

# THE CIVILIAN

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## Railway Mail Service Salaries.

### A Letter from Saskatchewan.

*The Civilian, in the last number, dealt with the salary schedules of the Outside Customs service on the basis of present low schedules, compared with the spectacular increase in the expenses of living. As occasion serves, it is the purpose of the editors to similarly deal with other services. Among these will be Messengers and Lower Grades of the Inside Service, and Inland Revenue, Post Office and other branches of the Outside Service. The letter published herewith deals tentatively with salary conditions in the great Railway Mail Service.*

Moose Jaw, Sept. 24th, 1913.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I read with great interest the "Outside Service" letter in your last issue. The idea that the Federation is dominated by the Inside Division, is very prevalent out here in the West.

Time and time again I have swung discussion round to this topic, only to be met with, "What chance would the 'Railway Mail Service' have to get their grievances forwarded, the Inside Division have enough troubles of their own" This is no doubt very true.

The points being brought to the attention of the "powers that be," in connection with the Railway Mail Service, are, unless a person is very well acquainted with his subject, hard to understand. The manner in which salary, provisional allowance, and mileage are mixed up, and set up one against the other is astonishing.

By the amendment to the Post Office Act of 1911, a Railway Mail clerk on appointment receives a salary of \$500 per year, doing one year on probation, if he passes his case examination satisfactorily, he receives his permanent appointment at \$600 per year. The provisional al-

lowance of \$120 per year is also given. There then follows annual increases of \$100 per year until he reaches a salary of \$800, (subject to taking a 90% case examination), when the annual increases become \$50 per year to the maximum of \$1,400. At the same time the Provisional Allowance is reduced from \$120 per year, to 10% of the salary, that is \$80, when we receive \$800 per year, \$85 when receiving \$850 and so on right down the years, until our salary is \$1,200, when we again come into the \$120 per year provisional allowance which stays there until the maximum, and then we lose it altogether.

The position is this, Mr. "A" is now drawing a salary of  $\$700 + \$120 = \$820$ . Next year he gets  $\$800 + \$80 = \$880$ , an increase of \$60, yet the Act states he will receive \$100 increase that year.

We put forward this claim,—that if a man needs the full provisional allowance, when he is receiving \$700 or \$1,200 per year, he should still be getting the same allowance during the ten years he is working, at a salary between those figures. When this hits a man, he has been in the service four years, from then to the time he is getting \$1,200 per year, he