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GEORGII VI REGIS.

A.D. 1945.

No. 9 of 1945.

An Act to empower the Government to grant assistance to farmers affected by the drought prevailing in the year nineteen hundred and forty-five, and to buy and sell fodder, and for other purposes incidental thereto.

[Assented to 9th November, 1945.]

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor of the State of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Parliament thereof, as follows :

1. This Act may be cited as the " Drought Relief Act, 1945 ". Short title.

2. (1) In this Act " farmer " means any person who, Interpretation. otherwise than as an employee, is engaged in the cultivation of land for the production of cereals, and includes any party to a share farming agreement under which land is cultivated for such production.

(2) The decision of the Minister as to whether a person is a farmer or not shall be conclusive.

3. (1) The Minister may appoint an advisory board of Advisory Board. three persons to assist him in the administration of this Act.

(2) The functions of the board shall be to furnish the Minister with information and advice relating to matters arising under this Act.

Drought Relief.

4. For the purposes of section 5 of this Act—

(a) the Treasurer may arrange for any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the aggregate seven

Power to borrow money and purchase goods.

hundred and fifty thousand pounds to be borrowed in accordance with the Financial Agreement ; and

- (b) the Minister may purchase any commodities, and pay for them out of loan moneys made available by the Treasurer.

Power to make loans and supply commodities to farmers.

5. (1) Where the Minister is satisfied that any farmer is in necessitous circumstances, and has sustained loss by reason of the drought prevailing in the State during the year nineteen hundred and forty-five he may—

- (a) make a loan of money to that farmer ;
- (b) sell or supply to that farmer any commodities which in the Minister's opinion are required for or in connection with the carrying on of farming operations by the farmer or for or in connection with the maintenance of himself and his dependents.

(2) Every such loan, sale, or supply shall be upon such terms and conditions as to payment, interest, security, and otherwise, as the Minister thinks fit.

(3) No money shall be lent and no goods shall be sold or supplied under this section after the twenty-eighth day of February, nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

Bills of sale.

6. For the purpose of giving security for any loan made under section 5 of this Act, or for the price of any commodities sold or supplied under that section, a farmer may, by bill of sale, assign to the Minister any crops to be grown by him or on his behalf on any land within the State within any period not exceeding five years after the execution of the bill of sale ; and any such bill of sale shall be a bill of sale within the meaning of the Bills of Sale Act, 1886-1940, and shall operate to assign the ownership at law as well as in equity of the said crops, but without prejudice to the rights of a *bona fide* purchaser or mortgagee of the land on which the crops grow, under any contract of sale or mortgage entered into before the registration of the bill of sale. Any such crops shall be personal chattels within the meaning of the Bills of Sale Act, 1886-1940.

Exemption from stamp duty.

7. No stamp duty shall be payable upon any document made or executed by any applicant for assistance under section 5 of this Act in connection with his application or by way of giving security for any loan or the price of any goods ; and no fees shall be payable under any Act for the registration of any such document.

Purchase and Sale of Fodder.

8. The Minister may—

- (a) buy any hay, chaff, or any standing crop which is capable of being harvested as hay ;
- (b) harvest or cause to be harvested any standing crop purchased by him ;
- (c) cut or cause to be cut for chaff, any hay purchased by him ;
- (d) sell hay or chaff to any person, if the Minister is satisfied that that person requires hay or chaff for primary production of any kind, or for the carrying on of a business of any other class approved by the Minister.

Power of
Minister to
buy and sell
fodder.

9. (1) The money required for the purpose of purchasing hay and chaff, and harvesting and chaff cutting under the last preceding section, and any administrative costs incurred in connection with operations and transactions under that section, shall, in the first instance, be paid out of cash in the hands of the Treasurer and shall be debited to a Suspense Account kept at the Treasury.

Financial
provision for
purchase of
hay and chaff.

(2) Money paid under subsection (1) of this section shall be recouped to the Treasurer out of—

- (a) the money received by the Minister from the sale of hay and chaff under the last preceding section ;
- (b) such amounts of the general revenue of the State, or of loan money raised under this Act, or both, as the Treasurer may apply for the purposes of such recoupment.

(3) The Treasurer may arrange for any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the aggregate one hundred thousand pounds to be borrowed in accordance with the Financial Agreement for the purposes of recouping money paid under subsection (1) of this section.

General.

10. This Act without any further appropriation shall be sufficient authority for the expenditure of any money from loan or general revenue for any purpose mentioned in this Act.

Appropriation.

11. The Minister may direct that the Public Supply and Tender Act, 1914-1930, shall not apply in relation to any specified commodities or class of commodities purchased under this Act.

Non-
application
of Public
Supply and
Tender Act.

Regulations.**12. The Governor may make regulations—**

- (a) regulating the use of commodities sold or supplied to farmers and other persons under this Act, or purchased out of moneys lent to farmers under this Act ;
- (b) prescribing any other matter or thing necessary or convenient to be prescribed for the purpose of carrying this Act into effect ;
- (c) prescribing fines recoverable summarily and not exceeding twenty-five pounds for breach of any regulation.

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

C. W. M. NORRIE, Governor.