STOCK LICKS ACT REPEAL BILL 1956

House of Assembly, 18 October 1956, page 1102

Second reading

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to repeal the Stock Licks Act, 1931, and to bring stock licks within the provisions of the Stock Medicines Act, 1939. The Stock Licks Act provides for the registration of stock licks, and requires a person selling a stock lick to deliver an invoice certificate to the buyer stating that the stock lick is registered, or, if the stock lick has not been registered, stating certain particulars with respect to the stock lick. Since the Act has been in operation, only 11 stock licks have been registered under it.

The Stock Medicines Act prohibits the sale of a stock medicine unless it has been registered under the Act by the Stock Medicines Board. There are several hundred stock medicines registered under this Act, and the sale of stock medicines is effectively controlled under it. Under the Stock Medicines Act it is provided that the expression “stock medicine” does not include a stock lick, so that at present it is not necessary to register a stock lick under that Act.

For some years the Stock Medicines Board has experienced considerable difficulty in determining whether certain substances are stock licks or stock medicines and has recently recommended to the Government that the Stock Licks Act should be repealed and stock licks brought within the provisions of the Stock Medicines Act. This would simplify the board’s task of administering the Stock Medicines Act and would provide a more effective control over the sale of stock licks. The Government has accepted the recommendation of the board and is accordingly introducing this Bill.

The details of the Bill are as follow: Clause 2 repeals the Stock Licks Act. Clause 3 amends the Stock Medicines Act. It alters the definition of “stock medicine” so that it will include a stock lick. Clause 4 makes a consequential amendment to the Stock Foods Act. Clause 5 provides that when a stock lick has been registered under the Stock Licks Act and is subsequently registered under the Stock Medicines Act, the Treasurer may refund the registration fee paid under the Stock Licks Act, less 5s. for each year of registration under that Act.

Under the Stock Licks Act, a fee of £5 5s. is paid on registration and no further fee is payable. A person who has paid this fee and is now required by this Bill to register the stock lick under the Stock Medicines Act, would, unless some refund were made, have cause for complaint, particularly where he has registered the stock lick comparatively recently. The scheme proposed by clause 5 is estimated to involve the repayment of about £19. Clause 6 provides that a person will not be required to register a stock lick under the Stock Medicines Act until after the expiration of twelve months from the commencement of the Bill. This provision will give persons dealing in stock licks ample time to register under the Stock Medicines Act and to dispose of old stocks.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.