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employers; and, notwithstanding the employment of such employees, the property in and about which they are employed, and the use and operation thereof, shall at all times be under the supervision, management and control of their employers.

Section 203. An employer who permits the entry upon premises occupied by him or under his control of a laborer or an assistant hired by an employer or contractor who has rejected article three of this act, for the performance upon such premises of a part of the employer's regular business entrusted to such employee or contractor, shall be liable to such laborer or assistant in the same manner and to the same extent as to his own employee.

†Section 204. No agreement, composition, or release of damages made before the date of any disability or death resulting from occupational disease, except the agreement defined in article three of this act, shall be valid or shall bar a claim for damages for such disability or death; and any such agreement other than that defined in article three herein, is declared to be against the public policy of this Commonwealth. The receipt of benefits from any association, society, or fund shall not bar the recovery of damages by action at law, nor the recovery of compensation under article three hereof; and any release executed in consideration of such benefits shall be void: Provided, however, That if the employee receives unemployment compensation benefits, such amount or amounts so received shall be credited as against the amount of the award made under the provisions of the occupational disease act.

ARTICLE III

ELECTIVE COMPENSATION

*Section 301. (a) When employer and employee shall by agreement, either express or implied, as hereinafter provided, accept the provisions of article three of this act, compensation for disability or death of such employee, caused by occupational disease, arising out of and in the course of his employment, shall be paid by the employer, without regard to negligence, according to the schedule contained in sections three hundred and six and three hundred and seven of this article, but—

1. No compensation shall be paid when the disability or death is caused by the employee's violation of law, but the burden of proof of such fact shall be upon the employer.

2. The maximum compensation payable under this article for disability and death resulting from silicosis, anthraco-silicosis, or asbestosis shall not exceed the sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000), which shall be full and complete payment for all disability, present or future, or for death from such occupational diseases arising out of employment by any and all employers in this Commonwealth.

(b) The right to receive compensation under this act shall not be affected by the fact that a minor is employed or is permitted to be employed in violation of the laws of this Commonwealth relating to the employment of minors, or that he obtained his employment by misrepresenting his age.

† As amended by Act No. 410, Laws of 1949, effective July 1, 1949.

* As amended by Act No. 286, Laws of 1945; Act No. 410, Laws of 1949; Act No. 482, Acts of 1951; Act No. 395, Laws of 1953; Act No. 355, Laws of 1955; Act 619, Laws of 1959; and by Act 710, Laws of 1961, effective November 29, 1961.