may be necessary. The object of this Bill is to provide, firstly, that the Drought Relief Act, 1928, shall apply to persons holding land under lease from the Crown in the Pekina Irrigation Area, and, secondly, to make the provisions of the Bill retrospective in effect in order to validate the action of the Government in granting relief to these persons before receiving the necessary legislative sanction. I move the second reading.

The Hon. L. L. HILL secured the adjournment of the debate until August 28.

DROUGHT RELIEF ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. G. F. Jenkins)—Section 4 of the Drought Relief Act, 1928, provides that any farmer holding any land for any estate of freehold or under lease from or agreement with the Crown, other than under the Pastoral Act, 1904, or the Irrigation Act, 1922, may make application to the State Bank of South Australia for assistance under the Act. It follows, therefore, that persons holding land under lease from the Crown under the Irrigation Act, 1922, are not eligible for assistance under the Act. The reason for this provision was that it was assumed that persons holding land in irrigation areas would not suffer from drought conditions. Unfortunately the position has proved otherwise with regard to the Pekina Irrigation Area. Owing to the long continued absence of sufficient rains there is not sufficient water in the reservoir serving this area to enable irrigation to be carried out to any appreciable extent, and the lessees have been experiencing severe drought conditions. Urgent representations have therefore been made to the Government to extend the benefits of the Drought Reief Act, 1928, to lessees of land in this irrigation area. The Government have been satisfied that the need for providing drought relief to these persons was necessary and urgent, and have, consequently, anticipated the passing of the necessary legislation by Parliament, and have instructed the State Bank to afford to these lessees such drought relief as