**FOODSTUFFS COMMISSION BILL 1914**

**House of Assembly, 19 August, page 295 and 20 August, page 309**

Second reading

**The TREASURER moved.-—**

That I have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act Relating to the Distribution, Export, and Prices of Foodstuffs, and other Commodities, and to compel Supplying of Information in relation thereto.

Motion carried; Bill introduced and read a first time; second reading, August 20.

**FOODSTUFFS COMMISSION BILL.**

(Continued from August 19. Page 295.)

Second reading

The TREASURER (Hon. A. H. Peake)—In moving the second reading of this Bill I wish to state that this is another of the measures, thought to be necessary in view of the present circumstances, which are of an urgent nature. It was agreed at the con­ference in Melbourne last week not only that the State Governments themselves should know what the food supplies in Australia are at present, so far as to meet their own necessities, but that it is also necessary that we should be well informed as to the quantity and limit of those supplies, in order to meet the possible demand that may be made upon us by Great Britain, as well as by other countries beyond the seas. I do not think it is necessary to go very fully and deeply into this measure. It carries on the face of it what its intentions are. It will be to establish a Commission to get all the information which the Federal Government may require, and that information will in turn be forwarded to a Commission or an authority, which is to be established at the seat of the Federal Government, and it will have power to collate the information and make the proper use of it. The measure is one of necessity, and it was agreed by all the Premiers of the States that they would do their best to get the measure through without delay. We are moving it in accordance with a draft agreed upon at the conference, subject to slight modification.

Mr. VAUGHAN—I notice that Western Australia has, at the instance of the Premiers’ Conference, passed a similar Act, and it is very necessary that such a measure should be passed in war time, so that we will be able to ascertain the quantities of stuff that we have here, and be able to take the necessary action in accordance with it, so as to protect our own people with an adequate supply of food. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5—“Returns to be supplied to Commission. ’ ’

Mr. VAUGHAN said the clause applied to meat. Did it apply to livestock as well? He did not know whether it was because livestock statistics were available, or whether it was considered likely that livestock could not be sent abroad.

The TREASURER could not say why livestock had been omitted, but thought full statistics in respect to livestock were available in every State. If further power were needed, there was authority to take it; but he thought it was not deemed necessary to mention livestock in the Bill.

Clause passed.

Clauses 6 to 13 and schedule passed.

Preamble.

Mr. COLE asked how many members would be placed on the Commission.

The TREASURER said in all probability the Commission under the Bill would be the same as the one now dealing with the regulation of prices of foodstuffs, which comprised three members.

Preamble passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported without amendment; report adopted; Standing Orders suspended, and Bill passed remaining stages.