BARLEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1967

House of Assembly, 28 September 1967, page 2282

Second reading

**The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Agriculture**) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Barley Marketing Act, 1947-1962. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I move:

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

Its purpose is to extend the life of the Barley Marketing Act for a further five seasons. This Bill has been prepared after consultation with the Victorian Government, which has already taken steps to introduce a Bill for the extension of the Victorian Barley Marketing Act for a further three years. The proposal to extend the South Australian Act for a further five years should be welcomed by all sections of the industry in South Australia.

The Australian Barley Board is obliged, under the legislation, to meet reasonable requirements of barley for home consumption in the States of South Australia and Victoria. The surplus over these requirements varies from season to season, and is exported overseas. Home consumption barley is used mainly for malt production for both Australian and oversea markets, for feed grain, and by stockfood compounders. South Australian stockfood merchants have this year contracted to purchase increased quantities of barley. The board’s main export outlets are the United Kingdom, Europe, and Japan, but in recent years valuable new markets with potential for expansion have been found in Pakistan, South America, South Africa, Taiwan, Saigon, the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea ports.

The Act provides that a poll may be taken if sufficient growers desire the Act to be terminated. A poll has never been sought and growers have indicated many times their desire to retain orderly marketing of barley. The board consists of three elected representatives of the South Australian barleygrowers, one elected representative of the Victorian growers, a nominee of the brewers and maltsters, a person nominated by the Governor of Victoria, and the Chairman is nominated by the Governor of South Australia.

Rapid strides have been made in bulk handling of barley and, since 1962-63 when 143,000 bushels of bulk barley was first received direct from growers, the quantity received in bulk has increased to over 11,000,000 bushels in South Australia and over 3,000,000 bushels in Victoria for the 1966-67 season. The board has arranged a system which, with the co-operation of the bulk handling authorities in both States, enables growers to deliver bulk barley to wheat silos prior to the imminent wheat harvest. This system has proved successful and has enabled growers to deliver, in bulk, barley which could not have been so delivered until more permanent bulk-barley storage facilities had been constructed. Further permanent storage facilities for bulk barley are being constructed by the bulk handling authorities as rapidly as finances will allow.

In the 1965-66 season the board initiated on-the-spot classification at Karoonda in South Australia, and at Beulah and Sunshine in Victoria. This procedure enabled growers to deliver barley to these locations without prior collection and classification of samples. The procedure was extended to 26 centres for the 1966-67 season and has greatly facilitated the delivery of bulk barley. In 1967-68, on-the-spot classification will be carried out at 32 receival points, and in the following season it will be further extended to at least another 10 centres in South Australia. In the coming season bulk receival facilities will be available at 63 centres in South Australia and 65 centres in Victoria.

I thank the Victorian Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Chandler) for his co-operation. He has telephoned me many times when problems have arisen, and I have communicated with him in the same way. Each time we have arrived at a satisfactory decision without much delay. The present set-up concerning barley is an unusual one, with only two States operating, but the growers are fortunate in the way the board functions. I commend the Bill to the House.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON secured the adjournment of the debate.