**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL 1924**

**Legislative Council, 15 October 1924, pages 1054**

Second reading

**The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. Jelley)** —The object of this Bill is to effect a slight amendment to the Food and Drugs Act, 1908, for the purpose of enabling some changes being made in the administration of that Act. The effect of the provisions of Part IV. of the principal Act is as follows:—If an inspector or a police constable takes or buys a sample of any food or drug, with a view to launching a prosecution under the Act, he must divide the sample into three parts. One part must be given to the seller of the goods, one must be retained by the inspector or constable, and the third part must be forwarded to the Central Board of Health. The Central Board of Health is required to forward the third part of the sample to an analyst who analyses the goods and gives to the Board of Health a certificate showing the result of his analysis. This system is convenient in application in the metropolian area, but it is clearly apparent that when the sample is taken by the inspector in a country town the provisions of the Act in question are inadequate. A case may occur when an inspector takes, say, a sample of milk at Port Pirie. The milk must be divided into three parts, and one part must be given to the milk vendor, another part must be retained by the inspector, and the third part sent to Adelaide to the Central Board of Health for reference to an analyst. The milk before it reaches Adelaide will, in warm weather, be unfit for analysis, and without an analyst’s certificate a prosecution cannot, of course, be launched. Analysts may be appointed by the board in any part of the State, and consequently there should be no reason why samples for analysis should not be sent direct to an analyst without reference to the Central Board of Health. It is, however, impossible to follow this course without amendment of section 42 of the prin­cipal Act, which requires the sample to be analysed to be sent to the Central Board of Health, and then to the analyst/ Clause 2 of the Bill, therefore, amends section 42, and provides that in future the sample to be analysed may be sent direct to the analyst, and that in such a case the analyst is to supply his certificate to the person forwarding the sample to him. This short amendment of the existing legislation has been asked for in the country and refused previously, but the fact that we now have the Commonwealth laboratory at Port Pirie has made it possible to have an intelligent amendment of the Act, and to have the work carried out as efficiently as has been the custom in the metropolitan area. On one occasion Dr. Hone pointed out that in having to send goods all the way down to the city for analysis it was not putting the department in the position it should be in, and we ask the Council to agree to this Bill to more efficiently carry out what was intended by the original Act.

The Hon. J. H. COOKE secured the adjournment of the debate until October 16.