**SALE OF CHAFF AND HAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1913**

**Legislative Council, 25 September 1813, page 256**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. T. Pascoe),** in moving the second reading of the Bill, stated that in 1908 they had a measure before them dealing with that matter. Some of them, including Mr. Lewis and himself, had then been of the opinion that a mistake was being made in attempting to make the standard weight of a bag of chaff 40 lb. Although the Council had agreed with them, and amended the Bill in that direction, in a conference between the two Chambers the Council gave way, and agreed that the standard weight should be fixed at 40 lb. for two years. Since 1910 there had been no standard weight for a bag of chaff. There had as a result been a good deal of complaint among merchants and sellers, and in the absence of a standard weight there had been a deal of trading which was not of a commendable character. It was at the request of the men in the trade, backed up by consumers, that he had introduced this measure. It provided for two standard weights. The ordinary bag of chaff for local trading was to contain 56 lb., but for export it could, be 70 lb., which weight was generally preferred in that connection. (Hon. E. Lucas—“Why not fill the bags, and make them 80 lb.?”) While they might be able to get that weight in for a time or two in new bags they would find that with certain types of hay they would burst the bags. (Hon. J. Lewis—:‘The weights you propose are quite heavy enough to handle.”) There was also a provision that chaff must not be put into bags that had contained bonedust or any other fertilizer. They might have included other things in the Bill, but in some respects it was a difficult trade to handle. For instance, when they introduced the analyst into it they sometimes got results which appeared the reverse of commonsense. Some chaff which might appear very dry would, when analysed, give more moisture than a very moist-feeling chaff, owing to its containing more moisture in reality, although it was not perceptible to the casual observer. In connection with the larger bag, it was enacted that the mark “L” on it should be deemed a warranty that it contained at least 70 lb. of chaff, and that any person selling one with such brand should be guilty of an offence under the Bill if the bag contained less than 70 lb. He moved the second reading of the Bill.

On the motion of the Hon. J. LEWIS the debate was adjourned until September 30.