

Decisions, on compensation cases, published by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Surveys made to determine whether commutations granted have proved beneficial, show, in most cases, that the judgment of the Board that the commutation would be to the best interest of the employe or dependents, has been justified. The Board has had excellent cooperation from employers and representatives of insuring companies, both in furnishing the results of their investigations and in safeguarding the use of the funds when commuted. While the hearings of the Board on commutation petitions are formal, they are not in reality contests between petitioners and respondents but rather the meeting of the employer, the employe and the Board in a combined effort to obtain all the information possible which might have a bearing on the application.

The Board also considers whether a commutation might work a hardship on the employer. In this connection, the health of the employe has some bearing and in case of a widow, the probability of remarriage. The Board may, under a ruling of the Supreme Court, require that a widow give bond to indemnify the employer against loss in the event of her remarriage during the period covered by any commutation granted to her.

COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Until the workmen's compensation act was amended in 1919, compensation for children, after the widow's portion was satisfied, could be paid only to a guardian appointed by the orphans' court, and in some cases, the result was that such compensation was held for the dependent child, under jurisdiction of such guardian, until the child reached the age of twenty-one years. By the amendment of 1919, the Workmen's Compensation Board, upon petition, may authorize the mother or any other fit person, having the custody of the child, to collect the compensation payments and expend them in behalf of the child without the necessity of appointment of a guardian by the orphans' court. Such petitions are investigated by representatives of the Department who report on home conditions for determination by the Board of its action on the petition filed.

The workmen's compensation act provides that no claim or agreement for legal services on a compensation case is valid or binding unless it has first been approved by the Board. The rules of the Board require that such matters come before it by petition in which is set forth an itemized statement of the attorney's services.

Other petitions which do not come within the foregoing classifications filed with the Board, are listed as miscellaneous petitions such as petitions for rehearing, petitions for extension of time to appeal from the decision of a referee.

Physicians and associate counsel definitely attached to the Department of Labor and Industry assist the Board and referees as requested in the adjudication of cases. Services of these physicians may be requested by a referee, either before or after the proceedings are instituted, primarily for the purpose of determining from an impartial standpoint so far as possible the exact physical condition of the compensation claimant.