**METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS BILL 1933**

**Legislative Assembly, 22 November 1933, pages 2359-66**

Second reading

**The Hon. R. L. BUTLER (Wooroora— Treasurer)** 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 provide for the creation of a Board to be known as the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, to define the powers of the Board, to amend the Metropolitan Abattoirs Acts, 1908 to 1930, and for purposes incidental thereto.

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

Second reading

The Hon, R. L. BUTLER—In asking the House to allow me to introduce the second reading to-day I do so for the convenience of members. It is desirable that; the Bill, together with the second reading speech, should be made available at the earliest possible opportunity in order that members may consider and become conversant with them. The Leader of the Opposition will be given the opportunity of adjourning the debate Several attempts have been made to place the export trade in lambs, mutton, and pigs upon a more satisfactory basis, and one that would encourage an increase in the trade and eliminate the annual losses to the State, which for the last 10 years have averaged approximately £15,000 per annum. If members go back for a further period, they will find that there was a time when the Produce Export Department paid its way. In 1910 the export was between 240,000 and 250,000 lambs per annum.

Mr. Blackwell—It is a long time ago.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—Since the war, due to conditions and the price of wheat, the breeding of lambs has not been so extensively gone in for by farmers. The present conditions of the export trade have also brought losses to the producers far in excess of the losses which have devolved on the taxpayers through the operations of the Produce Export Depot at Port Adelaide. The conditions necessary for the satisfactory conduct of the export: trade in lambs and pigs are:—

1. Slaughtering to take place as soon as possible after the removal of the stock from the farm.
2. The slaughter works should be adjacent to the market yards where the stock are offered for sale.
3. Stock slaughtered either at the Abattoirs or at Port Adelaide should be available for local trade without restriction.
4. The freezing yards should be adjacent to the slaughtering halls.

These conditions obtain in other States, which compete with this State, but they are not satisfactory in South Australia, and their absence hampers the healthy growth of this export industry, resulting in the losses to the taxpayers and the stockowners to which I have already referred. If the industry were organised as it should be, these losses would not occur, and it is the purpose of this legislation to remove the adverse conditions which have caused these unnecessary losses to the taxpayer and the producer. The losses to which I have referred are:—

1. To the producers.—Lambs purchased for export in the market have to be droved to Port Adelaide, and they are yarded without food, often half smothered by dust, until they are slaughtered. The loss in weight; and in quality due to loss of bloom and bruises has to be estimated to be at least 2s. per head, and some stock raisers of quality lambs place it as high as 5s. per head. This loss falls entirely upon the producer and upon 200,000 lambs exported amounts to more than £20,000 per annum. The producer does not realise how much he is losing. A test made definitely proves that these losses do occur. In addition there is a further loss to the producer of all the lambs sold in the market at that time for local trade, since the export buyer would bid higher if better slaughtering conditions prevailed, and the local trade prices on the same date would consequently also be higher. If the buyer of lambs for export knows that there would be .a loss of about 2s. or more a head on every lamb he buys, naturally he fixes his price accordingly at the Abattoirs, thereby setting a price for all lambs bought for local consumption. It means that not only is that a loss in regard to lambs exported, but it practically covers all the lambs sold at the Abattoirs market on a particular day. It is almost impossible to assess the loss to the producer owing to the deplorable conditions which exist.

Mr. Blackwell—You say that all export lambs go through the Abattoirs?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—A very large number do.

Mr. Blackwell—A very large number do not.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—A very small number do not. The number of lambs sent direct to the freezers is small indeed.

Mr. Cameron—In any case, the price is fixed at the Abattoirs.

The Hon. R L. BUTLER—Yes. Now we come to the pig industry. The pig export industry has been definitely smothered by the restrictions placed upon the freedom of local trade. In all other States pigs may be purchased slaughtered, and sold without restriction, except as to export standard, in the local or overseas markets. In Adelaide pigs slaughtered for export in the Port Adelaide Depot may not be sold freely in the local market. This restriction definitely prevents the exporter from operating, since he requires a special size, weight and quality for export trade. He may have only 50 per cent, of his purchases suitable for export, and must therefore be able to sell the remaining 50 per cent, in the local market, and if he is prevented from doing this, he cannot operate in the market at all. The plan now proposed will remove this restriction. What applies to lambs applies with equal force to pigs. Perhaps it applies with greater force to pigs, because we have not a uniform breed of pigs in South Australia. I do not think 25 per cent, of the pigs, let alone 50 per cent., would be suitable for export. A man who desires to produce pigs for export is unable to operate under present conditions. It is common knowledge that the dairy and farm industry will be greatly benefited by a reliable market for pigs, and there is a good opening for an extension of this export trade. Queensland has entered enthusiastically into the export of pigs to England, and there is not the slightest doubt that if we could only organise our trade on a proper basis we would have a valuable market there for a number of pigs, which at times are almost unsaleable in South Australia. Any man who has raised pigs knows that sometimes he cannot secure a payable price, and at other times it is almost impossible to sell. No primary producer ever goes into the pig raising business with any enthusiasm, because he knows there are restricted opportunities for sale of his produce. The losses which have fallen upon producers in this industry cannot, of course, be estimated, but it may be said that thousands of pigs would have been exported during the past ten years or so if this hampering restriction had not existed.

The losses to the taxpayer have been considerable. These losses have been frequently referred to and were set out in considerable detail in the report of the Public Works

Standing Committee in 1929. As previously stated the losses have averaged approximately £15,000 a year at the Produce Depot at Port Adelaide for the last 11 years. They have been due to two factors, which were both outside the control of the most competent management :—

1. In a small State like South Australia there, has not been sufficient business to justify two large works, one exclusively for local trade, and the other confined to export trade.
2. The monopoly of the local trade held by the one deprived the other of just that addition of regular business which was necessary to keep a turnover adequate to profitably employ its permanent staff and plant, and pay interest and other overhead charges.

Members who contemplate opposition to this legislation should bear in mud that the one reason why we cannot make our Export Depot pay is because we have to-day two big institutions, one dealing entirely with local trade and the other entirely with export trade. Members can look at this question how they like. There is only one alternative that would remove the losses to the taxpayer and make better facilities available to the primary producer who produces export lambs—that is, giving the Depot the right to sell meat locally in Adelaide. In other States that practice exists. What would be the effect? It would mean the transferring of our losses from the Produce Depot to the Abattoirs, because unless the Abattoirs has a monopoly it cannot make its business pay without charging the consumer exorbitant prices.

Mr. Beerworth—Would it have a tendency to cheapen the price of meat?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER-—I am certain that it would.

Mr. Blackwell—You will pay more.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—There is not one tittle of evidence in support of that. I know the reasons of the honorable member’s opposition to the Bill.

Mr. Blackwell—Who compiled your statement for you?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—Never mind that.

Mr. Blackwell—I have a good idea.

Mr. Dunks—You say there will not be any losses- by the amalgamation?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—There will be no losses; To municipilasts who believe in municipal control and who have had this, monopoly so long—whereas the Government has carried on the Produce Department to the detriment to the taxpayer and the primary producer—I say that those conditions are not to continue. If we give the right to the Produce Department to sell meat locally there may be heavy losses falling on the ratepayers in the metropolitan area, because they will have to meet the losses of the Abattoirs Board- due to competition by the Produce Department.

Mr. Blackwell—You want to take the losses off the exporters, but not off the taxpayers.

The Hon. R. L, BUTLER—There will not be any losses this year because we have shipped a great number of lambs. I am concerned with the losses to the producer, and those people who say that this is solely a consumer’s problem do not know what they are talking about. It is a consumer’s problem as well as a producer’s problem. Municipalists know as well as I do that their only reason for opposition is that they do not like the control passing out of their hands into the hands of another board. They cannot oppose the amalgamation. They dare not oppose it- because they have no argument in support of it.

Mr. J. A. Lyons—There is no reason why they should.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—Parliament gave them the monopoly of selling meat in the metropolitan area. I do not criticise in the slightest degree what they have done. It is recognised in every State of the Commonwealth that you cannot operate an export produce depot profitably and successfully unless it has the right to sell meat locally. For every 100 lambs which go to the Produce Depot at least 10 to 15 are rejects either because they are slightly bruised or have red marks on them. Those lambs should be commanding a high price in the metropolitan area. I am confident that this Bill will pro­bably be classed as the best piece of legislation passed this year.

The Hon. J. Mclnnes—What becomes of the rejects now?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—They are taken by the Unemployment Relief Council or dis­posed of at very low prices. In Victoria private companies operate freezing works and lave the right to sell in their own butchers shops. That, is the reason why lambs always bring a higher price in Victoria than in South Australia. The Committee in referring to the losses on the Depot at Port Adelaide stated:— In the other States the export trade is more economically conducted, because it is carried on in conjunction with the local trade. The Produce Depot at Port Adelaide could be made to pay if it were allowed, in addition to the export trade, unrestricted right to slaughter for the local trade as well, but the Abattoirs Act provides that the Metropolitan Abattoirs shall have a monopoly in slaughtering stock for the metropolitan market. It is obvious today that slaughtering for the export trade and the local trade should not be separated as they can be more economically conducted in conjunction. The Government would be able to dispose of the slaughtering and freezing for the export trade, or surrender a profit, if unrestricted slaughtering for the local trade were permitted. It is, therefore, clear that it is the monopoly held by the Abattoirs Board which causes the losses to the State on the slaughtering and freezing works at Port Adelaide. It seems clear, therefore, that the concern which holds the monopoly of the local trade should also be required to carry out the slaughtering and freezing for the export trade, or surrender part of its monopoly and allow the export trade to share in slaughtering for the local market. The most economical course to pursue is to bring both branches of the trade under one management. Economies in staff and in overhead can be gradually introduced; the necessity for a steam plant to be working all the year round at Port Adelaide disappears, and the freezing chambers can be operated by an electrically-driven plant. The slaughtering yards at Port Adelaide can be used for export and local trade to the best advantage; or if it is found more economical, the whole of the slaughtering can be gradually transferred to the Abattoirs, but under either policy considerable economies can be introduced if both branches of the trade are under one management.

Mr. Anthoney—-Why not amend the Abattoirs Act!

The Hon. R, L. BUTLER—That is the only alternative. If we took away their monopoly the Abattoirs would not have any profit.

Mr. Blackwell—The Produce Department has been offered for sale several times, but we have never been able to obtain a bid.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—No; simply because we would not give the right to sell locally. I know that several companies would pay double the price at which we are handing over the depot if they could sell locally. Every committee which , has investigated the question has stated that it would not be a. good thing for South Australia, or the producer if a monopoly were given to any company.

Mr. Anthoney—The critics of the Bill do not deny that considerable economies could be effected if both branches of -the trade were under one management.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—The only critics are those bodies which still think that they should control the whole of the lamb export trade, as well as the local business. They have no knowledge of the lamb export business.

Mr. Dale—The officials of the Meat Industry Employees’ Union assure me that under this scheme meat will be dearer.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—You can tell them that it will probably be cheaper under the new management. I think that all will agree that the Committee has recommended a sound and businesslike solution, which should appeal to the commonsense of all reasonable persons. Mergers such as this are frequently carried out by private businesses for their mutual benefit, and it appears to me that the terms of transfer of this valuable property at Port Adelaide at £50,000 is, if anything, somewhat too reasonable, especially in view of the fact that the land on the waterfront alone will subsequently be worth considerably more than £50,000. We are told that we are handing over our losses for the Abattoirs to carry. We are really handing over land and buildings for £50,000 when they are worth nearly double that amount. It is difficult to compare costs here with those in other States, because they are on an entirely different basis. If the costs were on a comparable basis I feel sure that they would show that the costs in Adelaide are higher than those in some of the other States, despite what has been said to the contrary. Statements have been made that the Government is merely unloading its losses on to the new Board, and that the cost of meat to the local consumers will be raised. It should be clear from what I have already said that there is no justification for these statements, and it is merely a quibble of interested parties who wish to discredit the Committee's proposal. In fact, if the export trade in lambs and pigs grows, as it seems likely to do when freed from the present artificial restrictions, and due to the tendency of farmers to rely more upon keeping sheep than growing wheat, it should become more profitable, and rather tend to reduce, than increase local meat prices. The contention that this legislation. proposes to take away some large sum of money from the metropolitan councils and corporations cannot be taken seriously. The surpluses which the Abattoirs have used to extend their works and pay off the debt on the Abattoirs have been obtained from charges made. Some of these charges have fallen upon the producers, and some upon the consumers, but future consumers and producers will receive the benefit of the lower capital liability. All the profits and amounts which the Abattoirs have written off have been obtained owing to the charges made to consumers.

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Mr. Blackwell—The Abattoirs have never increased their charges.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—There was no need to do so because they started at a very high rate.

Mr. Bardolph—Did not they take a risk when they started?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—They said they did, but usually when State or semi-State concerns get into difficulties they fall back on the Government for help. It was the Government who raised the money to enable the Board to carry on. The Abattoirs Board would not have been in their present favorable position if money had not been obtained for them at a rate of interest much lower than the Board could have secured the money themselves. The Government has been very considerate to the Board, both in regard to the borrowing of new money and the conversion of old loans. In that direction the Government has assisted the Board in every possible way. All that is contemplated by the present legislation is to make the Abattoirs a State concern, governed by an independent Board, slaughtering stock for the local trade and for export. It is also necessary to recognise this public utility as one in which, the country producers, butchers, stock raisers, and stock agents have a vital interest. The undertaking is still to be quite free from political control. It will still be in the possession of the people of the State and its directors will be elected from consumers and producers in such a manner as is calculated to obtain a competent Board, which will retain the confidence of all persons.

Mr. Blackwell—Is it intended to take over the freezing works that handle apples, butter, and so on?

The Hon, R. L. BUTLER—No, The object of the Bill is to give effect to the recommendations of the Livestock Inquiry Committee, which recently inquired into the position of the Government Produce Department, and made recommendations for transferring part of. its functions to the Metropolitan Abattoirs, and for creating a new Board to take control under the new arrangement.

At this stage I desire to compliment the Committee on their admirable work. Their report was one of the best I have ever read. It explained very lucidly the mistakes and disadvantages of the present system and emphasised the necessity for the reform recommended. I wish personally to thank the members of the Committee, who devoted considerable time free of cost to the Government, in performing a most important task.

To carry out the recommendations of the Committee it has been necessary to include in the Bill provisions for the creation of the new Board, the abolition of the existing Abattoirs Board, the alteration of the financial provisions of the principal Act, and other minor amendments of the Metropolitan Abattoirs Act. Clause 4 provides that there is to be a new Board known as the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board. This Board will consist of a chairman and six members. The chairman will be appointed by the Governor. The members are divided into two classes, called respectively “consumers’ representatives’’ and “industry representatives.” The consumers’ representatives are elected by the constituent corporations and councils which elect the present Board. The industry representatives will be elected by delegates from the Stockowners’ Association, the Stock Salesmen’s Association, the Pig Breeders’ Society, Master Butchers Limited and the metropolitan butchers who are not members of Master But­chers Limited. By clause.6 the fees payable to members of the Board are fixed at £78 per annum, which is the maximum for the present members of the Board, and the salary of the chairman is left to be fixed by the Governor.

By clause 7 it is provided that the term of office of the chairman and members of the Board will normally be six years It is intended, however, that one consumers ’ repre­sentative and one industry representative on the Board will retire every two years and in order to secure the correct alteration of retirement it is provided that on the first Board one consumers’ representative and one industry representative shall hold office for two years only, and one consumers’ representative and one industry representative for four years only.

Mr. Bardolph—Would the Government consider giving the employees of the industry representation on the Board?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—Certainly not. We want competent men to manage the concern.

Mr. Bardolph—Do you not think employees’ representatives would be competent?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—I do not think they should be on the Board. Those employed in the industry have everything to gain and nothing to lose from efficient management. Clause 8 contains the usual provision for vacating the seat of any member of the Board for insanity, bankruptcy, conviction of crime, or absence. Clause 9 sets out the time for holding elections for members of the Board. The first Board will be elected as soon as possible after the commencement of the Bill, and subsequent elections will be held within three months prior to the expiration of the term of office of any member, and as soon as practicable after a casual vacancy occurs.

Clause 10 sets out the mode by which the consumers’ representatives on the Board will be elected by members of the constituent corporations and councils. Under these provisions any district or municipal council within the Abattoirs area will have the right to nominate one person as a candidate for election. If more nominations are received than there are seats to be filled an election will be held by a returning officer appointed for the purpose. The election will be conducted by postal ballot papers, and every mayor, chairman, alderman, and councillor of a district or municipal council within the Abattoirs Area will be entitled to one vote for each seat to be filled on the Board. That is, at the first election every councillor will be entitled to vote for three candidates, and at every subsequent election for one candidate. The election will be on the “first past the post” system, and the candidate or candidates obtaining the highest number of votes will be elected.

Mr. Cameron—Why “first past the post”?

The Hon. R.L. Buttler – I do not think you could use any other system at an election of this kind.

Mr Cameron – It is vital. It might cause complications.

The Hon. R.L. Buttler – No. The idea is not to give direct representation on the

Board to interested parties, but to give theindustries concerned the right to say who, intheir opinion, are the three best men for the positions, irrespective of the industry they may represent.

Mr. Cameron—Supposing there are three divisions of opinion in the industry.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—There may be but I shall come to that point in a minute. Clause 11 deals with the appointment of delegates to elect the industry representative on the Board. The general principle of the Bill is on this point that the industry representatives will be appointed at a meeting of delegates representing the various associations which are interested in the meat trade in the metropolitan area. The delegates will be appointed as follows:—Four by the council of the Stockowners’ Association, four by the Stock Salesmen Association, two by the Pig Breeders’ Society, and four in all by the metropolitan butchers. Of these last four two will be appointed by the directors of Master Butchers Limited, and two by the Minister to represent the metropolitan butchers who are not members of Master Butchers Limited. The delegates appointed by the Minister will be chosen from nominees of the butchers themselves. Clause 12 sets out the mode by which the industry representatives on the Board fill be elected by the delegates. The Returning Officer will call a meeting of the delegates and hold an election. Any two delegates may nominate candidates and the voting will be by ballot on the *“*first past the post” system. Clause 13 provides for notice in the “Gazette” of the successful candidates, and clause 14 deals with the regulations as to nominations and elections. Clause 15 provides that if election is not duly held the Governor appoint a member to any seat on the Board which should have been filled at the election. Clause 16 provides for notice of the date of the establishment of the Board.

Clause 17 is an important clause which provides that upon the establishment of the Board the property, funds, rights, powers liabilities, duties and obligations of the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board will be transferred to it and the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board shall cease to exist. Thereafter the Board shall administer the Abattoirs Acts. Clause 18 is another important clause which transfers to the Board the freezing works slaughter house, stock yards*,* and tallow house belonging to the Government Produce Department at Port Adelaide. The Board is to pay the Treasurer the sum of £50,000 in consideration of the transfer. The money will be repayable in forty-two years by equal half-yearly instalments, and debentures will be issued to secure the repayment. These debentures will be as nearly as possible the same as the existing debentures issued by the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board to the Treasurer. Clause 19 provides that the Board is to impose and collect such fees and charges as will ensure that it has sufficient revenue to meet the moneys due under the debentures. Clause 20 enables the Board to borrow additional money up to the amount of its sinking fund for the purpose of extending or altering any works under its control. Clause 21 provides that none of the constituent corporations or councils are to be liable for any debts or liabilities of the Board, nor entitled to share in its profits or any of its property or funds.

Clause 22 provides that the Governor, at the request of the Board, may extend the Metropolitan Abattoirs area so as to include within it the whole or any part of the area now served by the Glenelg and Brighton Abattoirs. Clause 23 provides that the Board may permit stock slaughtered at the Port Lincoln Branch of the Government Produce Department to be brought into and sold within the Metropolitan Abattoirs area. The object of this amendment is to give the Board power to test out a scheme for selling in the Metropolitan Abattoirs area meat derived from stock produced on the West Coast and slaughtered at Port Lincoln. It is well known that the West Coast is urgently in need of local markets and while it may not be possible to establish much trade between Port Lincoln and the metropolitan area the clause will enable the possibilities of the situation to be explored. As the Board will have power to bring lambs to Adelaide for sale in the metropolitan area it will open a market for producers in country districts who at present have great difficulty in disposing of their stock.

Mr. Dunks—The lambs would be sold through the new Board ?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—Yes. Clause 24 carries out the recommendations of the Committee as to giving the new Board sole rights in the metropolitan area to slaughter stock for export as chilled or frozen meat. It also provides, in accordance with the recommendations, that the Board is only to slaughter meat for export on the order of the Government Produce Department. Clause 25 provides that the Board may buy and sell stock, carcasses, and meat, but shall not sell any meat by retail. The Government is advised that the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board has in the past occasionally been com­pelled by circumstances to buy and sell stock and meat, and that the power to do so in exceptional circumstances is necessary for the proper management of the Abattoirs and markets. Clause 26 empowers the Board to fix the maximum number of stock to be sold in any one day in any market under its control, and to refuse to receive into the market any stock in excess of the number fixed.

Mr. Thompson—That is rather an arbitrary power to give them.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—There will be representatives of the stock agents on the Board. At present there is not sufficient done to regulate the markets. The Board will more effectively regulate sales at the Abattoirs, and it might be possible to have two market days, one for local consumption and the other for export.

The Hon. Gr. F. Jenkins—That was tried once before, but proved a costly failure.

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—It was not tried under the management of a Board of this description, with the slaughtering done by one Board instead of by the Abattoirs Board and the Produce Depot.

Mr. Bardolph—Don’t you think it will result in the price of meat being dearer?

The Hon. R. L. BUTLER—No. The main thing is to get a profitable price for the meat produced. Clause 27 provides for a report on the efficiency of the Board at least once in every three years, and clause 28 provides for an annual audit by the Auditor-General. This provision will enable an officer of the Auditor-General’s Department, such as Mr. Wainwright, to inquire into whether the industry has been efficiently managed or not, so

that Parliament will be informed of the Board’s operations. I think this provision should meet with the approval of every honorable member.

The following observations on Clause 27 may be useful. Board control of public utilities in other States and countries has been found to be a satisfactory method of controlling a large undertaking both in publicly and privately owned utilities. These boards are often made independent by statute and given monopolies but the driving forces of vested interests and the necessity of obtaining high dividends for the shareholders is removed. These boards are more removed from competent criticism than a Government Department, and in the absence of these incentives they frequently tend to become easy-going and gradually lose the keenness and driving force necessary to obtain some large modern business concern. It is therefore necessary to obtain some incentive to stimulate some pride in efficiency and to foster some keenness comparable to the “profit’’ incentive which exists in private companies. Of recent years some method of regular investigation in order to stimulate efficiency has been adopted. It is sometimes called an administrative audit and is becoming common in private as well as public undertakings. Sir Josiah Stamp who is the Chairman of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Co., Ltd., stated that he had made great use of the method of employing investigators from outside the railways organisation who were competent in many capacities . An efficient administration will always welcome a competent investigator as it would be keen to adopt any improvements, but an inefficient and conservative administration will always strenuously oppose such an inquiry. Investigations made in the public services of this and other States have established that great benefits are obtainable from this method.

The remaining clauses carry out the detailed consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the general scheme. They contain no new principles and there is no necessity to explain them in detail, but if any honorable member desires information as to any particular clause the Government will be pleased to give it to him on application. I think the effect of the measure will be that we shall have an efficient undertaking. As the report states, owing to the fact that there is no competition, there is at present not the incentive for efficiency. It is essential, therefore, that there should be an investigation by a competent person periodically to ascertain whether in his opinion the business is being carried out efficiently. I submit the Bill to the House believing it to be legislation which will help the primary producers in this State and I say quite frankly and definitely that it will not place any burden on consumers in the metropolitan area. The amalgamation of these two big concerns will be for the mutual benefit of everyone. This Bill is one of the most important the House had had to deal with this year although it is really not of a contentious nature. Realising the losses which have occurred to the taxpayers and the producers during a number of years, Parliament should take the earliest opportunity of rectifying the position. I move the second reading.

Mr. LACEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

There occurred debate of some length at the following pages in Hansard.

**METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS BILL.1933**

**Legislative Assembly, 29 November 1933, pages 2589-2603**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 28. Page 2539.)