**STATUTES AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS METRIC CONVERSIONS) BILL**

**Legislative Assembly, 13 March 1975m page 2889**

Second reading

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Agricultural Chemicals Act, 1955; the Agricultural Seeds Act, 1938-1973; the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1966- 1972; the Brands Act, 1933-1969; the Chaff and Hay Act, 1922-1938; the Electricity Supply (Industries) Act, 1963; the Liens on Fruit Act, 1923-1932; the Phylloxera Act, 1936-1974; the Soil Conservation Act, 1939-1960; the South Australian Gas Company’s Act, 1861-1964; the Stock Diseases Act, 1934-1968; the Stock Mortgages and Wool Liens Act, 1924-1935; and the Water Conservation Act, 1936-1972; and for the purpose of replacing expressions of measurement in imperial terms with expressions of measurement in metric terms and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J, KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time,

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill. This is the first omnibus Bill prepared for the purpose of effecting metric conversion amendments to Acts of the South Australian Parliament. Previously, important conversions have been made by specific Bills and other con- versions have been effected when the Act concerned was amended for other reasons. Some of the Acts affected by this Bill are rarely amended and some of the amendments, although necessary, are so trivial that they are most appropriately introduced in a Bill of this kind. The rights and duties of members of the public are affected by some of the conversions, and for this reason the Act will not come into operation until a day to be proclaimed.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 are formal. Clause 4 provides for the automatic repeal of the relevant Part of this Act if any of the amended Acts is repealed. Part II amends the Agricultural Chemicals Act, 1955. Clause 5 is formal. Clause 6 amends section 25 of the principal Act, which sets the procedure to be followed by an inspector taking samples for analysis and makes special provision for packages containing .not more than 2 lb. avoirdupois. The mass specified is now one kilogram, which is 2.2 lb. Part III amends the Agricultural Seeds Act, 1938-1973. Clause 7 is formal. Clause 8 effects an amendment to the principal Act similar to the amendment to the Agricultural Chemicals Act. Section 11 of the principal Act sets out the procedure on taking samples and makes special provision for seeds contained in packages of less than 4 oz. avoirdupois. The mass specified is now 100 grams, which is 3.5 oz. Part IV amends the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1966-1972. Clause 9 is formal.

Clauses 10 and 11 replace the word "grammes" with the word “grams” in section 5 and the thirteenth schedule. Part V amends the Brands Act, 1933-1969. Apart from clauses 12, 21 and 23, the amendments relate to the size or position of brands. Clause 12 is formal. Clause 21 relates to the impounding of stock seized under section 59 of the principal Act: the provision relating to stock seized at a greater distance than 5 miles from the nearest public pound is amended so that the relevant distance is 8 km. Five miles is slightly more than 8 km. Clause 23 is a formal amendment. Part VI amends the Chaff and Hay Act, 1922-1938. Clause 24 is formal.

Clause 25 amends section 9 of the principal Act, which provides (among other things) that bags containing straw chaff shall be so labelled in letters not less than 1.5 in. high. The measurement is changed to 35 millimetres, which is about 3 mm shorter than l.5 in. reference to the repealed Fertilisers Act is also amended. (The word “fertiliser” is spelled as in the original Act, not as in the 1939 reprint.) Clause 26 repeals section 11, which was enacted to prevent deception by the use of the short ton. There is no recognised practice of using a short tonne. Part VII amends the Electricity Supply (Industries) Act, 1963. Clause 27 is formal. Clause 28 amends section 3, which gives power to the Treasurer to declare that an industrial undertaking carried on outside a radius of 26 miles from the city is an approved industry for the purposes of the Act. The new distance is 42 km, which is 153 m longer than 26 miles.

Part VIII amends the Liens on Fruit Act, 1923-1932. Clause 29 is formal. Clause 30 amends the form set out in the schedule by replacing the word “acres” with the word “hectares” and by replacing the pound sign with the dollar sign. Part IX amends the Phylloxera Act, 1936-1974. Clause 31 is formal. The principal Act applies to vineyards exceeding one acre in extent and to their owners. One acre equals 0.404 hectares, so that at first sight a conversion to 0.5 h seems attractive. However, this would mean an expensive, revision of the vignerons’ roll; so, 0.4 h has been chosen, and this is the amendment effected in clauses 32 to 37 inclusive and in clause 39. Clause 32 also amends the vineyard sizes specified as qualifications for extra votes for growers.

Clause 38 amends section 46 of the principal Act, which provides that the office of the Secretary of the Phylloxera Board shall be within 10 miles of the G.P.O., Adelaide. The new distance is 16 kilometres, which is slightly shorter. Clause 39 amends the third schedule by replacing “acres” with “hectares”. Part X amends the Soil Conservation Act, 1939-1960. Clauses 40, 41 and 43 are formal. Clause 42 amends section 6a of the principal Act, which provides that occupiers of land in any area may present a petition to the Minister praying that the area be constituted a soil conservation district. “Occupier” is defined in subsection (8) by reference to the extent of the land occupied, and the amendment converts “five acres” to “two hectares”; an exact conversion would be 2.23 h. Part XI amends two of the several early Acts that are now incorporated in the South Australian Gas Company’s Act, 1861-1964. Clause 44 is formal.

Clause 45 amends section 60 of the Act of 1861, which provides that the company shall, on request, supply gas to a municipal or district council, but that it shall not be compelled to supply gas beyond 30 yards from the company’s main; the new distance of 27 metres is 2• 5 m shorter. Clause 46 amends section 4 of the Act of 1882, which, empowers the company to erect posts, standards and wires for the purpose of supplying electricity, with a proviso that wires crossing a street must be at least 16ft. from the ground. This distance is altered to 5 metres (16'4ft.). In the unlikely event that the Gas Company erects lines after this Bill becomes law, it will have to comply with the relevant Australian code. Part XII amends the Stock Diseases Act, 1934-1968. Clause 47 is formal. Clause 48 amends section 5} which requires the burial of diseased carcasses at least 3ft, underground. The new requirement is one metre, that is, 156 millimetres more than 3ft. Clause 49 amends section 42, which relates to the right to cross land with travelling stock. Persons availing themselves of this right must travel sheep five miles on each day and cattle 10 miles on each day; these distances are changed to 8 kilometres and 16 km respectively. Under this section, a lessee of certain Crown lands is obliged to provide a gate in every 10 miles of fence; the distance is changed to 17 kilometres, which is slightly longer than 10 miles. Part XIII amends the' Stock Mortgages and Wool Liens Act, 1924-1935. Clause 50 is formal. Clause 51 replaces the references in section 23 to the size of paper on which memoranda of mortgages are to be engrossed with a reference to the new international paper sizes. Part XIV amends the Water Conservation Act, 1936-1972. Clause 52 is formal. Clause 53 sets out the powers of the Commissioner (now the Minister) and prohibits him from entering private property to effect repairs within 50 yards of a dwelling house. The amendment provides a distance of 100 metres (109 yards), which is the distance specified in a similar provision in the Waterworks Act.

Mr. McANANEY secured the adjournment of the debate.