FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1971

House of Assembly, 26 August 1971, page 1161

Second reading

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, 1958-1965. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

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

It amends the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, 1958-1965, and is intended to ensure that this State in common with the remainder of the Commonwealth is in the best possible position to deal with an outbreak of any exotic disease affecting animals. Members will no doubt be aware that, under the principal Act which was passed in 1958, the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund was set up to provide a source of revenue to deal with outbreaks of this disease. Contributions are liable to be made to this fund by the Commonwealth and the States and the States’ contributions are based on numbers of livestock in each of the States. On this basis the contribution by this State would be about 5 per cent of the total amounts required for any campaign of eradication. Members will further appreciate that the State’s liability is not limited to an outbreak occurring within its territorial boundaries since an outbreak anywhere in the Commonwealth becomes of concern to all the States.

In 1965 the definition of “foot and mouth disease” was extended to include the diseases of vesicular exantherma and vesicular stomatitis although these diseases are not in fact foot and mouth disease in the accepted sense. It is now considered desirable to widen this definition further by including within the definition “any disease for the time being declared by proclamation to be included within the definition of foot and mouth disease for the purposes of this Act”. This extension has been effected by means of clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill. Necessarily any such extension will only be made after agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, but it is intended that rinderpest, swine fever, African swine fever, rabies, Newcastle disease in its classical virulent form, fowl plague and blue tongue will be included within the extended meaning. The use of the proclamation in this matter is, it is suggested, necessary to ensure that there are no legal or financial impediments in the way of bringing to bear maximum effective eradication measures in the event of the outbreak in this country of, say, some exotic disease not mentioned above. Clauses 5 and 6 of the Bill are designed to make dear that there will be no delay in securing appropriate advances to the fund of this State’s share of the cost of any eradication scheme and that this State can lawfully contribute towards an eradication scheme that is conducted outside its own border.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Has the Agricultural Council dealt with this matter?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know, but I will inquire.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.