

settlement of claims are presented, requiring long record of medical and other testimony, many resulting in appeals. This greatly increases the work and expense of the department from year to year.

The General Assembly of Maryland during the session of 1929, amended the Workmen's Compensation Law, giving the Commission the power to formulate reasonable rules and regulations for the establishment and maintenance of safety, having in mind the prevention of and reduction in accidents in occupations governed by the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Law. Shortly after the adoption of this amendment, a Safety Department was organized for the purpose of carrying on this work, which department is administered under the supervision of the Chairman.

This amendment gives the Commission, the Director of Safety, the Safety Inspectors or any other person authorized to do so by the Commission, the right to enter places of employment for the purpose of investigating the provisions therein made for the safety of employees. Rules and regulations for the prevention of Accident issued by the Commission have the force and effect of law.

When the General Assembly of Maryland passed the Workmen's Compensation Law in 1914, they recognized the fact that employers might be put in the position where they would not be able to comply with the Law, due to the fact that the private insurance companies would refuse to carry their risk. Furthermore, they felt that inasmuch as this form of insurance was compulsory under the State law, that they should provide a place where the insurance could be secured at practically the cost of writing this form of insurance. They, therefore, created the State Accident Fund, which is administered by the Chairman of the State Industrial Accident Commission. This Fund has grown gradually and has become one of the largest writers in Maryland of Compensation Insurance business in the State, and is in strong financial condition, affording sure and ample protection under the Workmen's Compensation Law of Maryland.

Effective March 1, 1926, the Commission inaugurated a new merit-rating system, the purpose of which is to reward and stimulate the policy-holders of the Fund in their work of accident prevention and to measure the rate more closely to the individual hazard of the policy-holder, preserving to the policy-holder, of course, the basic principles of insurance protection, so that any severe losses will still be distributed. This merit-rating system is working out very satisfactorily, and is offering an incentive to the policy-holder to take a greater interest in accident prevention work in his plant.

The expense of operating the State Industrial Accident Commission is not a burden upon the tax-payers of the State, as the entire expense of the Commission, not including the State Accident Fund, is borne by the private insurance companies which write compensation insurance, self-insurers, and the State Accident Fund; while the cost of operating the State Accident Fund is borne by the policy-holders insuring in the Fund.

Chapter 465 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, 1939, amended the Law to provide compensation for disability or death, resulting from a listed schedule of occupational diseases. This amendment provides that there shall be a Medical Board consisting of three members who shall be licensed physicians in good professional standing, two of whom shall have had at least five years practice in the diagnosis, treatment and care of industrial diseases, and one of whom shall be especially trained in roentgenology, and who shall have had at least five years practice and experience. They shall be appointed