**FOOD AND DRUGS' ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL1922**

**House of Assembly, 7 September 1922, pages 562-3**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of EDUCATION (Hon. G. Ritchie)** —I move the second reading of this Bill, which is necessary in order to remove a disadvantage which obtains and is not in the interests of a municipality which has been added to the number of municipalities included in the former Act. This short measure is of an entirely administrative character, and its immediate purpose may be shortly stated to give the Corporation of Henley and Grange direct representation on the Metropolitan County Board. This board is, to some extent, charged with the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1908, within the metropolitan area, and is composed of re­presentatives of all the present municipal corporations and district councils within the area, with the exception of Henley and Grange. The membership of the board has been fixed by proclamation under the Act at 22, and although the method of appointment is in theory elective, in practice, as a result of agreement between the local authorities, each corporation or council has at least one of its own nominees upon the board. When the Food and Drugs Act was passed in 1908 what is now the municipality of Henley and Grange consisted of parts of the district councils of Woodville and West Torrens. These two districts were comprised within the metropolitan area, and had representation on the board. In 1916 the municipality of Henley and Grange was constituted, and as a result the new seaside municipality ceased to be part of the metropolitan area. This militated greatly against the effectiveness of the Act within, the area, and as a result of conferences between the board and the corporation, the council requested the Governor, in terms of the 1908 Act, to proclaim its district to be within the area. At the conferences referred to, and at the time the request for inclusion within the area was made, it was generally understood that the membership of the Metropolitan County Board could and would be increased by proclamation, so as to give Henley and Grange direct representation, and the request by that corporation for it to be proclaimed as already mentioned was made on that understanding. Subsequently to the issue of the proclamation adding the municipality of Henley and Grange to the metropolitan area, legal opinion was given to the effect that there was no power to increase the membership of the board by proclamation, on the ground that the Governor, having once exercised his power of fixing the number of members, had exhausted the powers conferred upon him by the Act in reference to this matter. As a result, for the past six years Henley and Grange, although included within the metropolitan area, and subject to all the liabilities imposed on local boards by the Act, has no direct representation on the board, while all the other local governing bodies have. Clause 3 remedies this state of affairs, by increasing the number of members of the Metro­politan County Board to 23. Henley and Grange will now be able, to have its own nominee as its representative on the Metropolitan County Board. The other operative clause, clause 4, provides for dealing with a similar position should it arise. Under the principal Act the Governor has powder, upon request made by any local board of health outside the metropolitan area, to extend the area so as to include the district of such board. Whenever he does so, clause 4 gives him power, by the same or a subsequent proclamation, to increase the number of members of the Metro­politan County Board by one, so as to give such local board direct representation thereon. This will prevent the necessity for further legislation if in the future any municipality or district council district not at present within the metropolitan area is included within that area by proclamation. The Bill has the approval of the Metropolitan County Board and of all the local boards concerned. It is brought in at the request of these bodies in order that it may remove the objection which now exists and give the municipality of Henley and Grange the same facilities as are enjoyed by the other municipalities within the metro­politan area.

Mr. GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate until September 19.