectly, nearly all sections of the community. The succession duties surcharge, on the contrary, applies only directly to deceased estates. This Bill is necessary to assist the Government to balance the Budget. I move- the second reading.

The Hon. W. G. DUNCAN secured the- adjournment of the debate.