LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1961

House of Assembly, 5 October 1961, page 1088

Second reading

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Acting Minister of Lands) 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 amend the Land Settlement Act, 1944-1959.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It extends the operation of the Land Settlement Act, which would normally expire in December of the present year, for a further two years. The Bill is in similar terms to that which was passed in 1959. The Government is still of the opinion that the provisions of the principal Act should not be allowed to lapse and the effect of clause 3 is to extend the term of office of members of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement until December 31, 1963. Clause 4 amends section 27a of the principal Act enabling the acquisition of lands in that portion of the western division of the South-East which is south of drains K and L up to December 22, 1963.

Since the completion of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, the Land Settlement Committee has had less work than it had some years ago. The committee’s future has been considered by the Government, and it is felt that, as members of the committee have a knowledge of and interest in agricultural and rural subjects, the committee should be maintained in its present form and projects that are normally referred to the over-worked Public Works Standing Committee, and which relate specifically to rural matters, should be referred to the Land Settlement Committee for inquiry. This proposal will be effected as soon as possible after the extension of the committee’s life.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.