**CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1954**

**Legislative Assembly, 30 September 1954, page 848**

Second reading

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN (Minister of Agriculture)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is purely a machinery measure and provides for a decrease in the amount of duty payable under the Cattle Compensation Act. The Act provides for a scheme under which compensation may be paid where cattle or carcasses of cattle are condemned beeause of disease. The Act provides for the constitution of a Cattle Compensation Fund into which the proceeds of stamp duty levied on the sale of cattle are paid. This stamp duty is at the present rate of ¾ d. for every pound of the purchase price of any cattle with a maximum duty of Is. 10 ½ d.on the sale of any one head of cattle. If cattle are destroyed by reason of disease or if any carcass is condemned, compensation is payable according to the rules laid down in section 6. The compensation ranges from payment of the full market value if, after destruction, the cattle are found to be free from disease to three quarters of the market value if the cattle are found to be diseased, and according to a scale prescribed by regulation in the case of condemned carcasses. Section 6 provides that the market value of any one head of cattle is for the purposes of assessing compensation not to be deemed to be more than £60.

At June 30, 1954, the credit balance in the fund was £73,121 4s. 2d. During the financial year ending June 30, 1954, the receipts were £17,428 13s, 6d. and payments amounted to £7,124 6s. 7d. During the past five years the fund has increased in credit at the average rate of approximately £7,330 per annum, despite the fact that in 1948 the stamp duty rate was decreased from I d. to ¾ d. in the pound and the maximum market value per head of cattle for compensation purposes increased from £30 to £60. It is considered that the fund is now sufficiently strong to meet the claims which may be expected to be made and also to permit of a reduction in the rate of stamp duty. Accordingly, the Bill provides that the rate of stamp duty for every pound of purchase price on the sale of cattle is to be reduced from ¾ d. to ½ d. and that the maximum duty payable on the sale of any head of cattle is to be reduced from Is. lO ½ d. to Is. 3d. Unless there were a steep increase in the incidence of disease, it is considered that the reduced rates of duty will not lead to a reduction of the present credit in the fund. On the contrary, it is expected the credit in the fund would still increase but at a considerable slower rate than it has in the past. No alterations to the existing rates of compensation are proposed.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.