

officers. Payment for Sunday duty, as per clause 14 of the petition, is entirely at the discretion of the Department, and is not governed by regulation. The Department says that in all business it is necessary for the staff to work overtime at stress times, and its contention is that when normal conditions prevail, the officer in charge is expected to compensate his men for the additional time worked by them at busy times. But this contention is contrary to fact, as a sufficient staff is not generally provided to enable this to be done. Other arguments against granting the request contained in the petition are that the officers receive privileges such as free passes and privilege tickets. Formerly sick-leave was granted without deduction from annual leave, and this was also considered a set-off against overtime. It would appear from this statement that the Railway Department is the only generous employer in the Dominion, but I would point out that outside business firms are just as liberal as, or more so than, the Railway Department. Leading business firms grant their employees annual leave on full pay in addition to public holidays, and no firm of any repute would deduct from their annual leave any time off sick during the year. They also frequently grant employees a bonus yearly which is more valuable to the employees than the free pass granted to Railway employees. Furthermore, employees in business concerns in many cases get the privilege of purchasing goods at a considerable reduction on the price paid by the Railway men. It is the practice in all shipping and railway companies to grant employees free passes when on annual leave. Now, sir, in our Department this free pass is always trotted out, at one time as an argument against the request for leave, at another as a set-off against overtime, and it is also regarded by the Department as an adjunct to salary. There is no legitimate reason why the Railway officers should not be treated the same as the officers in the Post and Telegraph Department in the matter of leave, and, as regards overtime, you must admit that the Railway officers receive no payment under the present system. I will now put in a statement showing some stations at which officers work more than nine hours per day.

Examples of Hours of Duty of Railway Officers exceeding Nine Hours per Day.

Station.	Designation.	Hours daily, not includ- ing Time off for Meals.	Hours weekly.	Remarks.
Drury	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	57½	Early shift.
	Clerk .. ..	.. ..	58	
Ngaruawahia	Clerk .. ..	.. ..	51½	Alternate weeks (two clerks).
	Clerk .. ..	.. ..	63½	
Frankton Junction	Second Clerk .. ..	.. ..	46½	Week about.
	Third Clerk .. ..	.. ..	63	
	Second Cadet .. ..	.. ..	57	
Cambridge	Stationmaster	9½	55½	Summer, 7.45 a.m. to 6 p.m.; back at night to 10 or 11 p.m. on account heavy work.
Morrinsville	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	..	
Te Aroha	Stationmaster	9½	57	
	Cadet	9½	57	
Paeroa	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	59½	Change weekly.
	First Clerk	9½	57	
	Second Clerk	9½	55½	Relieved one day each month.
Karangahake	Stationmaster	11	66	
Putaruru	Stationmaster	12	72	
	Clerk	12	72	
	Cadet	10½	63	
Rotorua	Stationmaster	10½	63	
	First Clerk	10½	63	Change shifts weekly. Allowed one afternoon off weekly to compensate for extra hours worked at end of period, &c.
	Second Clerk	12½	76½	
Ohaupo	Stationmaster	9½	58½	Overtime in addition necessary to keep work up.
Te Awamutu	Stationmaster	9½	57	
Taumarunui	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	71	Hours extend from 7.40 a.m. to midnight.
Ongarue	Stationmaster	10½	62½	
Levin	Cadet	10	60	
Feilding	Stationmaster	11	66	
	B. Clerk	9½	57	Change weekly.
Johnsonville	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	58	
	Clerk	8½	51	
Lower Hutt	Stationmaster .. ..	.. ..	56	
Greytown	Stationmaster	12	72	Shift extends 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Eketahuna	Stationmaster	9½	57	
	Clerk .. ..	.. ..	..	Change weekly.
Ormondville	Stationmaster	10½	61½	
	Clerk	10½	64½	Change weekly.
Makotuku	Stationmaster	10	60	
	Cadet .. ..	.. ..	58	
Waipukurau	Stationmaster	9½	58½	
	.. ..	.. ..	61	Early } Alternate. Late }
Waipawa	Stationmaster	12	72	
	Clerk	12	72	
Otane	Stationmaster	10½	64½	
Te Aute	Stationmaster	9½	57	
Farndon	Stationmaster	10½	63	
Napier	Stationmaster	11½	70½	April to September. October to March.
"	Chief Clerk	9	54	
Ward	Stationmaster	10	60	
	.. ..	.. ..	64	