**ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1946**

**House of Assembly, 27 November 1946, page 1200**

Second reading

**The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Gumeracha— Premier and Treasurer)—**The Abattoirs Act, 1911-1938, enacts provisions under which abattoirs areas may be established in country districts. Such an area is established after a poll of the ratepayers in the area concerned and, when the necessary formalities have been complied with, the area may be proclaimed as an abattoirs area. An abattoirs board is then constituted and it is the board’s duty to establish an abattoir which is required to be registered. After registration of the abattoir the board is to give notice that after a specified day all slaughtering in the area must be conducted at the abattoir. Provision is made for the exemption of such as export factories and other slaughtering but the general rule is that, once an abattoirs is established by the board, the slaughtering of meat for ordinary public consumption must be carried out at the abattoir and under the supervision of the board. The policy of the legislation is, of course, that in the interests of public health the slaughtering should be concentrated at a place managed by a public authority and so that meat inspection can be carried out properly.

So far, only one abattoirs area has ever been proclaimed under the Act. In 1922 the Municipality of Mount Gambier was proclaimed an abattoirs area. However, nothing further has been done in the municipality to establish an abattoir although the Act provides that the board must establish its abattoir within twelve months after the area is proclaimed. The Mount Gambier Council has on a number of occasions attempted to bring about the establishment of an abattoir in its area, but for one reason or another such a course has not proved practicable. Recently the council has canvassed the idea of making suitable arrangements with a private company, which has extensive slaughtering facilities in the district, so that its establishment may be used as the abattoir for the area. Such a course, it is said, would save the expenditure of very large sums of money and would achieve the purpose for which the Act is framed, but the Crown Solicitor has advised that such an arrangement is not authorized by the Act.

The purpose of this Bill is therefore to enable such a scheme to be carried into effect.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is provided that if the council of an area is satisfied that an abattoirs area should be proclaimed and that suitable arrangements can be made for the area of a private abattoir as the abattoir area, the council may, with the consent of the Minister, hold a poll of the ratepayers on the question. If the poll is in favour of the proposal and if the Minister is satisfied that proper and suitable arrangements can be made on the lines contemplated by the council, the Government may proclaim the area as an abattoirs area Under the existing Act, the next step is that a board is constituted and it is provided by the Bill that the board constituted may, following upon. the proclamation of the abattoirs area instead of establishing its own abattoir, make arrangements for the use of a private abattoir as the abattoir for the area. These arrangements are to be subject, in all instances, to the consent in writing of the Minister who is to satisfied that the arrangements are proper and that the interests of the public will be served thereby.

If the consent of the Minister is given, the abattoir in respect of which the arrangements are made may be registered in manner provided by the principal Act and thereupon the abattoir will, for all the purposes of the Act, be deemed to be the abattoir of the board and the same consequences will follow as if the abattoir had been established by the board, that is, in general, all slaughtering in the area must be carried out at the abattoir. It is provided that if an area is proclaimed and the board does not make arrangements of this nature within twelve months after the proclamation, the proclamation may be revoked. It is also provided that if arrangements are made and at some subsequent time they come to an end, it will then he the duty of the board either to make fresh arrangements for the use of the private abattoir as the abattoir of the area or to establish its own abattoir. If the board fails in this regard then the proclamation proclaiming the abattoirs area may be revoked.

It is also provided by the Bill that the proclamation made in 1.922 declaring the municipality of Mount Gambier to be an abattoir area is revoked. This proclamation has never been acted upon and it should therefore be revoked. I move the second reading.

Mr. 0 'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.