

For the Railway Mail Clerks.

Matters Pertaining to His Work.

In reviewing the report of the U. S. A. Postmaster-General for the year ended June 30, 1910, and also the reports of his assistants, I find several ideas that would seem to be applicable to the Canadian railway mail service, and reproduce some more of them for the benefit of *Civilian* readers.

* * *

There is a very wise, considerate law regarding the compensation of injured employees:—"If a railway postal clerk is disabled by an injury received in the performance of his duty, the Postmaster-General has authority to grant him leave with full pay for a period of one year, unless he is sooner able to work, and if he dies within a year the sum of \$2,000 may be paid to his legal representatives." The department has requested authority to grant an additional year's leave with half pay in case of continued disability. The salary of other postal employees who are injured in the line of duty stops, under the law, on the day their service ceases, and no payment can be made to their heirs in the event of death. While a railway postal clerk's liability to injury is undoubtedly greater than that of other postal employees, there seems to be no reason why the principle of compensation when accidents occur should not equally apply to all.

It is therefore recommended that the department's authority in this respect be extended so as to cover all postal employees by legislation substantially as follows: "Any employee of the postal service who is disabled by accidental injury, not

due to his own negligence, received while performing his official duties, may be granted leave of absence with full pay during the period of his disability, but not for more than one year, and then at half pay for a further period of disability, if any, but not exceeding one year additional; and if he dies within a year as a result of the injury, leaving a widow, or children under 16 years of age, or dependent parents, such widow, children and dependent parents shall be entitled to receive, in such portions as the P.M.G. may decide, the sum of \$2000."

* * *

The First Assistant P.M.G. offers these sensible remarks on superannuation:—"Nearly every country of importance makes some provision for pensioning its civil employees when they are overtaken by old age, and many of the large corporations in this country have devised a similar plan for the retirement of their aged employees. From the standpoint of economy alone it would seem that this government should do likewise. In the postal service, on account of the long hours, the small salaries, and the exacting nature of the duties performed, the employees are rarely able to lay up a competence for old age. It is hoped, therefore, that Congress will take action looking to the retirement in some suitable manner of its superannuated employees." There is a valuable piece of evidence, in support of the civil service demand for superannuation, for the kindly consideration of Hon. Mr. Fielding. It would seem to me, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that there never was a period in which pensions were more popu-