**IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1927**

**Legislative Council, 17 November 1927, page 1536**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. J. Cowan)—**This Bill is introduced principally for the purpose of dealing with a difficulty which has arisen with respect to the Swanport Irrigation Area. The Irrigation and Drainage Commission consider that, owing to the smallness of this irrigation area, which contains about 190 acres of irrigable land, the land cannot be let in blocks and worked as an irrigation area except at a considerable annual loss. The Commission is satisfied that the best course to pursue with regard to this land is to let the whole area to one lessee or to two or three lessees in partnership. Section 46 of the Irrigation Act, 1922, as amended in 1925, however, provides that, with certain exceptions, no person is to acquire the lease of more than 50 acres of irrigable land in an irrigation area. Clause 2 therefore extends the provisions of section 57a of the principal Act, as enacted by section 4 of the Irrigation Act Amendment Act, 1924, so that in a proper case land may be offered in larger areas than the area fixed by section 46. Section 16 of the Irrigation Act Amendment. Act, 1924, enabled a lessee of any town allotment let on perpetual lease subject to re-valuation to apply at any time before June 30, 1925, to the Commission to fix the rent payable for the land. A case has arisen where the application to the Commission to revise the rent payable for such land has been delayed until after the date fixed in the section, and the Commission has, of course, had no power to act on the application. Clause 3 amends the section by striking out the reference to June 30, 1925 in the section, and thereby provides that the Commission may entertain an application under the section whenever made. I move the second reading.

The Hon. T. McCALLUM secured the adjournment of the debate until November 22.