**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST BILL 1933**

**Legislative Assembly, 10 October 1933. pages 1589-90**

Second reading

**The Hon. M. MclNTOSH (Albert—Commissioner of Crown Lands)—**This Bill is in the nature of a semi-private Bill, and has for its objective the simpler working and amplification of powers of the Renmark Irrigation Trust. I have been advised since the Bill was introduced that it will be necessary, after the second reading is carried, to have it referred to a Select Committee. I need not further elaborate upon it except to say that the main functions and objective provide in the first place that the Irrigation Trust may carry out certain drainage work in an area at Renmark, more particularly in block E, which largely comprises soldier settlers, where the water tables have risen as a result ol irrigation, so that several blocks are imperilled. The Government, therefore, is liable to lose money which has been expended upon them. It automatically follows that, in common with the Trust, the Government is desirous of having that area drained. The Bill will enable the Trust to levy a rate for the drainage, and although the State will not directly contribute to the cost it will be enabled to assist in some degree by supplying surplus pipes which are available at reduced cost. The main object of the Bill is to enable the Trust, not only to prevent the causation of drainage problems, but when they occur to drain areas affected. Other provisions enable the Trust to create a provident fund or establish a superannuation fund for its employees. District councils have the power to do so, and although the Trust has the powers of a district council in other respects it is not empowered to do these things. That is an anomaly. Another anomaly is that a certain area of land which was always regarded as belonging to the Trust was recently found to have been included in a lease issued to a pastoral company. That company has had the use of the land without restriction, although it has always been regarded as a sort of no-mans land. The Bill will restore to the Trust that piece of land, which originally belonged to it. Another provision is the control of subdivisions. There, again, an anomaly exists. Although the Trust has the powers of a district council in most other respects, it has not been given power to control subdivisions within its area. It therefore asks for that power. Otherwise estates may be subdivided and the Trust charged with the responsibility of pumping water on to areas which are quite unprofitable, and in regard to which it would have no say as to the propriety of subdivision. I move the second reading.

The Hon. R. S. RICHARDS—As the Bill must of necessity be referred to a Select Committee no purpose will be served by discussing it at this stage.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hons. M. McIntosh and J. Mclnnes and Messrs. Riches, Morphett, and Hogben.