APIARIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1964

House of Assembly, 20 August 1964, page 5343

Second reading

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture)** moved: That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Apiaries Act, 1931-1943.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROCKMAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is designed to amend the administrative machinery contained in the Apiaries Act and to strengthen the provisions relating to the control of diseases. Clause 3 amends section 3 of the principal Act by extending the definition of “apiary” so as to include bees, hives, honey, beeswax and appliances used in the apiary. The existing definition refers only to places where bees are kept, but often it happens that the bees have died and the remaining combs and hives are diseased. In order to clarify the provisions of the principal Act, clause 3 also inserts a definition of appliances used in apiaries. Clause 4 amends section 5 of the principal Act so that the registration fees for hives may be prescribed by regulation. It is intended to replace the present rate of 2d. a hive (specified in section 5 (4) of the principal Act) with a scale of rates applicable to the total number of hives that a beekeeper owns. The regulations may also provide penalty rates for late registration (clause 9). Clause 4 also changes the date before which registration must be made from January 15 to June 30. This will be more convenient for the beekeepers and for the department. The clause also inserts new subsection (2a) as a transitional provision to allow current registrations to continue in force until January 30, 1965.

Sections 7 and 8 of the principal Act provide for regulations prescribing the manner of treating or destroying apiaries found to be infected with disease. As different diseases require different treatment and it would not be practicable to make adequate provision for this by regulation, it is considered that any such work should be carried out under the direction of an inspector. Clause 5 (b) and clause 6 (a) provide accordingly. Clause 5 also includes a requirement that a beekeeper shall not move an apiary infected with disease except with the permission of an inspector, so as to prevent infection of clean apiaries. Similarly, paragraph (f) of section 8 (inserted by clause 6 (c)) will give an inspector power to require that an apiary be removed in any such case. The clause also empowers an inspector to destroy apiaries that are abandoned or neglected and likely to spread disease. Clause 7 enlarges the scope of section 9 so that the section will make it an offence to remove, dispose of or expose honey, beeswax and appliances infected with disease, as well as bees and the other articles specified in the section.

Clause 8 repeals and re-enacts section 13a of the principal Act so that a beekeeper will be required to brand at least one hive in every 10 (in lieu of one in each apiary as required under the present section) with a brand allotted by the Chief Inspector of Apiaries. The clause also inserts new section 13b in the principal Act requiring a beekeeper to provide his bees with water in order to prevent pollution of his neighbour’s water by the bees. Clause 9 provides for regulations prescribing registration fees, the size of brands and the manner of branding hives. Clause 10 repeals and replaces the schedule of diseases to which the principal Act applies and includes several new diseases therein. I understand that this legislation has the wide support of apiarists in general, and I do not know of any opposition to it in the industry.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.