**IRRIGATION AND RECLAIMED LANDS BILL 1914**

**House of Assembly, 7 October 1914, page 855**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. F. W. Young)—**In moving the second reading of this Bill, and in view of the remarks passed in connection with the two previous measures, there does not appear to be any necessity to add to what has been previously said, unless it is that if we wish to consolidate, the only way is to do it without talking, and then work in Committee.

Mr. DENNY—The Commissioner of Crown Lands has suggested that better progress could be made if less talking were done, but that is advice which could be well adopted by the honorable members of his own party. As regards the Bill itself, I can only reiterate what has been said in connection with other consolidating measures. I congratulate the Parliamentary Draftsman upon the excellent work which he has done in connection with consolidated measures is not only very difficult, but one of the greatest possible importance. The Joint Committee unquestionably will agree to whatever the Parliamentary Draftsman suggests, and perhaps may be enthusiastic and anxious to do the work, but I cannot believe that honorable members are going to take up this measure even if assisting a Joint Com­mittee of both Houses, and go through item by item for the purposes of comparison of existing laws, in order to ascertain the true interpretation. They should accept the certificate of the Parliamentary Draftsman on work referred to Joint Committees. Why should the Bill be referred to the Joint Committee? This Bill has been prepared by the Parliamentary Draftsman. Obviously it is intended that the Joint Committee shall not accept work already done, but they are to make inquiries. It is therefore the duty of the Joint Committee to go carefully through this Bill, clause by clause, and see whether it corresponds with the law. That is a duty which should not be cast on honorable members. It is too long and too laborious altogether. This particular measure contains 115 clauses, and has a very long schedule. However, it is the instalment of the principle of consolidation, which I hope will be carried out on a very large scale, so that there will shortly be available to the public and to practitioners the whole of the Statutes in a consolidated form.

Bill read a second time, and referred to the Joint Standing Committee.