**DAIRY PRODUCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1944**

**Legislative council, 30 August 1944, pages 263-4**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2**) —I notice that this Bill is on the Notice Paper in another place. I do not know whether it will be possible for each member to have a copy of the Bill when the second reading is moved. As a rule we have a copy of a measure before us so that we can follow the Minister’s remarks on it. I do not know whether there is any particular urgency for the second reading to be moved later in today’s proceedings. I do not object to the measure being dealt with on motion, but I think there should be an explanation as to why the Bill is on the Notice Paper in both places

The PRESIDENT—I noticed that this measure and one or two others are on the Notice Papers for both Houses, but the fact remains that this Bill has not yet been introduced in the Assembly.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—The Bill is on the Assembly Notice Paper, but in order to facilitate the working of Parliament generally, and to give members an opportunity to consider the measure, it was deemed advisable to introduce it here instead. It is purely a machinery Bill. My colleague sought the suspension of Standing Orders so that he could give his second reading speech on motion, which would enable a copy of the Bill to be available to each member when the second reading was given. It is desirable to dispose of it to-day so that over the adjournment members can examine the measure. The second reading will not be moved unless copies of the Bill are available.

Motion carried.

Later,

Second reading.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Midland—Commissioner of Crown Lands)—The object of this Bill is to extend the dairy produce legislation for a further period of two years. This legislation will, unless renewed, expire on September 30 next. As members are aware, the Dairy Produce Act does not provide for the general control of the dairy industry, but contains the legal basis for the equalization schemes for butter and cheese under which the home consumption price is fixed and exports are subsidized by an equalization payment. Under present conditions export prices of butter are about 20s. cwt. less than local prices and the quota which is to be exported is approximately 40 per cent. The result of the scheme is that export subsidies varying from 30s. to 50s. per cwt. are paid according to the season of the year. The equalization scheme has become an integral part of the economic set-up of the dairying industry, and it could not be discontinued without very considerable confusion and hardship. For this reason the Government asks Parliament to extend the Act for a further two years, as has been done from time to time in the past. I move the second reading.

The Hon. E. A. OATES secured the adjournment of the debate.