**CHAFF AND HAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1938**

**Legislative Assembly, 6 July 1938, page 343**

Second reading

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Gumeracha—Com­missioner of Crown Lands)—The Chaff and Hay Act, 1922, contains a number of provisions fixing the standards for chaff and hay and deal­ing with other matters relating to the sale of these products. Section 9 provides, amongst other things, that no dealer shall sell or suffer to be on his premises any chaff which, if con­tained in bags, contains moisture in excess of 12.5 per cent, by weight. It is proposed by clause 2 to increase this permitted percentage to 14 per cent. In certain seasons of the year it is often difficult for chaff cutters to keep within the 12.5 per cent, moisture content limit, and investigations have been undertaken by the Department of Chemistry which show con­clusively that a 14 per cent, moisture content for both wheat and oaten hay is a perfectly safe one, insofar as the keeping qualities of the chaffs are concerned. It is therefore considered that the moisture content allowed by section 9 should be increased to 14 per cent. Clause 3 also deals with the question of moisture content, and extends the regulation making powers of the Governor under section 22 so as to include power to prescribe methods whereby the moisture content of chaff shall be determined. Under the present Act no method of determining the moisture content is pre­scribed, and the present regulation making power does not include power to deal with this matter. It is considered that in any proceedings relating to the moisture content of chaff a stan­dard method of ascertaining the moisture content should be followed. The amendment will there­fore give the Governor power to make regula­tions fixing such a method. I move the second reading.

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