**SHEARER’S ACCOMMODATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1947**

**Legislative Council, 16 October 1947, page 916**

Second reading

**The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief. Secretary)—**This Bill makes a number of amendments to the Shearer’s Accommodation Act relating to the accommodation to be provided for shearers by their employers. The amendments have been framed as the result of suggestions mutually agreed upon by the Australian Workers’ Union and the Stockowners’ Association. The Bill gives effect to these proposals and its provisions have been approved by both organizations. In 1946, a Bill giving effect to the suggestions of these organizations was introduced into Parliament but was not proceeded with. This Bill is identical with the 1946 Bill except that, on the suggestion of the two organizations, a minor alteration has been made to paragraph (c) of subclause (1) of clause 2. This alteration corrects an error in the 1946 Bill.

The Bill provides for the following matters. If, in the future, any sleeping quarters for shearers are built in frame construction, the buildings are to be ceiled and lined. If a female cook is employed, separate sleeping and sanitary accommodation is to be provided for her. At present, shearers are to be provided with mattresses which may be filled, among other materials, with straw. In future, mattresses and pillows are to be provided which are to be filled only with wool flock, flock, or kapok. If a shearer fails to return any mattress or pillow or wilfully or negligently damages it, he is to be liable for the value of the article. Tables are to be provided in sleeping quarters and kitchens and dining rooms are to be provided with fly screens to the windows and doorways. Kitchens and pantries are to be supplied with shelving. A rainwater tank is to be provided at the shearers’ quarters and is to be fitted with a tap and with gauze to prevent the ingress of insects. Clothes lines are to be provided for the drying of clothes.

It will be remembered that, in 1942, other amendments were made to the Act as the result of suggestions made by the two organizations interested and it was then provided that those amendments were not to have effect until six months after the end of the war. It has been agreed by the two organizations that the operation of the amendments made by this Bill should be similarly postponed in view of the prevailing shortages of building materials and other supplies. Accordingly, it is provided that the amendments made by the Bill are to take effect at the expiration of six months after the day a proclamation is made by the Governor-General declaring that the war has ceased. I move the second reading.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.