**METROPOLITAN ABATTOIRS ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL 1912**

**Legislative Council, 28 November 1912, pages 479-80**

Second reading

**The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. G. Bice),** in moving the second reading of the Metropolitan Abattoirs Act Further Amendment Bill, said it was absolutely necessary to enable the works to be completed. The Bill had already received consideration in another place, and had been reported on by a Select Committee. The object of the Bill was to authorise the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board to borrow a further amount of £48,000 to complete the erection of their works, thus increasing their borrowing power to £333,000, Parliamentary authority having already been given for borrowing as follows:—By Act No. 957 of

£100,000; by Act No. 1009 of 1910, £150,000; by Act No. 1059 of 1911, £55,000; total, £305,000. The Bill authorised the Treasurer to lend the board sums up to the amount of their borrowing power. Similar power was given by the previous Metropolitan Abattoirs Act. The Treasurer was empowered to raise the money to be lent to the board by the issue of inscribed stock. A Select Committee of the House of Assembly to whom the Bill was referred reported in favor of the proposed loan, and recommended that the Bill should be passed this session to enable the board to complete the works and commence operations at the abattoirs in May next. The additional sum of £48,0000 was proposed to be expended as follows:— Additional capital required as estimated 18 months ago, £15,533; excess on tenders for machinery subsequently received, and estimated extras to finish Wadey & Co.’s contract, £15,841; additional items of expenditure not hitherto provided for, and items cut out of original scheme to reduce expenditure, but since found to be abso­lutely necessary, £6,538; other items, £2,525; less savings made in various direc­tions on original estimates, £3,083; increase in interest and working expenses £7,Ml. There was a margin of £3,000 for contingencies. The contracts already let and those proposed thus provided for an expenditure of £350,000, and it had been calculated that when the scheme was complete that sum would have been expended in the following manner:—Land, £18,188: buildings, *&c.,* £202,258; plant and machinery, £32,569; delivery, buildings, and plant, £44,100; hide and skin markets, £5,000; miscellaneous, £40,879; compensation to butchers, £7,000; total, £350,000. The town clerk of Adelaide, in giving evidence before the Select Committee, explained the reason why the money for the abattoirs had been obtained in piecemeal fashion, and why the sum appeared to be so much higher than the estimate of the cost in the first instance. He pointed out that since the scheme was originally proposed the area of the Abattoirs Board district had been considerably extended, and the delivery of meat by the board to 160 butchers in the metropolitan area, which was not originally contemplated, had been provided for. In addition the tenders for the erection of the buildings were called on a rising market in respect to both wages and materials, and thus the cost was greatly in excess of the original estimate. The committee inspected the works in progress at Gepp’s Cross, and took no exception to what was being done there, or as proposed. When the works were finished it was anticipated that they would be the most complete in Australia. On the question of whether the expense that had already been incurred from the points of view of the benefit and cost to the consumers, the committee reported that they believed, notwithstanding the fact that slaughtering and delivery fees would be higher than was originally supposed, the total increased cost of meat; to the consumer under the complete scheme would not exceed 1/2d. to Id. per lb., against which there was a guarantee to the public of a supply of pure meat slaughtered, and delivered under the best possible conditions. He (the Chief Secretary) believed every caution had been exercised in the expenditure of the money, because the board was composed of practical business men selected from the municipal bodies in the district concerned. The abattoirs when completed would be something of which South Australia, and the .metropolitan area in particular, might well be proud. (Sir John Duncan—“Is this the final expenditure?”) He believed that everything that could possibly be anticipated had been considered, and that the amount asked far would be sufficient to complete the work.

On the motion of the Hon. A. W. STYLES the debate was adjourned till Tuesday next.