**FARMERS’ CO-OPERATIVE EXECUTORS(PRIVATE) ACT 1919**

**Legislative Council, 5 November 1919, Page 1611**

Second reading

The Hon. W. MORROW - Under the Standing Orders it is necessary to refer measures such as the one before us to a Select Committee, which fully examines them and investigates the scope of their provisions, thus obviating the need to go into details in a second reading speech.

However, I may say that this is a Bill framed on well settled lines of enabling a newly registered Trust Company to carry on business as an executor, trustee, or guardian, or in similar capacities. The Company hasbeen brought into existence by the South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union, Limited, in consequence of many inquiries by members and customers of the Union as to the Union or its staff undertaking trusteeships.

As the name of the new Company implies, it intends to carry on business on the principle of distributing any profits over a reasonable rate of interest on capital-fixed in the articles at 8 per cent. per annum-amongst those shareholders and shareholding estates whose business has brought the profits. The advantages of trusteecompanies are now well recognised, and the practice of employing them is growing.

The real need for a private Act of Parliament arises rather from technical rules than from substantial objections or doubts. A limited company, for instance, cannot make affidavits, so an Act is necessary to substitute its officers for it in that respect. A decided gain in having the services of a company is that expert officers and a board of several directors make it their regular business to attend to the affairs of the estates entrusted to the company.

The Farmers' Union has several thousand members who may naturally claim a right to have their own trust organisation. The Bill contains usual safeguards for the protection of beneficiaries and others interested. Its presentation has been deferred longer than was intended through delay—probably in the interests of the Peace Loan—by the Federal Treasury in giving consent to the registration of the Company. The Bill has been compiled on similar lines to other measures dealing with the same purposes which have been passed by this Council. I move the second reading.

Bill read a second time and referred to the following Select Committee:—The Hons. J. Carr, W. Hannaford, W. Morrow, T. Pascoe, and F. S. Wallis; the Committee to have power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to report on November 6.