

O. D.

petition has been directed to be heard by the board has been served upon the adverse parties thereto, the board shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition. If a petition be assigned to a referee, he shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, fix a time and a place for hearing the petition. The secretary of the board, if the petition has been directed to be heard by the board or by one or more of its members, or the referee to whom the petition has been assigned, shall serve upon all parties in interest a notice of the time and place of hearing, and shall serve upon the petitioner a copy of any answer of any adverse party.

*Section 418. The board, if a petition is directed to be heard by it or by one or more of its members, or the referee to whom a petition is assigned for hearing may subpoena witnesses, order the production of books and other writings, and hear evidence, and shall make, in writing and as soon as may be after the conclusion of the hearing, such findings of fact, conclusions of law, and award or disallowance of compensation, or other order, as the petition and answers and the evidence produced before it or him and the provisions of this act shall, in its or his judgment, require. The findings of fact made by the board in any petition heard by it or by one or more of its members or upon a hearing de novo shall be final, except as hereinafter provided, and the findings of fact made by a referee to whom a petition has been assigned or any question of fact has been referred under the provisions of section four hundred and nineteen shall be final, unless an appeal is taken as provided in this act, or unless the board shall, under the provisions of sections four hundred and twenty-five or four hundred and twenty-six of this article, grant a hearing de novo or a rehearing.

*Section 419. The board may refer any question of fact arising under any petition, including a petition for commutation heard by it; to a referee to hear evidence and report to the board the testimony taken before him or such testimony and findings of facts thereon as the board may order. The board may refer any question of fact arising out of any petition assigned to a referee, to any other referee to hear evidence and report the testimony so taken thereon to the original referee.

*Section 420. The board or a referee, if it or he deem it necessary, may, of its or his own motion, either before, during or after any hearing, make an investigation of the facts set forth in the petition or answer. The board or referee with the consent of the board, may appoint one or more impartial physicians, or surgeons, to examine the claimant and report thereon, or he may employ the services of such other experts as shall appear necessary to ascertain the facts. The report of any physician, surgeon, or expert appointed by the board or by a referee shall be filed with the board or referee, as the case may be, and shall be a part of the record and open to inspection as such.

The board shall fix the compensation of such physicians, surgeons, and experts, which, when so fixed, shall be paid out of the sum appropriated to the Department of Labor and Industry.

** As amended by Act No. 482, Laws of 1951; and by Act No. 355, Laws of 1953.
* As amended by Act No. 482, Laws of 1951; and by Act No. 355, Laws of 1953.