**FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1956**

**Legislative Assembly, 23 October 1956, page 1132**

Second reading

Having obtained leave, the Hon. G. G. Pearson introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Fisheries Act 1917-1946. Bill a first time.

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Agriculture**)—I move:—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This is a short Bill the sole object of which is to enable the Minister of Agriculture to pro­vide accommodation for fishing boats. In recent years some amounts of loan money have been voted for this purpose. In 1953 the vote was £20,600; in 1954, £15,000; and. in 1955, £24,800. These amounts were allocated to the Harbours Board which has acted as the constructing authority for fishing boat accommodation. The Government, however, has recently given special consideration to this question and has come to the conclusion that the proper authority to direct and control the provision of such accommodation is the Minister of Agriculture, who is in charge of the Fisheries Department. The Harbors Board is an efficient constructing authority and no complaint at all is levelled against its work as such; but in the opinion of the Government it has not the close contact with the fishing industry that is desirable for an authority which has to decide what accommodation should be provided for persons engaged in this occupation.

It is proposed, therefore, to confer on the Minister of Agriculture power to provide harbour facilities for fishing boats and to make charges for the use of them. As, however, the Minister of Agriculture is not equipped to carry out construction work, the Bill provides that he may, with the approval of the Governor, arrange with any other Minister or authority of the Crown for the construction of any works which he desires to provide. If necessary, the services of the Harbors Board may be engaged. The cost of doing work under the Bill will be paid out of money voted by Parliament for the purpose. Pursuant to the money being provided in the Loan Estimates, the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game has been consulting various groups of fishermen along the South Australian coast. At my request he has formulated priorities and a policy in connection with the expenditure of the money. It is hoped that before the end of the financialyear some real progress will have been inthe establishment of slips and fishing havens at some of the fishing places along the South Australian coast.

Mr. TAPPING secured the adjournment of the debate.