**SHEARERS’ ACCOMMODATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1916**

**House of Assembly, 31 August 1916, pages1156-7**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of INDUSTRY (Hon. R. P. Blundell)—**This is a small Bill dealing with shearers’ accommodation, and it brings the measure into line with the Acts in force in the other States. It is an amendment of the Act of 1905, and provides that each kitchen, sleeping and dining room shall be supplied with sufficient light and ventilation, and shall be cleaned out and fumigated at least once a year; that each kitchen and sleeping and dining room shall be provided with a floor of suitable material; that a meathouse or meat-safe, properly constructed, shall be provided; a sufficient supply of good drinking water made available; and proper cooking, drinking, and washing vessels and utensils provided. These provisions do not interfere with any building that may at present be in existence, but provide that these alterations shall apply to future buildings. There is nothing in the Bill to which members can take objection. These proposals are in operation in all of the other States, and the measure simply provides that some people should provide decent accommodation. It will not affect many pastoralists at present, because most of them are not only carrying out the provisions of the Act of 1905, but in many cases are doing more than is required by law. We all recognise that suitable accommodation should be provided for the men. There is a general recognition that so far as possible all legislation dealing with this sort of thing should be on a uniform basis throughout the States. That has been shown by measures which have already passed this House. The conditions of shearers are now regulated by an arbitration award, which is working satisfactorily, and both the squatters and the shearers recognise that it is much wiser to settle their differences in a rational and reasonable manner through the Court than resort to the old method of each one trying to defeat the other, and when all sorts of excesses were indulged in.

Mr. MOSELEY—As a pastoralist I have no objectionto the Bill. I think it is a fair one. These things should be recognised, and pastoralists should he prepared to provide them. I ask the Minister, however, not to be too drastic in dealing with some of the smaller sheds for some time. In all our larger sheds these conveniences are provided. I find that the more comfortable you make the men the better they serve and the more they stick to you. I was told that there was going to be a strike at Yardea, and I gave instructions that the men were not to be sent to Yardea, but they could stay at Port Augusta and strike there; but this afternoon I met Mr. Lundie, and he told me there was not going to be any strike at Yardea, and that the matter would be referred to arbitration.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment; report adopted.