**BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1961**

**Legislative Council, 26 September, page 863**

Second reading

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move**:**

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

The object of this Bill is to prohibit the placing or application of unscourable substances on the wool of sheep. The reason for the proposed prohibition is that manufacturers have complained that Australian wools have sometimes been found to contain tar, enamel paint and other unscourable substances and the special treatment necessary to get rid of those substances from wool increases the cost of manufacture considerably, and consequently adversely affects the price the primary producer can expect to receive.

In order to meet this problem section 28 of the Brands Act was amended in 1955 so as to s read as follows:

*A paint brand shall be made with a substance prescribed by regulation and shall be of a colour prescribed by regulation.*

Pursuant to this amendment regulations were promulgated to ensure that only scourable branding fluids would be used for registered paint brands, and (as black substances could be mistaken for tar), that the colour black should not be used for any paint brand. However, this does not prevent the use of black or unscourable substances for purposes other than branding, for instance, placing unregistered marks on sheep or tar on wounds. Fortunately such acts do not occur frequently but when they do occur the whole industry in South Australia is affected and the Government feels that the only effective means of protecting the industry in this State is to prescribe a penalty for such acts.

Accordingly, clause 3 amends section 70 of the principal Act by inserting therein a new paragraph under which it will be an offence to place or apply on any sheep or on the fleece or skin of a sheep, whether for the purpose of branding or otherwise, any tar, paint or other substance that is black in colour or any substance whatsoever, other than raddle, grease crayon or a substance prescribed as a scourable substance or as one with which a paint brand may be made. The maximum penalty for the offence will be £25 or three months imprisonment. The objects of the Bill are obvious to honourable members who are interested in the wool industry. There are now alternatives to the old black brands, including tar. It is a matter of presenting our wool in the most saleable form.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD secured the adjournment of the debate.