**HONEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.1953**

**House of Assembly, 27 August 1953, pages 552-3**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS,** for the Hon. Sir George Jenkins (Minister of Agriculture)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Its object is to extend the operation, of the Honey Marketing Act, 1949, for five years. This Act will, unless renewed, expire on June 30 next year, and it is therefore necessary to deal with the future of the scheme during the present session. Before the Act of 1949 was proclaimed a poll was held to determine whether the marketing scheme should be brought into operation, and out of about 500 beekeepers who were entitled to vote 302 voted Yes and 151 voted No. Thus the original voting in favour of the scheme was two to one. The Government has reason to believe that if a poll were now taken on the question of the continuance of the scheme the voting would be even more strongly in favour of it because of the successful operations of the Honey Board which have resulted in better returns to the producer for an increased production of honey. The Government asked the secretary of the Honey Board to furnish a short report indicating to what degree the operations of the board had been successful and to what extent the beekeepers supported a continuance of the board. The secretary’s. report is as follows:—

The extent to which the operations of the South Australian Honey Board have been successful, and the extent to which beekeepers in this State support the continuance of the board, can be gauged from the following facts. The total quantity of honey handled by the board in 60 lb. tins during its three years of operation has been increasing, and is as follows:—First pool period, 64,407 tins; second pool period, 74,174 tins; third pool period, 117,763 tins. During the past 12 months statistics show that there was produced in this State 127,600 tins, and of this quantity 117,763 passed through the agency of the Honey Board, leaving only 9,837 tins as a carry-over or honey sold interstate. Prior to the operations of the board 90 per cent of the honey produced on the border of South Australia and Victoria at Naracoorte, Bordertown and Keith was sent to the Victorian market. Since the operations of the board in this State, conditions have changed considerably, and last year over 85 per cent of the border-line honey was sent to the South Australian Honey Board. Before the operation of the Honey Board the price received by beekeepers for choice honey, including the container was 6id. per lb. and many producer members claim that had the board not come into operation the price for choice honey would have fallen to as 4 1/2 d. per lb. in that first year. At the conclusion of the first pool the board paid 7 7/8 per lb; the second pool resulted in just under 9 ¼ d. per lb., and the third pool result in just over 9 ¼ d. per lb. The reason for the drop in the last year’s pool was that 81.7 cent of the honey was exported at a realised price of 9 ¾ d. per lb. as compared with 65 per cent the previous year.

Prior to the operation of the board bee keepers were not paid any allowance for the tins in which they sent the honey to merchants. Today, they are receiving up to 3s. 6d, for tins in good condition. This principle of paying for tins has now been followed by New South Wales where their beekeepers are receiving today an allowance of up to 2s. 6d.for each tin. The Board through its agents and because of more orderly marketing has increased the quantity of honey shipped overseas, both to the United Kingdom and to other European countries. Exports in 1951 period totalled 41,160 tins (approximately). Exports in the year 1952 totalled 48,071 tins. Exports in the year 1953 reached the all-time record of 133,439 tins or the equivalent to 3,606 tons Generally, it is felt by beekeepers and packers that the operations of the board have stabiised the market for honey and have provided to beekeepers a price which is nearer the of production with a reasonable margin of profit than it has ever been before.

On October 4, 1949, when the Government was introducing the Honey Marketing Bill, I submitted in a report that the eastern States Beekeepers’ Associations had suggested that South Australia proceed with its marketing Act and that if it was successful they would follow suit. It is interesting to report that during the last two years beekeepers’ conferences throughout Australia have moved for a uniform marketing system based upon that operating in South Australia. A draft Marketing Act has been prepared by the Department of Commerce, Canberra, and would have been dealt with at the last Agricultural meeting had wheat not taken up the time of the Council . As further evidence that beekeepers support the operations of the South Australian Honey Board, I would like to submit the following resolution which was passed at the Annual Conference of South Australian Beekeepers held in July last:—

*“*That this meeting expresses its confidence in the South Australian Honey Board as it is at present constituted andl congratulates members of the board the excellent results obtained.”

Mr. J. R. Peck, president of the Victorian Apiarists ’ Association who was present at the conference stated:—

“That he would not like to see the discussion closed on the board’s interim report without first expressing his high regard for it and the results gained bearing in mind the factors that have been influencing the result. He thought the board had done a very good job for the last year and that it could be proud of its success in disposing ofsuch a large quantity of honey on an apparently weak overseas market and coming out of it as well it had done.”

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The Government has acceded to the request of the board for an extension of the Act and accordingly this Bill provides that the principal Act will remain in force until June 30, 1959.

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