

cost of living between East and West as shown in the Labour Gazette, and the difference in wages as shown in schedule H, there should be in addition a living allowance for this penitentiary of 15 per cent. We would further respectfully urge upon the department that, taking into consideration the responsibilities devolving upon the officers, together with the trying nature of the work in which they are engaged, and the undue strain on the health, no employee of

the penitentiary should be called upon to work more than six days in any one week. Your petitioners are emboldened to make this request, having regard to the fact that the officers at the Provincial Gaol are only required to work six days a week, and eight hours a day.

The prayer of your petitioners is that the justice of this petition may be recognized and the much required relief granted.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

## The Railway Mail Service.

### Things I Have Wondered at.

By G. O'C.

On the tenth November I saw an official letter, containing a Customs manifesto, drop out of a sack containing miscellaneous papers. The envelope was dated Oct. 29, and was mailed at Emerson, Man., for Gateway, B.C. It would be impossible to follow this envelope on its journey from Manitoba to the Bridgeburg and Goderich route, but there is not the slightest doubt in my mind but that it stuck in a corner of the sack it fell from and was carried about the country unnoticed. No clerk can be excused for throwing an important Customs envelope loose into a sack, instead of tying it up with letters. Still, I have often wondered why newspaper sacks were not stitched across the corners, as it would be such a simple, inexpensive way to prevent delay to matter passing through the mails owing to its sticking in the corner of a sack.

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I have often wondered why men, apparently decent and efficient,

have such dirty habits. What! Dirty habits? Yes, sir; I have seen mail clerks spit all over the floor of mail cars, regardless of the fact that the bags must be defiled. I have actually seen a clerk spit into the empty bags hanging up in his car — perhaps he will refrain if he sees this. I saw another spit into a wad of string scraps which he placed on the floor for the purpose; and another had all the window sills in his car stained with tobacco juice! Indeed I have heard brakemen, while the train stood in some station, come and scold him for spitting on them, and so on. Gruesome revelations? They are, but they may wake up some otherwise decent men to a knowledge of their most strange peculiarities. I have wondered at these acts; I wonder if it is to be wondered at?

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Some time ago the Controller invited the railway mail clerks to make suggestions for the benefit of the service. Some of the clerks,