**SHEARERS ACCOMMODATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1942**

**Legislative Assembly, 13 August 1942, pages 357-8**

Second reading

**The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (Torrens— Minister of Industry)—**The Shearers Accom­modation Act, 1922-1925, provides that employers of shearers are to make available for their employees the accommodation pre­scribed by the Act. The purpose of the Bill is to extend the provisions of the Act relating to the class and nature of the accommodation to be provided by employers. The Bill is introduced as the result of a request made by the Australian Workers’ Union. After the request was made to the Government, it was suggested that the union should confer with the Stockowners’ Association of South Australia with a view to reaching agreement as to what amendments of the law should be made. A conference was accordingly held and all the proposals in the Bill have been agreed to by the representatives of both the organizations in question and are, of course, considered by the Government to be fair and reasonable. The amendments proposed are also in accord with the law enforced in other of the States of Australia.

Clause 2 amends section 6 of the Shearers Accommodation Act. This is the section which prescribes the accommodation to be provided for shearers. The following matters are dealt with under the clause:—It is provided that the buildings for the accommodation of shearers are to be separate from and at least 50yds. distant from any shearing shed, stable, cowshed, pigsty, or woolscour. Buildings for sleeping accommodation now in existence or now under construction must be divided into compartments to accommodate not more than three shearers in each compartment. In buildings constructed in the future each compartment must provide for not more than two shearers. Separate sleeping compartments must be provided for cooks and their assistants. A bunk or bedstead is to be provided for each shearer complete with a mattress and mattress filling and each sleeping compartment is to be provided with a lamp. Where there is a sufficient supply of water a bathroom is to be provided with baths or showers on a scale fixed according to the number of shearers employed.

Disinfectant for use in sanitary conveniences is to be provided by employers. Kitchens are to be furnished with meat safes, with stoves, and other facilities for the preparation and cooking of meals. Dining rooms are to be provided with proper dining tables and seating accommodation. Drinking water is to be stored in tanks or vessels covered to prevent pollution. Employers are to provide knives and forks, plates, and drinking mugs for the shearers and are also to provide basins for the washing of clothes and for the personal ablutions of the shearers. As before mentioned, the details of the Bill have ben agreed upon by the representatives of the

employers and employees in the industry concerned, and it is considered by the Government that the amendments proposed by the Bill are desirable in order to provide reasonable standards of comfort for the employees in question. I move the second reading.

The Hon. E. S. RICHARDS secured adjournment of the debate.