**SHEARERS ACCOMMODATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1958**

**House of Assembly, 2 October 1958, pages 1145-6**

Second reading

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works)—**I move:—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It makes a number of amendments to the Shearers Accommodation Act, 1922-1947, relating to the accommodation to be provided for shearers, has been drafted in terms of an agreement between the Stockowners’ Association of South Australia and the Australian Workers’ Union (South Australian Branch) and has been approved by both parties before introduction to Parliament. The explanations of the clauses of the Bill are as follows:— .

Clause 2 provides that the amendments Proposed in the Bill shall come into force on a day to be proclaimed at least six months after the passing of the Bill.

Clause 3, subclause (1), provides that, in a building erected after the date on which this Bill comes into operation, the amount of air space for each shearer in his sleeping compartment is to be increased from 300 cubic feet to 480 cubic feet. Whereas previously the height limit for the purpose of calculating air space Was 14ft., it is proposed to reduce it to 11ft. Clause 3, subclause (2), deals with the lining of sleeping quarters. The 1947 amendment to the Act provided that sleeping accommodation erected after the date of the passing of that amendment should be ceiled and lined where the building was of a frame construction. The necessity for lining is now extended to rooms used for sleeping, dining, recreation or cooking, and certain specified materials must be used for the work.

Clause 3, subclause (3), sets out in some detail what is meant by “separate” sleeping accommodation for cooks and their assistants. It also lays down minimum requirements for partitions between rooms, and includes a provision for separate sanitary accommodation for female cooks. Clause 3, subclause (4), in effect provides that each shearer shall be given a bedstead or bunk of not less than six feet six inches in length and not less than two feet six inches in width. Clause 3, subclause (5), deals with mattresses supplied for shearers and provides that they must be approximately four inches in depth.

Under clause 3, subclause (6), the shearers’ sleeping compartments must be equipped with a wardrobe and chair in addition to a table.

Clause 3, subclause (7), prohibits a room used for sleeping from being used for the preparation or serving of meals, and makes it necessary for a room used for dining to be separated from the kitchen by a partition of a specified type. Clause 3, subclause (8), provides that there shall be a supply of hot water to the shearers’ bathroom.

Clause 3, subclause (9), inserts an exception to the provision of paragraph IV of subsection (2) of section 6 of the principal Act, which requires latrine accommodation to be placed at least one hundred feet from the shearers’ sleeping and eating quarters. The proviso added by this amendment will allow such latrine accommodation to be erected within that distance where it is provided by means of an efficient septic tank or bacteriolytic tank or other method of treatment approved by the Central Board i of Health.

Clause 3, subclause (10), provides that, in the absence of electric light, power lights must be provided for the kitchen and dining room. Under clause 3, subclause (11), the dining room, or some other room which is available to the shearers, must contain a fire-place of a specified size, or a room heater. Clause 3, subclause (12), deals with the provision of refrigeration for use by the shearers for storing perishable foodstuffs. The provisions of this subclause do not apply outside the period from October 15 to May 15. Clause 3, subclause (13), defines the liability of the employer to supply water into the kitchen, bathroom or washing room, so that it will not be necessary to carry water into those rooms. Under clause 3, subclause (14), the employer must supply suitable props for the clothes line, and at least five feet of clothes line for use by each shearer.

Clause 4 stipulates a minimum distance of 50 yards between the shearers ’ quarters and any shearers’ shed, pigsty, cowshed, stable or wool scour on the property, and a maximum distance of 200 yards between the shearing shed and the shearers’ quarters. These-provisions are subject to certain exceptions mentioned in subclauses (a) and *(b)* depending on the date of construction of the shearers’ quarters.

Clause 5 repeals subsection (4) of section 6 of the principal Act, which deals with exceptions to the liability of employers because of the difficulty of obtaining materials during time of war. Clause 6 amends subsection (1) of section 9 by deleting the requirement that an inspector must inspect all shearers’ quarters at least once in every 12 months. This clause has been inserted by the Government for the reason that such regular inspections are unnecessary in view of the work done by the unions.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.