



ANNO QUARTO

GEORGI VI REGIS.

A.D. 1940.

No. 16 of 1940.

An Act to enable the Treasurer to grant assistance to farmers affected by the drought prevailing in the year nineteen hundred and forty.

[Assented to 24th October, 1940.]

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, 1940 ". Short title.
2. (1) In this Act " farmer " means any person who 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. Interpretation.
 (2) The decision of the Treasurer as to whether a person is a farmer or not shall be conclusive.
3. (1) The Treasurer may appoint an advisory board of three persons to assist him in the administration of this Act. Advisory Board.
 (2) The functions of the board shall be to furnish the Treasurer with information and advice relating to matters arising under this Act.
4. (1) For the purposes of this Act the Treasurer may— Power of Treasurer to borrow money and purchase goods.
 - (a) borrow from the Commonwealth any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the aggregate six hundred thousand pounds :
 - (b) purchase any commodities.
 (2) The Treasurer 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.

Drought Relief Act, 1940.

Power to make loans and supply commodities to farmers.

5. (1) Where the Treasurer 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 he may—

(a) make a loan of money to that farmer :

(b) sell or supply to that farmer any commodities which in the Treasurer'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 Treasurer thinks fit.

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

(4) This Act without any further appropriation shall be sufficient authority for the Treasurer to expend money in making loans and purchasing commodities under this Act.

Bills of sale.

6. For the purpose of giving security for any loan made under this Act, or for the price of any commodities sold or supplied under this Act, a farmer may, by bill of sale, assign to the Treasurer 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, 1886-1935, 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, 1886-1935.

Exemption from stamp duty.

7. No stamp duty shall be payable upon any document made or executed by any applicant for assistance under 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.

8. The Governor may make regulations—

Regulations.

- (a) regulating the use of commodities sold or supplied to farmers 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.

G. J. R. MURRAY, Deputy Governor.