**SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1946**

**Legislative Assembly, 23 October 1946**

Second reading

**The Hon. Sir GEOEGE JENKINS (Newcastle—-Minister of Agriculture)—**The Swine Compensation Act provides for the constitution of a swine compensation fund into which is paid the proceeds of stamp duties levied on of swine. This fund is used for the purpose of compensating owners of pigs or carcases of pigs which are condemned because of disease. “Diseas” is defined to mean tuberculosis, swine fever, swine plague, swine erysipelas, and swine paratyphoid. Under the present provisions of the Act, compensation is payable only where a pig is destroyed by order of an inspector because the pig is suffering from or is suspected to be suffering from disease, or where a carcass is condemned by an inspector at an abattoir or slaughterhouse because of disease or where a pig is destroyed with the consent of the Chief Inspector of Stock because it is suffering from disease or is suspected to be so suffering. If swine die a natural death as a result of disease there is no right to compensation. The right to compensation only arises if the swine are condemned and are destroyed as a result of that condemnation.

It has been suggested by the Pig Producers’ Association that the Act should be extended to provide for compensation where swine die as the result of disease. In the case of diseases such as swine paratyphoid, swine fever and swine erysipelas, death can occur very suddenly and swine which appear healthy the previous evening, may be found dead next morning. In such circumstances, an owner has no opportunity of calling in an inspector to examine the swine and the result is that he thereby loses his claim to compensation.

The purpose of the Bill is therefore to provide that where a pig dies by reason of dis­ease, the owner will be entitled to compensation if the body of the pig is examined by an inspector and if the inspector certifies that the cause of death was a disease as defined by the Act. The compensation payable will be the same as that payable for a pig which is destroyed after condemnation by an inspector, namely, seven-eighths of the market value, less any residual value, and the maximum market value of a pig is fixed at £15. To make the requisite alteration of the law, it is necessary to amend several sections of the Swine Compensation Act. This is done by the clauses of, the Bill and the only amendments made by the Bill are for this purpose. In a number of cases in recent months the owners of pigs have lost them through diseases for which compensation is payable, but because an officer could not be present to inspect the animals before they died the owners were not entitled to compensation under the Act.

Mr. Christian—The Bill now provides for payment for any disease?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—This Bill makes no alteration in respect of the dis­eases for which compensation is payable, but only to the method by which payment may be made. I move the second reading.

The Hon. R. S. RICHARDS (Wallaroo— Leader of the Opposition)—Prom my examination of the principal Act and the statement of the Minister in another place, I am satisfied that the position is as outlined by the Minister of Agriculture. It is anomalous that a pig owner should be debarred from compensation because he was unable to call in an inspector before the demise of his pigs. The provisions of the Bill are necessary and I support the second reading.