**PASTORAL ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL 1919**

**House of Assembly, 19 November 1919, pages 1959-60**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. E. A.. Anstey)—**I ask the Leader of the Opposition to allow this Bill to pass without an adjournment. It is merely to allow a pastoral lessee to surrender portion of his lease for the purpose of settling discharged soldiers. Under existing legislation he can surrender the whole lease and not a part thereof. Section 86 of the Act gives to a lessee the right to surrender “his lease”, and on the true construction of the section those words must be taken to mean the whole lease. Thus a- lessee cannot surrender part only of the land comprised in his lease, although lessees under the Crown Lands Act, 115, have such a power under section 210. Great inconvenience must necessarily result, and has already resulted, from this position. In one case the Government had already arranged with the Mootooroo Company for the surrender of portion of their lease for the purpose of settling discharged soldiers, and there are other cases in which the Pastoral Board has approved partial surrenders, but the matters can go no further, because of the want of power in the Act. As it is anticipated that cases similar to those mentioned will arise in the future, and more particularly with regard to the settlement of discharged soldiers, the Bill is very necessary. Clause 3 proposes to amend the principal Act by inserting a new section after section 86, which will enable a pastoral lessee to surrender any part of the land comprised in his lease on such terms as the Pastoral Board recommend, subject to the consent of the Commissioner. I move the second reading.

Mr. JENKINS—I am pleased that the Minister has brought this Bill down, in view of the fact that certain clauses in the Soldiers Settlement Bill in regard to advances to soldiers will be more or less useless if this Bill is not put through. This gives the Government power to arrange for exchange of certain leases so that they can have portions suitable for soldier settlement in lieu of heavy improved portions. I know there are a great number of soldiers who are anxious to acquire these pastoral leases, and I trust the House will give the Bill a speedy passage, in order that effect may be given to the Soldiers Settlement Bill.

Bill read a second time and passed remaining stages.