

## Petition of Employees of British Columbia Penitentiary

The Honourable,  
The Minister of Justice,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir,—

We, the undersigned officers of the British Columbia Penitentiary, beg respectfully to call your attention to the petition forwarded to you on June 10, 1909, in which we asked your careful consideration of certain facts upon which we based our prayer for a general increase of salaries.

In view of the fact that no amelioration has taken place in the conditions that called forth our petition at that time, and in the added fact that these conditions have grown rather worse than better, we take this opportunity, at the opening of a new session of parliament, to renew our petition, in the respectful hope that the department may see fit to take some steps to alleviate these conditions.

Owing to the continued advance in the cost of living, the schedules attached to our previous petition have required amendment in certain respects, and new schedules have been prepared which are herewith attached, in which the figures have been brought up to date.

### SCHEDULE A.

#### Scale of Wages Paid to Mechanics in British Columbia.

The figures for this schedule have been obtained from a prominent member of the local Trades and Labour Council.

### SCHEDULES B, C, D & E.

#### Salaries Paid to Provincial Government and City Employees.

These figures have been obtained from the chiefs of the respective departments.

### SCHEDULE F.

#### Scale of Prices of Staples.

The figures for this schedule have

been taken from the Labour Gazette for the month of October of the current year, showing an average increase of 84 per cent. on groceries, meat and fish, between the year 1904 and the present date.

### SCHEDULE C.

#### Statement Showing the Percentage of Raise in Rents.

This statement was given by two leading real estate firms in the city. The specific figures are taken from the November issue of the Labour Gazette.

### SCHEDULE H.

#### Shows the Difference in Wages Paid Between the East and West.

The Ottawa scale of wages is taken from the "Fair wage schedule" in the government contract for addition to East Block, Ottawa; contract dated July 7th, 1910. The new Westminster scale is supplied by a leading contractor of that place.

Your petitioners claim that in view of these figures, and actual experience, it is impossible for any officer to decently provide for his family at the present scale of salaries.

This fact is abundantly evidenced by the difficulty experienced in obtaining properly qualified officers to fill vacancies, and the unwillingness of officers to continue in the service when they have once experienced the peculiar dangers to which they are constantly exposed, and the small salary received in proportion to what may be earned by them on the outside, without any of the responsibility attached to a position, such as an officer of this institution.

Your petitioners, after a careful review of the whole situation, are unanimously of opinion that in order to counter-balance the increased cost of living, there should be a corresponding increase in salaries of at least 25 per cent.; while having in view the enormous difference in the