

March 1945

# The Beacon

CANADA'S NATIONAL CO MAGAZINE

VOLUME 4

No. 1

MARCH 1945



"Let your light so shine."

## AN HISTORY

By the Editor-in-Chief

With great visions of future opportunities and possibilities, although surrounded by four log walls in a far northern CO camp (Camp Montreal River, 90 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie, on Lake Superior, Ontario), the minds of nine staff members and a religious director were agreed that a camp publication should be launched.

As Editor-in-Chief, Wes. Brown and his staff began publication of the NORTH-ERN BEACON, the official organ of the Conchie boys of the Canadian Service Camp Montreal River, with the following seven points for its purpose in publishing this paper. First, to furnish a worthwhile enterprise for the Conchie boys, whereby their leisure time may be spent profitably; second, for the convenience of the Conchie boys in mailing a newsletter home or to some friends; third, to enlighten the outside world with the activities of Camp Montreal River; fourth, to help the boys of the camp to become acquainted with one another; fifth, to deepen the spirit of friendship already manifest in the camp; sixth, to promote enthusiasm in new projects through which the camp may benefit; and seventh, to meet the demand by interested parties concerned in the camp.

The first issues were published twice each month and sold for five cents a copy. To promote circulation, sample copies were mailed on request, and due to this and other means, circulation increased within a short time. It was suggested to ministers of non-resistant congregations that they make an appeal for subscriptions to the paper. None of the members of the staff received any pay whatever, nor was the paper a profit organization.

Articles on religious life, sports, camp doings, Who's Who, letters from readers,

poetry, work projects, American COs, etc. made up an extremely interesting news tabloid. Several "ads" added a note of witty interest, for example, in the first issue this one appeared: "Neufeld Studios, Inc. Head Office, Agfa Ansco Ltd., Toronto, Ont. Bunkhouse Manager, Pete Neufeld, North Bunkroom. We do expert Enlarging, Photography, Developing, Printing." These small but interesting items increased the feeling of fellowship amongst campees and also between the fellows and readers. From January 3rd, 1942 to July 4th, 1942 ten issues had been published. Number 10 was the final one from Camp Montreal River, since trainees were to be transferred to British Columbia in the near future. This shifting of personnel caused a temporary cease in publication.

The spark of a camp paper had not been completely extinguished in the minds of the Editor and his associates, even after their transfer to the West Coast. Discussions and meetings whipped this spark into a flame and a new paper was born, THE BEACON, as an inter-camp communication, serving the camps operated under the British Columbia Forest Service and published at Camp Q3, Campbell River, B.C. The policy of this new publication stated that it was owned, operated, and controlled by A.S.W. (Alternative Service Work) men in the B.C.F.S. It was published as an inter-camp communication to further create a respectful understanding and common fellowship among the men of all the camps. It was necessary to co-operate with the authorities of the B.C.F.S. so that any dissatisfactions between the A.S.W. men and the Forest Service personnel be entirely avoided or minimized.



The paper served also as a newsletter for the folks at home, and to show friends and acquaintances who were not in camp what the COs were doing to live up to their convictions. By this means they would learn to know the sincerity of CO convictions, and universal patriotism as expressed in the work.

It was published as an inter-denominational paper, giving equal voice to the various religious groups. Viewpoints of these groups were published so as to strike a balance and no viewpoint of any one group was to become the belief of the paper. No political issues or discussions were allowed in the paper.

In circulation, the paper grew from 600 in October, 1942 to 1,025 in May, 1943, at which time the editor-in-chief tendered his resignation at a conference of the Beacon executive and camp representatives held in Nanaimo, B.C. During this period, the nature of articles followed similar lines as the NORTHERN BEACON, but possibly with more variety since more than one camp was contributing. This inter-camp communication became very influential in strengthening the bond of inter-camp fellowship and understanding. Camps compared one with another and benefit to both was the result. The members of the conference in June, 1943 elected the present Editor to office. From then until March, 1944, the paper was published in accordance to the policy at Camp C-2, Lake Cowichan, B.C. Another great change for the A.S.W. program came in March, 1944, at which time the B.C.F.S.-A.S.W. Camps were closed and men were directed back to their home provinces. Here they were placed in work more essential at a time when Canada's labor shortage was so acutely felt. Each man worked under an individual contract with the A.S.W. Officer in his district. Since this time, due to scattered personnel and lack of news items and articles, THE BEACON has been published only once, namely, the April-July issue. With this issue, however, we plan to form an executive staff and carry on regular publication as a national CO paper for Canada.

We urge your complete co-operation at all times so that this publication may serve as an invaluable means in binding us together as Canadian COs to face the problems and issues that lie ahead.

### RETALIATION

How often, for some trivial wrong,  
In anger, we retaliate,  
We learn, although it takes us long,  
That life is far too brief for hate.

### THE BEACON

Volume 4, No. 1 March, 1945  
John L. Fretz ..... Editor-in-Chief  
Clayton F. Burkholder .... Circulation Man.  
Published by The Beacon Publishers,

representing Conscientious Objectors throughout Canada and containing news and articles regarding COs and Peace Activities in general. COs are distributed in Alternative Service wherever the labor shortage is most severe, mainly in agriculture, and then in industry, dairying, hospital service, etc., etc.

All communications regarding this publication should be addressed to THE BEACON, BOX 361, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA. Please notify us without delay of any change in address.

Single copies can be obtained at ten cents each, postpaid. A twelve-issue subscription costs one dollar, and six issues, fifty cents. We endeavour to publish monthly unless unusual conditions hinder.

*Written contributions for any particular month's issue must reach our office not later than the 10th of the previous month. If you wish an article published in a certain issue, specify please, and mail it in sufficient time to reach us before the above-mentioned date.*

*Please be informed that opinions expressed herein do not necessarily concur with those of the publishers, the COs as a whole, or any associated religious organization. Each article expresses the opinions of its writer, and although we may hesitate sometimes in printing it because of its nature, it is nevertheless published because the writer seemed sincere. Our paper, after all, seeks to be an exchange of the opinions of our readers. We trust our readers will examine articles properly and express their criticism, constructively or otherwise, in a "Letter to the Editor." Please make these letters short and to the point, as we would like to publish as many as possible in each issue.*

*Your articles are welcome. We urge you to make them pointed and related as closely as possible to CO ideas, opinions, methods, problems and peace activities.*

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### CONTENTS

"AN HISTORY"—A short history of our paper since its small, but mighty beginning in a northern Ontario CO camp in early 1942.



**"CO DIGEST"**—*Short news items of CO activities in the United States and other countries outside of our own.*

**"FROM THE PRESS"**—*A collection of short articles found in daily newspapers in Canada and the United States expressing public sentiment in regard to the CO.*

**"LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"**—*Letters from our readers expressing their feelings toward the paper, its articles, and associated subjects.*

**"BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, Etc."**—*A column devoted to the latest doings of our CO friends across Canada, many of whom have spent time in ASW Camps and are widely acquainted in the Dominion.*

**"CO FARM OWNERS MEETING"**—*A report of the CO Farm Owners Meeting of the Mennonite Church, held in November, at Kitchener, Ontario.*

**"MENNONITE MPC REPORT"**—*A summary of the latest activities of the Military Problems Committee (Mennonite).*

**ALSO:** *Letters from former campees and COs in Alternative Service, poems, general news and articles of great interest.*

*(In future issues we hope to enlarge our scope of contents and include Testimonials of Readers, Feature Articles, Editorials, a Reader's Opinion Column and other valuable and interesting pages of enjoyment.)*

If you think your subscription has fallen aside, please check and see if you have failed to give us your most recent address.

We are anxious that these "lost" papers be claimed by their rightful owners and we again urge you to check on this matter—and remember at all times to NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE IN ADDRESS.

Thank you!

EDITOR.

### CANADIAN COs

(This article has been taken from the REPORTER, the official voice of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors in Washington, D.C. We are printing this to give our readers a look at the Canadian CO as viewed by someone from outside of the Dominion.—Editor).

An exhaustive report of the Canadian CO picture is being compiled by Paul Comly French, after three trips to Canada to discuss the situation with government officials, church leaders and the COs themselves.

The report revealed that more than 9,000 men have been "postponed" as conscientious objectors to date (August 15th), by far the greatest part of whom have been assigned to Alternative Service Work Camps or given alternative service contracts for individual assignments.

Of the total, Mennonites comprise about 63 per cent., Doukhobors 20 per cent., and the remainder 17 per cent. Neither the Brethren or Friends have any sizeable group in Canada.

The Canadian system has no classification comparable to our I-A-O, non-combatant service in the armed forces, although men who are given a postponed CO status are asked if they would accept service in the medical or dental corps. So far, about 200 men have accepted this service. Several religious leaders declared that considerable pressure is often used to force men into the medical corps, but this government officials denied.

Similarly, only a comparatively small number of men are in prison for conscientious reasons. Men who refuse to obey the instructions of the Alternative Service Officer are usually sentenced to one of the camps where COs are normally sent.

If a man walks out of camp, he is usually sentenced to a jail term ranging from 30 days to six months, usually with the proviso that he be sent back to camp at the end of the sentence. In one case "an extremely severe" sentence of one year was imposed. There is no parole available.

Men whose CO claims are denied and who still refuse to report to the army are escorted to a military barracks by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There they are often given one, two or three 14-day court martial sentences if their refusal persists, then in a majority of cases, military authorities recommend they be given a CO postponement and sent to a camp. About 300 men have been involved in this group in the five years Canada has been at war.

Regarding the camps themselves, these are apparently in a constant state of flux. In the early days, postponed COs were not directed to perform any type of service at all, but public sentiment forced the government to assign them to camps. In the past year, however, need for the men elsewhere has resulted in individual assignments to farms or other work and only five camps remain with a total population of about 300.

Camps were set up largely in Western Canada and engaged in forestry work, road-building, etc. The five remaining camps now operate somewhat in the nature



of detention centres for those sentenced to camp. In camp men are paid at the rate of 50 cents a day.

Bulk of the men are now serving under Alternative Service contracts with most of the men on farms. Here they are allowed to keep \$25 a month out of the prevailing wages paid them, with extras for dependents, overtime, insurance, etc. The balance is turned over to the Canadian Red Cross Society which so far has received between \$300,000 and \$400,000 from this source.

No one is officially discharged from Alternative Service. Psychiatric cases are simply transferred to institutions, while medical cases are given less strenuous assignments. Once an assignee reaches 38, however, the end of the Canadian conscription system, he is freed from further responsibility to the Alternative Service Officer.

Paul French commented at length on the basic philosophy behind the Canadian system, which he characterized as not so much the recognition of conscience but the "effective utilization of individuals in jobs they are more competent to perform."

He was told that "Canada had such a terrific man-power shortage that they could not afford the emotional luxury of segregating COs in camps when they could be doing more useful work." As a result, men are sent where they are most needed, and those now working on farms under individual contracts may be sent to northern coal mines or to pulp-wood forests after the harvest this fall. Individual wishes are respected only where they do not run counter to government policies.

"I was told by a Canadian OWI official," he said, "that there had not been a story about COs in the Ottawa papers for two and a half years, and he thought this was an excellent indication of how well the program was handled. He thought the public knew little about the program and that it was good for them not to know that there were 7,000 postponed COs in the Dominion."

Regarding the role played by the churches, he felt that "leaders of the groups representing COs have very little relationship or influence in the establishment of policy under the Canadian system."

#### OUR NEW OFFICE

We have secured an improved location for our headquarters and invite anyone, local or out-of-town to visit us.

The office is situated at 203 King Street East in Kitchener. Our entrance is the first to the right as you come onto the second floor via an outside stair.

We have a large variety of papers coming to us from Civilian Public Service Camps and Units in the U.S. and also from CPS Administration Agencies. These and other pieces of literature are on display as well as back issues of our own magazine since its birth in 1942, and further back to the NORTHERN BEACON, its ancestor, which was published from the Montreal River Camp in Ontario.

You are welcome to come in and make yourself acquainted with the publication work. We are yet a spare-time organization, therefore our office is usually open afternoons from 3.30 p.m. and several evenings throughout the week. A notice on the door will keep you informed. In case you call and it is closed, inquire at the Golden Rule Book Store at 187 King East, just a few doors away.

NOTE: Do not send mail to this address—but to our regular mailing address: **Box 361, Kitchener.**

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: "I would suggest a column familiar to the 'Open Forum' in the . . . farm magazine, like an open letter to the public. Interesting letters or articles of past or future incidents in work would make good reading. Or, if sentiments are in order, try running a "Get Acquainted" section. Maybe a column of original poetry would be right up somebody's alley. There would be suggestions coming in when the paper is supported by individuals: The public will realize then what is lacking. I am in favor of the continuance of the paper; it should prove quite interesting."

—O.B., from B.C.

Dear Editor: "We suggest births, engagements, marriages and deaths from CO communities of ASW interest. Would the interest in all but a few cases be sufficient to warrant this? . . . I think not"

—P. S., from Ont.

(These are just samples of letters for this column. Make them snappy! Put some zip into them that will stir up comment from other readers. If a letter is too short, send an article expressing your ideas. Let's have about half a dozen of these letters for next month! —Editor).

#### COs MISSED IN VICTORIA

Various Christian Youth Groups in Victoria are lamenting the dissolution of the Langford Camp near the city. I have been asked to greet any that I meet from there, so now I will let the Beacon do this for me. This Christian Fellowship has extended to the Bamberton Cement Works at



Tod Inlet where about a dozen Christian COs have started a Gospel service on Sunday evenings, and Victoria Young People try to send a car out every other Sunday, supplying speakers and Testimony in word and song and piano numbers.

A rousing spiritual sing-song generally follows these blessed meetings, when all present gather around the piano for about one short half-hour.

Scarce as tires and full gasoline tanks may be, the Lord has so far supplied bountifully since the beginning of last May.

Bamberton is 23 miles out of this fair city, just over the Malahat. It's always a lovely drive out through this bit of God's natural Paradise.

The boys at Bamberton have a splendid octette of male songsters, with John Boldt as leading soloist, and Victoria too, has been blessed by them.

Once they accompanied a Lieutenant of the Navy on a Christian half-hour over radio station CJV, Victoria. Then they were down with us at an open-air Youth Rally (inter-denominational) in our beautiful Beacon Hill Park, and also they have served at some Church services here in town.

FRED PETERS,  
553 Vancouver St.,  
Victoria, B.C.

### MARRIED

**Groening—Heinrichs.**—George Groening (formerly of Camp Seymour, GT-5, Dollarton, B.C.), to Miss Nettie Heinrichs, Lowe Farm, Manitoba. The wedding took place on August 13th, 1944. They are going north to Norway House to work among the Indians there.

**Gerbrandt—Heinrichs.**—Henry J. Gerbrandt to Miss Susie Heinrichs, sister of the above-mentioned bride. Henry was in missionary work at Cross Lake, but is planning now to take a Medical Course at Toronto, after which the couple will leave for mission work in Mexico.

### BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zimmerman, 350 Victoria St., Kitchener, Ontario, a daughter, on January 19th, 1945. (Carl was formerly of Langford and Lake Cowichan camps in B.C.)

### DEATHS

At the age of 26, William P. Unrau, Lowe Farm, Manitoba, died on August 19th, 1944. He had been working in ASW at the St. Boniface Hospital, St. Boniface, Manitoba.

### FELLOW COs

I read with interest the article about Lew Ayres in the April-July, 1944 issue of the Beacon. It quotes him saying: "It has taken war to give me an understanding of men and to find myself." I wonder whether that isn't the case with a lot of us? We took a lot of things for granted before the war. Now we have a good chance to prove whether or not we really believe what we say we do. People are often led through trials and tribulations to bring to the surface the good that is in them, if there is any. Every trial is to be overcome and should strengthen us for that which is still to come. As bodily exercise keeps an athlete in trim, although it isn't near as important. In Timothy 4: 8 we read, "Bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." I remember a church service I heard some time ago, in which the speaker compared Christian life with the old way of making wine. He said that in wine-making the wine was poured into various shaped and sized containers so that all the sediment and impurities it contained would settle to the bottom. Some had various-shaped sides to them, some were quite high, and others were large and shallow, exposing the wine to the air. It was not poured into the next vessel until it was clear. Also, the wine must first be of a uniform consistency, not thick or jelly-like, or stiff so it would not pour. He said it was the same with Christian life. There are the vessels of misunderstanding, doubts, and despair, of exposure to the world, etc. When a person finds himself in one of them he has to yield entirely to God's will, be of a broken spirit, and finally get peace in his soul so that all the faults, doubts, fears, sins and smudge of ordinary life will settle to the bottom. Then, and then only, will he be ready for the next vessel. We have to go through all of them, for God wants us perfect.

On the front cover of each issue of The Beacon we read the reminder: "Let your light so shine." Matthew 5: 16 says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Let us not forget this. Let us not forget that Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8: 38. Our



forefathers were not ashamed to profess their faith. With Christ's help we won't be, either.

PETER J. ISAAC,  
R.R 1, Glenburnie, Ont.

### UNRRA

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has formally decided that it can employ non-drafted conscientious objectors.

The only qualifications, according to a recent UNRRA general bulletin, is that "they satisfy the conditions for requesting re-classification in Class II-A (occupationally deferred) and their general suitability for the jobs desired."

While the bulletin applied only to U.S. citizens, the same principles would govern the employment of COs in other countries, it said, subject to the laws of the country in question.

Conscientious objectors already in a theatre of operation may be employed at the discretion of the mission chief subject to clearance with the military in areas where the UNRRA is operating with the military."

—From the REPORTER.

### LIST OF ALL COs IN CANADA

Several inquiries have come to us for a list of names and addresses of all COs in Canada. We have gone into considerable searching to see if such a list could be compiled, but have found that many difficulties must be encountered.

The names of men who have served time in camps are on file in Ottawa and Victoria Government offices, but a shortage of office staff prevents them from compiling them into a list for us.

Other COs under contract either on farms or in industry would be available through Alternative Service Offices but the same difficulty would hinder them from making such a list.

We would find such a list very helpful to us here at headquarters, but until such time as we are able to compile it we must inform any inquirers that it is not available at present. In the event that conditions permit its compilation, we will advise you through this paper.

Editor.

### MENNONITE CHURCH MILITARY PROBLEMS COMMITTEE REPORT

During the past year the Committee held four regular meetings. This report will give general information covering the work assigned to us by the Conference.

### 1. THE WORK IN GENERAL.

In the early part of the year the Alternate Service requested that the Secretary and the Chairman be present at regional meetings to review and sign up contracts. One of the reasons for our presence was to be a witness to the proceedings and to voice any objections or grievances. When the call came last winter for volunteers to work in the bush, the A.S.W. again asked us to be present at the meetings. After the young men returned from the camps in British Columbia and Alberta we spent a few days in an advisory capacity to help with the placements and contracts. Later on in the summer most of the contracts expired and were re-written for an indefinite period. It took eleven days to review only the agricultural contracts in Division "A" (London) and your Chairman and Secretary were asked to attend these meetings. We were permitted to voice our opinions and suggestions. Some were accepted and others rejected. Nevertheless, had we not been present many problems and grievances would have been passed by without consideration. During the summer it was the conviction of the M. P. C. that it would be advisable to have regional meetings in Division "B" (Toronto) to give information which we felt was not generally known. The Secretary or Chairman, or both, were present at eight of these meetings which were a great help in clearing up a lot of haziness in connection with the A. S. W. and to get a better understanding of procedure in Division "B".

Will you allow us to give you a picture of the work in the offices of the Chairman and the Secretary? Daily we get telephone calls, letters, personal interviews, correspondence with officials, etc. Some days only a few, and other days it takes hours to take care of the work. We are grateful for a working program in which generally speaking we have the confidence of the Mobilization Boards, the officials in the Alternate Service Office at Ottawa and the district Alternate Service officers. The work has been simplified so that during the past year there was no need to call many Military Problems Committee meetings, but with this simplification of the program the routine tasks must be looked after and naturally this has been centred in the duties of the offices of your servants which does not demand momentous decisions, but it takes days and weeks of time and effort to work out satisfactorily the program as it affects our people and as it is related to the A.S.W. We are your servants and have tried to faith-



fully carry out the wish of the Conference and at the same time satisfy God's rulers in the state.

## 2. LAWS AS THEY AFFECT CO AND ALTERNATE SERVICE WORKERS.

The call-up age at present is eighteen years and a half.

The procedure is:

(1) To receive a Medical notice from the Mobilization Board and to present yourself to the Doctor as requested.

(2) To fill in an application signed by your Pastor within eight days of the Medical notice, asking for a CO status. Send this to the Mobilization Board.

(3) After the Mobilization Board declares you a CO, your name will be transferred to the district Alternate Service Officer, who will notify you that you are subject to his directions.

(4) Answer all letters promptly and fill out all questionnaires as requested. In case you do not understand, ask your Committee.

(5) Farm contracts for single men are generally on the basis of Fifty Dollars per month and board. Twenty-five dollars, plus board, belongs to them and the balance goes to the Red Cross. Owners and renters of farms pay a flat rate of fifteen dollars, unless there is extreme hardship.

Industrial contracts are no longer signed by the firm or employer, but the employee signs an agreement to pay to the Red Cross a percentage according to the ratio of his wages as a debt to the crown.

In all of these contracts the Alternate Service Officer may use his discretion in regards to low medicals, compassionate reasons and individual problems. Often two farm boys, living side by side in the same neighbourhood, or even owners, or in some cases, industrial contracts, are not equal because of some investigation that the A. S. W. officers made and which in their judgment, and by the permission of their superiors, is justifiable. We may not always agree with these decisions, and say there is no equality, but this is true of all conditions during war-time, from the private soldier to the highest officer, and from employee to employer. In fact, within our own grounds as peace churches there is no equality. All contracts are subject to change, continuation, or cancellation as directed by A. S. W. officers. Your committee can recommend changes in contracts for justifiable reasons if the representatives of your group can produce such evidence and it is signed by the representatives.

No CO is permitted to buy land or rent a farm which involves the breaking of a contract without the permission of the A. S. W. Officer. The settling of estates or the incapacitation of owner to carry on will receive consideration.

## 3. CADET TRAINING.

The Secretary and Chairman were delegated to contact the Dept. of Education and get information about cadet training in High Schools. We had an interview with Mr. Barclay and Mr. Althouse, Chief Directors of Education. They informed us that the courses in Defense Training have been abolished. The courses of study given for Grade 10, 11, 12 are called "Physical and Health Education and Cadet Training." They gave us the literature and have asked us to study the courses and present a Brief in the near future of our objections and suggestive changes. The course is compulsory, but to become a cadet member is voluntary. We hope, in the near future, to present such a Brief and arrive at a reasonable solution that will meet the general satisfaction of all concerned.

## 4. GENERAL INFORMATION.

There are still a number of Alternate Service Camps in operation in Canada. Most of the workers in these camps are there because they refused to accept work of any kind and have been taken there by police escort. There are some 6,000 COs under contract in Canada.

The Series B Non-interest-bearing Certificates and Victory Bonds with stickers attached are still available. The following amounts have been subscribed:

Non-interest-bearing Certificates, \$755,583.97.

Victory Loan Bonds, with stickers, \$2,923,050.00.

Total—\$3,678,633.97.

As time goes on we may be asked to do some extra things which may upset our ordinary plans, such as the call for 60 men to go to canning factories for a month, but here again, by our response, we have won the good-will of many people, and we trust under the blessing of God we may ever make Christianity practical even to the "second mile."

In conclusion, may we say that this report does not aim to give details, but a general picture of our work. We thank you for the fine co-operation. Your criticism and advice has been appreciated whenever it was helpful. We need to pray, work, and go on together as Christians in our testimony in that which we



believe is the message, teaching and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

J. B. MARTIN, Chairman,  
M. P. C., Mennonite Church.

### CO FARM OWNER MEETING

The Alternate Service Officer, Mr. W. A. Angus, and the Agricultural Representative, Mr. I. MacLougry, called a meeting of Mennonite farm owners under contract. This meeting was held November 20th, 1944, at the Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church, Kitchener. There were about 200 farm owners present. The Chairman of the Mennonite Military Problems Committee and the Secretary, Elvin Shantz, were also invited to be present at this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was twofold:

(1) To give an explanation of the CO contract set-up.

(2) To give opportunity for personal interviews in case of grievances, injustice, etc.

The main points of emphasis were:

1. The CO Mennonite boy has a religious privilege, and the Red Cross payment, which is a debt to the crown, is a regulation made to keep a CO from profiting from the war.

2. The minimum Red Cross payment for farm owners is fifteen dollars per month. The reason this is lower than the farm employee who is a CO is that a farm owner has speculative risks such as crop failure, loss of stock, etc.

3. No provisions are made for medical bills, etc., for farm owners.

4. A number of contracts are below fifteen dollars per month on account of compassionate reasons.

5. In case a farm owner cannot pay the allotted amount, he is advised to sell out and hire to someone else.

6. Contracts are cancelled when a person reaches the age of thirty-eight years.

7. The Alternate Service Officer said that Mennonites are highly respected for their industriousness and honesty.

As representatives of the Military Problems Committee we were faced with a lot of personal complaints from farm owners about Red Cross payments; requests for compassionate help; and I heard so and so; etc. The meeting cleared up a lot of misunderstanding and we believe nearly all went home better satisfied and with a greater appreciation of our religious freedom and the many blessings we have in Canada that come from a kind, Heavenly Father.

J. B. MARTIN, Chairman,  
M. P. C., Mennonite Church.

### FROM THE PRESS

"When the war is over, they (the COs) will be allowed back to their families and home communities. They should not be ostracized because of honest religious belief. Hitlers may logically torment behind barbed wire in concentration camps those who held minority religious views, but Freeborn County and Minnesota should not follow that example.

Because one may not see eye to eye with a Jehovah's Witness and cannot understand his thought that "obedience to God" forbids his taking part in war, does not justify making life miserable for him or his family, or treating him other than as a fellow citizen.

The Quaker has had no small part in forming the American way of life. The Mennonite passed through fire in his journey to America. A conscience that is strong enough to endure adverse public opinion demands respect."

From an editorial in the Albert Lea, Minnesota "EVENING TRIBUNE," written by John F. D. Meighen, a Department of Justice Hearing Officer for CO cases.

The Christian Science Monitor of May 13th, 1944, carried a cartoon regarding conscientious objectors which your Executive Board felt to be incompatible with the words and spirit of our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. The cartoon suggested a tin can, to be tied to the coat tail, as a medal for COs. This was protested by the Fellowship who wrote to the cartoonist and the Christian Science Board of Directors as follows: "Obviously the purpose of the cartoon was to insult, ridicule and humiliate a group of sincere individuals who, because of religious training and belief, are conscientiously opposed to participation in the slaughter of thousands upon thousands of their fellow men.

Therefore this cartoon is 'uncharitable' and impertinent (rude) towards religion, the courts, and the laws of the land, to say nothing of the fact that it violates sound Christian principles in every respect.

It is almost inconceivable that the Monitor would resort to the intolerant methods of a common newspaper. We hereby request that the Editors be instructed to make a public apology in an early issue."

The reply, in full, was as follows:

"Dear Friends: This will let you know that we have received your letter of June 12th, a copy of which you have sent to L. F. VanZelm, of the Christian Science Monitor. Very sincerely yours, The Christian Science Board of Directors."

By a mother with two sons in the service:



"One of the well-known Four Freedoms is freedom of religion. Another is freedom of speech. Are these just phrases?"

I am among those who believe the CO outlook is all wrong. But I certainly do not believe that mob violence is the way to settle anything. What kind of a country would we have if anyone attacked anyone else who disagreed with him?"

By Mrs. I. A. S.:

"So it finally has come to the place where our boys have to ride in the same bus as the COs. Why? The government has protected them in every other way, why don't they let them ride in their own bus?"

I don't blame those boys. They are being taken from their homes, their jobs and loved ones to go to fight for those who are hiding behind their religion and their Bible."

From an Army private:

"I feel it is my duty as a serviceman to let you know how some of the servicemen feel toward the maltreatment those COs received on the bus going to Ft. Leavenworth. It is our purpose, as soldiers, to fight for our country so that we may have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, among many other reasons. If we aren't accomplishing these things for ourselves, our families, and all our countrymen, including the COs, I for one soldier am ready to come back and call the whole thing off.

Just because we believe differently than the COs do, I see no reason to condemn them. I don't believe like they do, or I'd be in a CO camp, but I, for one, am willing to fight so that I and my house may believe the way we wish, and let the CO live his life with his belief.

From the "Letters to the Editor" column in the Hutchinson, Kansas, NEWS HERALD, after six COs had been beaten up by other inductees in a bus, while en route to take physical examinations. A woman had previously written in to say that she felt the beatings were fully justified.

In the February issue of SKYWAYS, a magazine devoted to aircraft and airways, appears an article entitled, "Smoke Jumpers." The story describes "parachuting firemen who save U.S. timber," and goes into detail about their work in the vast forest areas of the United States. The second last paragraph shows that COs were used for this type of work when it says that Forest Service parachute crews this year (1944) were made up largely of conscientious objectors who volunteered for the work. It also adds that in helping to control fires in inaccessible mountainous country, these men have performed

an invaluable service. Photos along with the article explain more clearly the technique used by these parachutists in getting to their location via the airways. Just another point to prove that COs are ready and willing to serve their country in dire need.

The following recently appeared in one of America's most widely-read news-stand magazines:

## **TWO BROTHERS—ONE A SOLDIER, ONE A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR**

How would you like to have a Conscientious Objector for a brother? Especially if you were a soldier!

Well, I am a soldier in the United States Army, stationed at the present in Hawaii. My brother is in a work-camp for COs in North Carolina. I joined the Army in the spring of 1941, a volunteer. He was sent to the work-camp a few months later.

Before we entered the war I was convinced that when we both returned home he would be looked upon as just an odd sort of guy—an enigma, because all his habits and hobbies are strictly rational.

But since Pearl Harbor his situation has become a delicate one. I suppose, after the war, he'll be looked down upon, scorned by casual acquaintances, and maybe even shunned by old cronies. Of course, he realized all this before he registered as a CO. But I can't help but wonder how he will be treated when he goes home.

Oh, sometimes I am asked by a fellow-soldier: "How's your brother making out?" Should I be embarrassed? I'm not!

The Constitutions of our country uphold freedom of speech and religion. By exercising both of these prerogatives, he was able to prove to his Draft Board that he was sincere and "conscientious" in his "objections."

So, when someone puts me on the grill about him, I just shrug and say: "Well, it's a free country, isn't it?"

If you want to get technical, it is for guys like my brother that guys like me are scattered all over the world. We are protecting the odd fellow who, when everyone else says yes, says no. That's what makes our country so swell—a guy can disagree with the Big Boy and not be thrown into a concentration camp.

If I, personally, didn't want to help keep our country free, I'd probably object to fighting myself!

So, my brother is my personal Morale Officer, although six thousand miles away.

A Private in the U.S. Army.



## HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Age is a quality of mind,  
If you have left your dreams behind,  
If hope is cold,  
If you no longer look ahead,  
If your ambition's fires are dead—  
Then you are old.  
But if from life you take the best,  
And if in life you keep the jest,  
If love you hold;  
No matter how the years go by,  
No matter how the birthdays fly,  
You are not old.

—CO Digest

## LETTER FROM A DISABLED WAR VETERAN

(From a B.C. Newspaper)

Sir: If "Pro-Mennonite" will investigate, he will find that the forestry camps are under much more strict discipline than he suggests.

The men are allowed 14 days' leave per year, including time spent in travelling. This is not necessarily at Christmas; and no leave at all is granted during the fire season.

They are not allowed to sleep out of camp, except at infrequent intervals, and they work 8 hours per day for 50c, out of which they have to buy everything except food and lodging, and keep their families if they are married.

If they are able to do a little extra after doing 48 hours for \$3.50, good luck to them, and to the Christian folk who are helping them by finding the employment. Incidentally, these men, who are Canadians, are treated much less generously than the Japs.

I hold no particular brief for the Mennonites, but perhaps the most important war aim is liberty of conscience, and surely that should begin at home. At any rate, we can be fair to these men, even if we do not agree with their views.

## PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE F.A.U.

"I thought you might be interested to know what all our people are doing these days, so here is a rough disposition list. We have a hundred men in France, one-third doing ambulance work, one-third doing mobile hospital work, and one-third civilian relief. In Italy we have forty-two men doing relief, typhus control, and blood transfusion—and work in a Yugoslav hospital; thirty-four reinforcements are on their way and should be on the job before long. We have twenty-five men in Cairo and eighty-three men and women for relief teams destined for Greece, Albania

and Yugoslavia. There are nineteen men working in the Syria clinics and thirty-nine doing public health work in Ethiopia. There are eighteen people in India and one hundred-and-seventeen in China, twelve prisoners of war, one hundred-and-twenty-two doing hospital work in this country and one hundred-and-fifty training for overseas service, and forty seconded to Friends Relief Service. Our unit daily becomes more global."—In a letter from Sydney Bailey, London, Eng-

land, reported in INFORMATION.

## CONCHIES VOLUNTEER AS "GUINEA PIGS"

A recent Associated Press report states that more than 100 conscientious objectors have volunteered as human "guinea pigs" in Government tests to develop better emergency rations for life rafts, better diets for flyers and troops, and new controls for war-time diseases.

Col. Lewis F. Kosch, in charge of the Selective Service System's camp operations division, which supervises 78 work projects for the "COs," and James Stanley, of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, disclosed the experiments recently.

Six objectors—men who refuse to fight because of religious beliefs—are working on a National Research Council project at the Massachusetts General Hospital. They drink sea water for days at a time in tests to determine whether the life of a ship-wrecked person may be prolonged if all salt is removed from his food.

## AMERICAN CO STATISTICS

From "THE REPORTER" comes the following statistics compiled August 1st, 1944. At this date there were 7,281 men in CPS, with 194 more under assignment. They were distributed in different types of service as follows:

Forest Service .....	1,384
Soil Conservation .....	1,229
National Park Service .....	573
Bureau of Reclamation .....	350
Farm Security Administration .....	256
General Land Office .....	113
Fish and Wild Life .....	48
Mental Hospitals .....	1,489
Dairy Farms .....	473
Training Schools .....	241
Agricultural Exp. Stations .....	164
"Guinea Pig" Experiments .....	165
Dairy Herd Testers .....	160
Parachute Unit .....	119
Florida Health Projects .....	96
General Hospitals .....	88



Administration Detached Service .....	79
Mt. Weather .....	75
Puerto Rico .....	60
Coast and Geodetic .....	43
Miscellaneous .....	76

7,281

## THE COMFORTS OF FRIENDSHIP

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person—having neither to weigh thought nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of comfort blow the rest away.

Selected.

## ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Such a section has been suggested from a numerous number of persons and we decided to make it a regular feature of our paper. In this issue several names will appear under one or more of these headings.

We ask you to co-operate sincerely in sending us the names of persons (former campees, Alternate Service Workers and other persons engaged in CO work) for this section, for we know our readers will find these interesting, and many will be acquainted from camp associations or otherwise.

## CANADIAN COs LEAVE FOR CHINA

About ten conscientious objectors left for the United States, where they will undertake training before leaving for relief work in China. They will be under the direction of the American Friend's Ambulance Unit. The way is opened to others and it is expected that more will make application for this type of work, not only in China, but in other fields where the Unit is operating.

There are approximately one hundred members of the FAU in China at present. They work in two sections—medical and transport. The former takes care of casualties, military and civilian; civilian public health services and care of hospital unit at Kutsing. The latter section distributes a large portion of the drugs and medical supplies which reach China from the outside world. These are delivered over very poor roads to missions, hospitals and clinics where the need is greatest.

The FAU will possibly continue after the war ceases and there will be oppor-

tunities for post-war rehabilitation projects, although planning for such projects is quite difficult now, due to the financial condition of that country and uncertainties of the war situation.

## ACCIDENT FATAL TO CO

William P. Unrau, Lowe Farm, Man., died on the 19th of August last. He was 26 years of age, doing Alternative Service work in the St. Boniface Hospital, St. Boniface, Man. Due to a weak heart, he was put to some light work—burning the garbage. Having emptied one container and set fire to the contents, he was bending down for the second container when something in the fire exploded. He was taken into the hospital severely burned, but not seriously enough to cause death. Immediately after the explosion he shouted for help and thereby inhaled some poisonous gas produced by the explosive. The doctor claimed this to be the cause of death. The explosion occurred on the 15th; he died on the 19th and was buried on the 22nd.

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow."

HENRY C. BORN,

Altona, Man.

## FROM SUNNY B.C.

Hi, fellows. This is just to let you know we're still holding our end of the rope. We have been doing very nicely in sunny B.C. We had more than enough of strawberries, raspberries, cherries, apples and plums and wouldn't mind inviting some of you under-privileged boys from the east for a fill. Most of the B.C. fellows miss you. Those really were good days in camp which we had together. Our memories will often be there. Maybe it won't be tree planting, but the evenings spent listening to Pete Gossen's tall stories, or John Fretz bringing the latest news of farm leave or even to watch the married men with long faces. Most of the B.C. fellows have become expert dairy farmers. The boys get off two days a month and come home and like to talk about the B.C.F.S. 8 hours a day and Saturday afternoon off to go to town.

Cheerio for now, fellows, and I hope to hear from some of you.

HENRY J. STOBBE,

R.R. 1, Abbotsford, B.C.

## CONSCRIPTION CONFERENCE

What is believed to be the first two-day conference on military conscription to be called during war-time by pacifists was held in Richmond, Indiana, November 1st and 2nd, under the auspices of the Ameri-



can Friends Service Committee. Talks and discussions which led to recommendations for specific action and a statement for public consumption were based on consideration of the history, legislation and attitudes toward military conscription, the probable effects of peace-time military conscription on American life and institutions, and its relationship to the world order.

Of the 230 persons attending the confer-

ence, 30 were CPS men from camps and units in all parts of the country. In addition to members of many different Friends meetings, there were representatives from the Church of the Brethren, the Presbyterian Church, the F.O.R. (Fellowship of Reconciliation), the National Council for the Prevention of War, the N.S.B.R.O. (National Service Board for Religious Objectors), the C.I.O., the Y.W.C.A., the Pacifist Research Bureau, the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

### ARE YOU DOING YOUR SHARE?

Millions are suffering untold agony while your eyes scan these lines. Have you thought of them? Are you willing to help them?

The Department of Finance has provided a way in which you can help directly. Your purchase of a Victory Bond (with "Sticker" attached) will help provide these distressed peoples with food, clothing, medical supplies, ambulances, etc. Remember . . . you do not give your money . . . you only lend it.

The sooner you help provide these necessities through your purchase of a "Sticker" Victory Bond, the sooner this suffering will end. **Do it now!** . . . share your material blessings in this way . . . your share may save a life!

The proceeds received from the sale of this bond will be used by the Government of Canada to finance expenditures to alleviate distress or human suffering due to War.

J. L. ILSLEY,  
Minister of Finance.

### ANOTHER DAY MAY BE TOO LATE FOR SOME LIFE IN THE BALANCE

#### "IF YOU LIKE IT . . . TELL OTHERS IF NOT . . . TELL US!

To continue this paper in its new style, we must solicit YOUR support. If it has met with your satisfaction, tell a friend or send us his (or her) name. If you have suggestions or criticism to make, kindly let us know in a "Letter to the Editor," which will be published, if you wish, in our regular column.

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