**AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ACT AMEND­MENT BILL 1940**

**House of Assembly, 24 September 1940, pages668-9**

Second reading

**The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Angas—Commis­sioner of Crown Lands**)—The Agricultural Col­lege Endowment Act, 1886, in addition to mak­ing other provisions relating to the agricultural college, provided that the Governor could reserve and grant to the Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments any Crown lands up to a maximum of 50,000 acres. The Act provided that any land so granted could be leased by the Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments and that the revenues derived from the land were to be paid into the Treasury and applied towards the purposes of the agricultural college. In 1890 Crown lands in the hundreds of Bagot, Bundey, and Dudley, comprising approximately 50,000 acres, were reserved for this purpose and land grants were issued to the Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments. At that time the Commissioner of Crown Lands also held the office of Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments; this position was altered in 1938 when, by the Agricultural College Act Amendment Act, the office was transferred to the Minister of Agriculture.

As previously mentioned, the 1886 Act made provision for the leasing of these lands by the Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments. However, for some reason or other, the provisions or the 1886 Act were not followed and leases of the reserved land were issued under the Crown Lands Act by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Furthermore, the scheme of the 1886 Act for the application of the revenue from this land has not been carried into effect. The revenues have been paid into general revenue and the agricultural college is maintained by money provided on the Estimates. The peculiar position of the leases of this land has necessitated special provisions in sections 210, 212, and 214 of the Crown Lands Act. A lessee of agricultural college endowed land may, under section 214 of the Crown Lands Act, surrender his lease for a perpetual lease but, by the provisions of sections 210 and 212, he is expressly excluded from the right of obtaining an agreement for sale or purchase or of obtaining the fee simple of his land, as may an ordinary lessee of Crown lands under those sections.

The purpose of this Bill is, therefore, to remedy the position created by the manner in which this land has been dealt with in the past. It is provided by clause 3 that the grants to the Commissioner of Agricultural Endowments shall be revoked, and that the land in question will in future be dealt with under the Crown Lands Act. All existing leases and all cancellations and surrenders of leases of the land are validated. Clause 2 repeals sections 9 and 10 of the Agricultural College Act, 1936. This Act consolidated the 1886 Act and its amendments. Section 9 of the Act provides machinery for dealing with the endowed land. This section will now be unnecessary. Section 10 is the section providing that the revenues from the endowed land are to be used for the purposes of the agricultural college. The effect of the repeal of this section will bring the law into accord with practice. As previously mentioned, these revenues have been paid into general revenue and the necessary moneys for the purpose of the college are provided by the Estimates. The necessary consequential amendments to the Crown Lands Act will be made in the Crown Lands Act Amendment Bill to be dealt with during this session. The general effect will be that these endowed lands will be dealt with in the ordinary way under the Crown Lands Act and that lessees of these lands will have the same rights and duties as other lessees under that Act. I move the second reading.

The Hon. R. S. RICHARDS secured the adjournment of the debate.