**RENMARK TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1907**

**Legislative Council, 27 November 1907, pages 442-3**

Second reading

**The CHIEF SECRETARY**, in moving the second reading, said that the object of the measure was set out in section 10, which read:—“The sum of £3,000, advanc­ed to The Renmark Irrigation Trust, No. 1, pursuant to the Renmark Irrigation Trusts Loan Act, 1896; and also the sum of £16,000, advanced to the trust pursuant to said ‘The Renmark Irrigation Trusts Loan Act, 1900;’ and also the sum of £641 5/, being the amount of interest which accrued due by the trust in respect of the two first-mentioned sums for the period from the ,1st day of June, 1905, to the 31st day of March, 1906, all of which sums are hereby capitalized to form one principal sum of £19,641 5/, together with interest on such principal sum, shall be repaid by the trust as follows:—1. In­terest at the rate of 4 1/2 per centum per an­num on the total principal sum of £19,641 5/ shall be paid as from the 1st. day of April, 1906, by half-yearly payments up to and including the 1st day of April, 1909 (the sum of £100 in the hands of the Treasurer of the said State to the credit of the said trust on the 29th day of November, 1905, being applied towards the first of such half-yearly payments). 2. From and after the 1st day of April, 1909, the said principal sum of £19,641 5/, together with interest thereon at the rate of 4 1/2 per centum per annum, shall be repaid by the trust by half-yearly payments, to be cal­culated at the rate of £3 14/2 per centum on the amount of such principal sum and interest, the first of such payments to be made on the 1st day of October, 1909.” There had been a difference of opinion between the settlers at Renmark and the Treasurer as to when the repayments of the money mentioned in clause 10 and interest should commence, and the Bill was designed to settle the question. The settlers had had a very uphill fight and were entitled to fair and even generous treat­ment. Clause 11 contained another concession. It read:—“The lands now vested in the Commissioner of Educational Lands pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Chaffey Brothers agreement, as appears by certificate of title registered in the Lands Titles Registration Office at Adelaide, volume 579. folio 27. are hereby transferred to the ‘Renmark Irrigation Trust No. 1,’ freed and discharged from the trusts created and declared by the said paragraph, but otherwise subject to all leases, mortgages, trusts, equities, and dealings now affecting the said lands; and upon production of the duplicate of such certificate of title to him the Registrar-General shall register the transfer thereof accordingly.” The lands referred to consisted of about 527 acres, and were to have been transferred to Chaffey Brothers, according to the old agreement, for educational purposes. That agreement imposed upon them, among ether things, the duty of building a college. Chaffey Brothers had ended disas­trously, and the trust now claimed that the lands in question should be regarded as an educational grant to the settlement, a concession which the Government was willing to make. (Hon, G. Riddoch—-‘‘Are the lands to be put to any specific use?”) Yes. For educational purposes as was originally intended. He believed that the terms and conditions of the Bill would be honourably respected, by the settlers. Hon. B. A. Moulden—“I should think so; it gives them 33 years in which to pay.”) Well, in favour of the Bill was the fact that many of the settlers had been brought out, not under false pretences, but with an inadequate idea oi the great fight which was ahead of them, and many of them were ruined, although some good recove­ries had since been made. He would not like to say a word in disparagement of Chaffey Brothers, because but for their enterprise South Australia would not have had the Renmark settlement. (Hon. G. Riddoch—"They did great harm by delud­ing the people.”) That fact could not be justified. However, the settlement had got on to its feet, notwithstanding the fact that a year or two ago a heat wave took off the whole season's results. He believed that if the Bill was passed the State would be paid every penny that was now owing to it, the present appearance of the settlement justifying that belief. If the settlers did not fulfil their obligations the Government knew what power it had.

On the motion of the Hon. B. A. MOULDEN the debate was adjourned until November 28.