HIDE, SKIN AND WOOL DEALERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1965

House of Assembly, 1 September 1965, page 1407

Second reading

**The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Agriculture):** I move:

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

Its object is to provide stricter controls over the activities of certain itinerant hide, skin and wool dealers. Experience has shown that there are dishonest itinerant dealers who take advantage of the absence of the farmer or stockowner from his premises to take and carry away his hides, skins or wool for purposes of sale. They return later to the farmer and stockowner and give him a price for the hides, skins or wool, which is often well below their true worth. There are occasions when such unauthorized taking and selling of these goods his interest in introducing the Bill, law as, for example, when a theft can be proven. It is felt, however, that resort to the criminal law does not always meet the circumstances of the case. It is therefore proposed that these amendments to the Hide, Skin and Wool Dealers Act, 1915-1959, which have been agreed to in consultation with the Police Department, are designed to give protection to owners who have hides, skins and wool to sell as well as to honest dealers who may buy such goods for cash only to discover that they are subject to a lien and not therefore the property of the seller.

In addition, this legislation would go some way to reduce the activities of dishonest itinerant dealers (and consequent losses to farmers and stockowners) and at the same time it would preserve the position of honest itinerant dealers who have a standing arrangement with the stockowner to collect any of his hides, skins or wool. Clause 3 provides that persons licensed under the Act who buy or receive into their possession any hides, skins or wool shall record the particulars of the transaction in a record book and cause the entry to be signed by the owner (or his agent). Subsection (1) thereof so provides. By subsections (2) and (3) any person who fails to comply with the foregoing provisions or makes false entries in his record book or signs any defective entry commits an offence under the Act.

Provision is made under section 12b for the owner of any hides, skins and wool to confer a written authority upon a licensee to buy or receive his hides, skins or wool. When such licensee has such written authority, he would be obliged to record the particulars of any transaction made under this authority in the record book but would not be required to obtain the signature of the owner to such entry. This would safeguard the position of itinerant dealers with whom the stockowner etc. has a standing arrangement to collect his hides, skins or wool.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN secured the adjournment of the debate.