THE BREAD BILL 1893

Legislative Council, 9 August 1893, page 810

Second reading

**The CHIEF SECRETARY**, in moving the second reading, said the Bread Act of 1891 was a short Act, and the only portion which was proposed to be altered by the Bill was that portion which related to the weight of bread. Some informations were laid by the City Corporation against a number of bakers for selling underweight bread, and the informations were dismissed by the Special Magistrate on the ground that the Bread Act did not sufficiently define the weight of bread. The reason for the Bill was clearly expressed in a report which the Special Magistrate sent to the Attorney-General, and in which he said :— “By section 3 of the Bread Act the expression ‘standard’ weight when used in reference to bread meant ‘a loaf of the full weight of 1 lb. or 2 lb.,’ and nowhere in the Act are these words made to apply respectively to loaves sold as 1 lb. or 2 lb. loaves, nor are they made to relate to the respective prices at which such loaves are sold. To carry out what I presume is the intention of section 10 of the Bread Act, 1891, viz., to prevent loaves of bread from being sold of less weight than they are represented to be, it will, in my opinion, be necessary to amend the Act by restricting the sale of loaves by making it penal to sell any except those of certain weights, say of 1, 2, 3, or 4 lb. weight, and to define ‘standard weight’ to mean in case of a loaf sold as a 1 lb. loaf 16 oz., a 2 lb. loaf 32 oz., and so on. The Bread Act contained no such provision and it was impossible to decide what a ‘standard weight’ meant. In the Bill before the Council the kinds of bread were limited, except French rolls under 4 oz. Bread had to be sold in loaves of 1 lb., 2 lb., 3 lb., or 4 lb., and in clause 4 a penalty was provided against the sale of bread of other weights. He apprehended the Council would not object to the second reading.

Carried.

In committee.

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 passed.

Clause 4. Weight of bread.

The Hon. J. H. ANGAS did not know how clause 4 would work. He could imagine people being punished for selling bread underweight but not over weight. He thought it would be as well to strike out the words “or over the weight of one pound, or over the weight of two pounds, or over the weight of three pounds, or over the weight of four pounds.”

The Hon. J. DARLING- preferred the old clause, but the new one would meet all requirements in cases where bread was light or heavy through staleness or other causes. If a loaf were light a bit could be added to make it the exact weight.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER said if a baker added a bit of bread to a loaf underweight it would bring him under the provisions of clause 3.

The Hon. W. HASLAM moved to amend the clause by adding after the words “under the weight of one pound,” “as a one-pound loaf.”

Carried.