

Extracts from eply to Russian delegation to Ottawa regarding Civil Service Registry and Military Service, Jan. 8, 1917.

Ottawa, Jan 8, 1917.

Dear Sirs,

Referring to your interview this morning with the Honourable Robert Rogers, and Colonel Clark, Under Sectetary of State for Internal Affairs, representing the Federal Government and myself. I now confirm in writing the statements that were verbally made to you.

1. The terms of the Order-in-Council under which Mennonites settled in Canada, guarantee their freedom from Military Service. Canada will respect to the utmost its obligations under that Order-in-Council

2. \ Sign National Service Cards, Write Mennonite across face of Card./

3. \ Engage in increased production./

4. In event of any member of the Mennonite communion having joined an overseas battalion under misapprehension or otherwise, and desiring to be released, if he will make an application to the colonel of his battalion statting that he is a Mennonite, and desirèsg to be discharged, i mediate action will be taken to that end. The application must be made in writing and signed by himself. Application on his behalf by another person will not be sufficient. \ Nothing to prohibit enlistment voluntarily./

Yours respectfully,

Signed, R.B.Bennet,

Director ~~Bandora~~ General of National Service.

Extracts of Lord Dufferin's Speech of Welcome to the First Mennonite Settlers in Manotoba, August 21. 1877.

Fellow-Citizens of the Dominion and Fellow-Subjects of her Majesty,--I have come here today in the name of the Queen of England to bid you welcome to Canadian soil. With this welcome it is needless that I should couple the best wished of the Imperial Government in England or of the Dominion Government at Ottawa, for you are well aware that both have regarded your coming here with unmitigated satisfaction. You have left your own land in obedience to a conscientious scruple, nor will you have been the first to cross the Atlantic under the pressure of a similar exigency. In doing so you must have made great sacrifices, broken with many tender associations, and overthrown the settled purposes of your former peacefully ordered lives; but the very fact of your having manfully faced the uncertainties and risks of so distant an emigration rather than surrender your religious convictions in regard to the unlawfulness of warfare, proves you to be well worthy of our respect, confidence and esteem. You have come to a land where you will find the people with whom you are to associate engaged indeed in a great struggle and contending with foes whom it requires their best energies to encounter, but these foes are not your fellowmen, nor will you be called upon in the struggle to stain your hands with human blood-- a task which is so abhorrent to your religious feelings.----- Conquest of land----- Friendly co-operation of U.S.----- If, then, you have come hither to seek for peace-- peace we can promise you. But it is not merely to the material blessings tha of our land that I bid you welcome.---There is no right or function which we exercise as free citizens in which we do not desire that you should participate, and with this civil freedom we equally and gladly offer you absolute religious liberty. --- -- In one word, beneath the flag whose folds now wave above us, you will find protection, peace, civil and religious liberty, constitutional freedom and equal laws, Mennonite Reserve, Manitoba.

Tavistock Ont April 11th 1917

Dear Brother S F Loffman Vineland Ont.

Greeting in Jesus Name

Received your letter of April 10th to-day.

Was glad to hear from you again and the information given. - also seen how you are getting along with the work. Bro Ephraim Kiffer who is working for me. received exemption until he ceases to farm then he appealed to district appeal Court which granted exemption from combatant service on account of his religious belief. then he appealed to Chief Justice Duff and ~~in~~ which was sent to London. and in due course received notice that his case would be heard before Central Appeal Judge on Feb 6th and to this day he has not heard from him.

Following are the grounds on which he contended that the judgment of the District Appeal Judge should be varied.

I I am a member in good standing of the Religious society called Mennonites whose Religious tenets do not permit its adherents to engage in military service of any kind whatever.

II The tenets have been a matter of conscience to me since my childhood and I cannot now disobey my conscience.

III I have been led to believe from the correspondence which Bro. S F Loffman of Vineland Ont who is one of our Bishops has had with E L Newcombe Esq. (Deputy-Minister of Justice) and which correspondence is on file in the Department, that Mennonites are entirely exempt of military service whatsoever according to the Departments interpretation.

of the Military Service Act. Now we have been waiting day for day and no reply to date. There are over thirty boys in our congregation in this class, and the greater part of them got at Tavistock Tribunal exemption allowed as a member of Amish (Mennonite) church which certificate of exemption was varied by Deputy-Registrar under the Military Service Act 1917 Gen J. E. Kennedy at London & exempt from combatant service on account of religious belief - now they are busy getting out their appeals. Those that got this exemption in the first place all appealed (although they were very slow about it) some cases were dismissed and other just got the same again. Then they appealed to central Appeal judge then some got Refusal of leave to Appeal. They just appealed to the same place again as what was on the Notice of Refusal of Leave to appeal and have not heard of them yet since.

Now for to fill out them forms you sent me the boys have come to my place and I have filled them out as far as I could but cannot come to the end of a line with but a few. Shall I just fill them out as far as I can I noticed you would like to have the returns soon so please let me know I need all these forms for our boys so I cannot give any to the other Brethren. If you did not send any more to Chris Gasehd than to me you ought to send some to Christ Gehr at Wellesley. Those you sent to Chris Schraggs to Zurich would also do for the Amish Brethren there are only a very few there. I will drop him a card concerning them.

We had communion ~~service~~ on Easter Sunday
 and on Sunday following at our meeting house
 there were over 300 present on Easter that communed
 and about 70 Sunday last. May God our Heavenly
 Father grant that all may walk worthy in the Name
 of the Lord and be shining Lights in this dark
 and sinful world

Next Sunday the Lord willing we expect to reorganize
 our Sunday School. We have Sunday School
 every two weeks, and this winter all through for
 the first time, Church Sunday every two weeks

We have Bible class every Sunday School Day
 in the evening and are having a good attendance
 Pray for us in that the Master's work may
 prosper that we may found as faithful
 servants and laborers in the Lords Vineyard

Health is good in general at present

Wishing you Gods Blessing

I am yours in like faith

Jacob R Bender
 Ywislock RR 1

Vineland Ont., April 13, 1917.

Jacob R. Bender,
Tavistock, Ont. R.R.#1.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter received this morning and I haste to reply so that it will get out today and you may have the answer on Monday morning. I am glad that you are getting the boys to give the information needed. We do not expect them to make applications to the tribunals for the sake of filling up the blank forms. Our purpose was that we should get the information as to how all are standing at present.

Those who have applied for exemption to the Local Tribunals, should state simple report what the decision of the Local Tribunal has been. If any have applied to the District Tribunal in appeal from the decision of the Local Tribunal, it should be noted in the second column, and also the decision that was given, whether the appeal was dismissed or whether it was changed, giving the decision whichever it may have been.

If some of those who appealed and the appeal dismissed have applied for an appeal to the Central Court, it should be noted. If they have made the second appeal, as was the case with some whose request was not allowed at first, it should be stated, "Second request," and "allowed" or "dismissed." Those who have applied to the Central Tribunal or Judge, should state, "Applied," in the 1st column, and "No report" if they have not yet heard from Judge Duff. I think that you will understand what we want. It is very hard to make our wants clear on paper. I hope that you will be able to fillout the sheets and have them returned as soon as possible. A good many are coming in with only the first column filled in, for a great many of the brethren have not appealed their claims and those will be looked after by the Committee when the proper time comes. If there are those who want to appeal their cases they should do so. In fact, I think it would be advisable to do so, unless their claims have been granted as Mennonites. Such will not need to be appealed.

I have called more sheets to some of the Brethren who were used for me by Brother Chr. Gascho. He gave the information and the addresses. If you need more blanks let me know Am enclosing a couple more in this letter. Let us continue to pray and let us be faithful to our calling.

Yours in faith and service,

S. J. Coffman

Re. Military Service Act.

Character of Exemptions Granted to Mennonites and Tunkers
who requested complete exemption on account of
their non-resistant faith.

- I. Local Tribunals granted "Exemption from Combatant service on account of religious belief."
1. Application to District Tribunals for complete exemption was treated as follows,-
 - a. Disallowed or Dismissed.
 - b. Allowed on the farm and exempt from combatant service as Mennonites.
 - c. Allowed as farmer and from combatant service.
 - d. Allowed as farmer.
 - e. No report.
 2. Application to District Registrar for appeal to Central Judge,
 - a. Majority refused.
 - b. A few made second application and allowed.
 3. Appeals to Central Judge for complete exemption,-
 - a. Record of three, only,- Total exemption refused.
 - b. majority have received no report.
- II. Local Tribunals granted "Exemption as farmers, or While remaining on the farm."
1. Exemptions specified,-
 - a. As a farmer, or on the farm.
 - b. As a farmer and from combatant service.
 - c. As a farmer, also on account of religious belief.
 - d. Until he ceases to be a farmer.
 - e. Until date mentioned, if remaining on the farm.
 - f. As a farmer, not called upon for duty as a soldier.
 2. Appeals to the District Tribunals for complete Exemption were treated as follows,-
 - a. No decision.
 - b. Dismissed.
 - c. Changed to Exemption from combatant service.
 - d. Allowed exemption from combatant service, and while engaged as a farmer.
 3. A few requests to District Registrar to appeal to Central Judge, Refused.
- III. Local Tribunals specified exemptions as "Granted," or "Allowed."
1. Appeals from these decisions to the ~~Local~~ ^{District} Tribunals for total Exemption, were treated as follows,-
 - a. Exempted while engaged in farming.
 - b. Disallowed.
 - c. Exempted while in present occupation.
 - d. Allowed from combatant service on account of religious belief.
- IV. Local Tribunals granted "Exemption because of religious belief."- ~~Belief~~
Belief not stated; neither the service from which exempted.
1. Appeals to District Tribunals for total exemption answered,-
 - a. Exemption from combatant service on account of religious belief.

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Belief not stated; neither the service from which exempted.
1. Appeals to District Tribunals for total exemption answered,-
 - a. Exemption from combatant service on account of religious belief.

V. Local Tribunal refused exemption.

1. Appeals to the District Tribunal from these decisions and for total exemption, were treated as follows,-

- a. Exemption allowed.
- b. Exemption allowed as a farmer and from combatant service on account of religious belief.
- c. Allowed on farm.
- d. Allowed until Class II is called by proclamation, if remaining on the farm.

VI. Local Tribunals gave limited exemption, "Until Category E is called.

VII. Local Tribunals specified exemptions as "Allowed, Number 8" or "Class 8."

VIII. Local Tribunal granted exemption as "Allowed while in present employment."- \Employment not specified./

1. Appeal direct to Central Judge,- "Disallowed."

IX. Application to Local Tribunal for exemption, received no answer.

X. Local Tribunals granted exemptions as follows,-

- a. Granted,-Mennonite.
- b. Allowed,- Mennonite.

These were not further appealed, believing them to have been given as the interpretation of the Act in accordance with the decision of the Military Service Council regarding Mennonites.

XI. A few appeals made direct to the Military Service Council by citizens of Canada in the United States, were acknowledged, but no further decision given.

J. R. EBERSOL
 MANUFACTURER OF
**THE SPECIAL BAND CUTTER
 AND SELF-FEEDER**

MILVERTON, ONT. *May 14* 1917

*J. J. Hoffman,
 Vineland, Ont.
 Dear Friend:-*

Your letter of 8th received and thank you for your kind service; None of our young brethren have been called yet here that I know of, and Thank God for it all. But we heard that 2 of the Gorra congregation were called but have not definitely heard yet if they received their exemptions yet or not, perhaps you know it better than we. We have been somewhat anxious to know if they succeeded in getting free, but hope to hear so soon.

Well yesterday evening I was to see Bish Nicholas Maffziger of Brummer, we of course are not altogether in the same denomination but we often help each other in these matters. He said when I write to you I shall tell you that they thank you for all the good you have tried to do to them in helping to get exempted. And said if we owe you any ~~more~~ more money to help you bear expenses, you should let us know. He desires that you send him copy of letters also every time you send letters to Brethren. Of course I think he received a copy of nearly all the ~~the~~ letters you sent out to different congregations.

(2)
 Pre. John Gascho of Kingwood would also like to receive letters from you for the ~~congrat~~ congregation where he is. All of these men and our Brethern here are not exactly in with the committee, and it would take quite a bit of time to wait every time until we would get word about these matters from the others of the committee.

Now the most reason of my writing to you is that we read in the papers and hear that all ment of 19 years must register by June 1st or before and would like to know if we must have our young Brethern register or not. If we can stay free we would rather not register. I think you say something to this effect in your last letter. Will you kindly let us know definitely as soon as conveniently possible?

Some of our Brethern of over 23 years old that are on farms, received a circular from Government asking them to do all they can to help production. This reads almost as though they were formerly exempted but I think it is not an exemption paper.

Remember us in your earnest prayers as I hope to do for all needfull.

Respectfully Yours,
 J. R. Ebersol,

P.S. Quite a number of men are no a days called to service, that is, of others that are not Mennonites.

G.



MINISTER'S OFFICE

OTTAWA. May 24th, 1917.

Dear Sir,-

Re exemption of Mennonites under
conscription.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of May 21st, addressed to the Honourable the Minister and to say that no proposal has been made to treat Mennonites in Ontario any differently than Mennonites in Western Canada.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Priatol".

Major,
Private Secretary.

Messrs McCullough & Button,
Stouffville, Ont.

Copy

Vineland Ont., May 28, 1917.

J. L. Byer,
Markham Ont.,

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letters have been received and much appreciated. I am sure that the whole situation is such that we need to keep in as close touch with it as possible. Mr. Scott has been looking after the matter for us while there, but since Parliament has been prorogued, he is at home in Galt. He has written me that he will attend to our affairs for us from there and desires that we keep him informed concerning the situation here. I have been keeping the information on the way. Here is a copy of his last letter to me from Ottawa. May 23rd, 1916.

"Dear Mr. Coffman, I have your telegram of the 22nd instant advising me that two Anish Members are under arrest in London. I am sure that the arrangements which I made with the Department have not yet been put into operation, in fact, it was only yesterday that the Department received the list which you sent me. I have today taken up with the department the case of the arrest of those two young men and they have promised to arrange for their release and no doubt it will go into effect in a day or two. Just as soon as arrangements have been completed with the District Commanding Officers, I do not anticipate that they will have any further trouble in this regard. I expect to leave for home on Friday and if there is anything further that presents itself after this week. If you will address me at Galt, Ont., I will see that it is attended to.

I am, Yours very truly, Signed, F.S.Scott."

I believe that the Government is sincere in their desire to grant us the privilege of continuing our faith and recognizes that our faith is right, but there is so much opposition on account of the other Churches and their practices which are the opposite of ours in regard to the participation in the war that it is hard for the Government to do anything for us without incurring the displeasure of others, and, inviting a more severe persecution of our faith if their decisions in our favor are too publically declared.

I believe that Mr. Scott, and Mr. Weichel, Ex M.P. of Waterloo, will keep in touch with affairs in Ottawa. They have their interests in their constituencies, which you know are strongly of our faith, at least in some sections, and they will be kept in touch with the questions in which we are concerned.

Another matter that should concern us is that the District Registrars and Commanding Officers of Districts, have no authority to decide cases except as directed by Ottawa, and that our relations are determined by Ottawa. If any decisions in the Military Districts are not in accord with our arrangements with the Government we have a right to appeal for the correct regulations. Thank you for your assistance. Will be glad for any information or advice. Yours,

The Executive Committee of Conference in session at the First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, August 4th, 1917, considering matters of Conference work, also considered some subjects called to their attention concerning present conditions brought about by Government Legislation.

For the sake of the welfare of the church and its adherents and continuance of privileges granted by the Government, we urge that each minister having charge of a congregation, use his influence especially in private, to discourage any member from engaging in the manufacture of munitions of war or any other work directly connected with such material or work.

We advise also, that our congregations concern themselves with rendering assistance to the suffering, in these times of distress, by contributing to the relief of nations or families suffering from war conditions, through the channels of our own Mission Boards or other reliable organizations, thereby helping to share the burden of human suffering and showing christian sympathy and interest in them, and an attitude of appreciation for the benefits and blessings enjoyed by us through the beneficence of our country. That a copy of this resolution be handed to each bishop and presented by him to the congregations under his charge.

R R #2 Pickering Aug 15 1917

S J Coffman
Wineland

Dear Brother, Greeting

I was over at Waterloo to see Mr Weichel regarding the deduction of names off ministers on list sent to Ottawa by you. Mr Weichel called J S Scott to Waterloo to discuss subject. he promised to have the matter adjusted. Kindly send Mr Scott a list of names of ministers which were sent to Ottawa he would like a full list at once. you no doubt have a copy. I think Ottawa acknowledged the receipt of same

Yours truly

Jos Pessor

MENNONITES ON MILITARY SERVICE

A Statement of Our Position on Military Service as Adopted by The Mennonite General Conference, August 29, 1917

Inasmuch as present war conditions call for an official utterance from our Church, we, the bishops, ministers, deacons and delegates of the Mennonite Church in General Conference assembled at the Yellow Creek Church, near Goshen, Indiana, Aug. 29, 1917, representing sixteen conferences in the United States, Canada, and India, desire to present the following as an expression on the doctrine of nonresistance as applied to present conditions brought on by the world war now raging.

Our Position Defined

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we interpret His command, "Resist not evil," by His other teachings on this subject; viz., "Love your enemies." "Do good to them that hate you." "Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." The Bible also teaches us not to avenge ourselves (Rom. 12:17-21), that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal" (II Cor. 10:4), and that "the servant of the Lord must not strive" (II Tim. 2:24). Believing that the children of God should imbibe and practice these teachings, we hold that Christian people should have no part in carnal warfare of any kind or for any cause. Our attitude on the question of military service is correctly stated in that clause of the Selective Draft Law enacted May 18, 1917, which provides for exemption for members of every church "whose existing creed or principles forbid its members to participate in war in any form and whose religious convictions are against war or participation therein." We deeply regret, however, that this exemption is practically nullified (save in the matter of bearing arms) in the further provision empowering the government to impress non-resistant people into non-combatant service.

In our Confession of Faith, adopted at Dortrecht, Holland, in 1632, the position of our church is defined as follows:

"Regarding revenge, whereby we resist our enemies by the sword, we believe and confess, that the Lord Jesus has forbidden His disciples and followers all revenge and resistance, and has thereby commanded them not to 'return evil for evil, nor railing for railing'; but to 'put up the sword into the sheath,' or, as the prophets foretold, 'beat them into plowshares.' Matt. 5:39, 44; Rom. 12:14; I Pet. 3:9; Micah 4:3.

"From this we see, that, according to the example, life, and doctrine of Christ, we are not to do wrong, or cause offense or vexation to any one; but to seek the welfare and salvation of all men; also, if necessity should require it, to flee, for the Lord's sake, from one city to another, and suffer the 'spoiling of our goods,' rather than give offense to any one; and if we are struck on our 'right cheek, rather to turn the other also' than to revenge ourselves or return the blow. Matt. 5:39, 10:23; Rom. 12:10.

"And that we are, besides this, also to pray for our enemies, comfort and feed them, when they are hungry and thirsty, and thus by well doing convince them and overcome the evil with good. Rom. 12:20, 21.

"Finally, that we are to do good in all respects, 'commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God,' and according to the law of Christ, do nothing to others that we would not wish them to do unto us.—II Cor. 4:2; Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31."—Article 14, Page 25.

This position has been uniformly held by our forefathers from Reformation times and their loyalty and devotion to their faith is attested by their suffering, even to the extent of martyrdom and banishment by those governments enjoining military service upon their citizens, and for which cause they gratefully accepted the hospitality and the guarantee of religious liberty of this land, historical records bearing ample witness to these facts.

In relation to governments we believe that every child of God, besides being a citizen of the Heavenly Kingdom (John 18:36; Phil. 3:20), should also be in subjection to civil governments (Rom. 13:1-5; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-17). Even laws which may seem unwise and unjust should be submitted to uncom-

plainly and no thought should be entertained of doing anything but comply with all that they ask of us—unless they prescribe conditions contrary to the Gospel; in which case we should meekly but faithfully stand true to the principles of the Gospel, even if the consequences entail suffering. This position has been exemplified by the apostles (Acts 5:29) and our early church fathers.

Past Favors Acknowledged

It is with grateful hearts that we recount the favors and considerations accorded our people in the past. In the days of William Penn our fathers accepted his invitation to immigrate to this land where they might enjoy the freedom of conscience in religion and exemption from military service. These benefits were later confirmed to them by the Constitution of the United States and by State Constitutions. We rejoice that freedom of conscience is thus recognized by the laws of our land. We appreciate the exemption accorded our brethren, both in the North and in the South, during the Civil War, when once their position with reference to war became fully known. We still have among us brethren who suffered for conscience's sake during that period, but recall with much gratitude the freedom from military service which that exemption secured for them.

We are grateful for the exemption clause for non-resistant people in the new Selective Draft Law, and hereby express the hope that when the powers that be fully understand our position with reference to military service, this clause referring to non-combatant service may be accordingly modified.

Our Standard

We acknowledge with deep humiliation that not all of our people have lived in full conformity with the Gospel standard or consistent with our profession of a holy life. Some, contrary to the teachings of the Church, have been entangled in politics, in commercialism, in pleasure-seeking, and in other forms of worldliness; but it should be borne in mind that such conduct has been without regard to the express wish and teaching of the Church. The Mennonite Church having continually stood for the sur-

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rendered life, a consistent separation from the world, and an attitude of peace toward all men, we call upon our people to bear in mind our obligations (Eph. 4:1) that in all places they may be known by the Scriptural designation—"A peculiar people, zealous of good works."

The Present Issue

Recognizing with gratefulness the consideration given our religious convictions, as previously stated, we take this opportunity of giving expression of our attitude concerning the issue as it now confronts us. As a Christian people we have always endeavored to support the government under which we lived in every capacity consistent with the teaching of the Gospel as we understand it, and will continue to do so; but according to this teaching we cannot participate in war in any form; that is, to aid or abet war, whether in a combatant or non-combatant capacity. We are conscious of what this attitude, under existing circumstances, may mean. No one who really understands our position will accuse us of either disloyalty or cowardice; for our record has proven our submissiveness to the powers that be, and to maintain our position under present conditions requires greater courage than to accept non-combatant service. But believing as we do, that any form of service under the military arm of the government means responsibility, either directly or indirectly, for the taking of human life and other destructive acts of war, we cannot consistently do otherwise than hold aloof from every form of military service. Our people have at all times refrained from voluntary enlistment for service in any form under previous military laws, and for us now to accept service under the military arm of the government, would be equivalent to a denial of the faith and principles which we have held as vital to our spiritual wellbeing and eternal salvation.

We appeal to the President of the United States and all others in authority to bear with us in this attitude and not to construe our position as a lack of appreciation for past favors or as an act of disloyalty; also to grant unto us full liberty of conscience and the free exercise of our faith.

Recommendations

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1. **To the Brotherhood.**—We recommend that in humility we seek at the throne of grace the blessings which others have sought to secure through the power of the sword. That we continue our prayers in behalf of the rulers of our land and all others in authority, continue to pray for the peace of nations; that we maintain a calmness of mind and heart that naturally accompanies a trust in God; that we refrain from uncharitable criticism in any form, and avoid heated controversy with those who do not agree with us on points of doctrine, missing no opportunity of complying with the Scriptural injunction of returning good for evil.

2. **To Our Brethren Liable for Military Service.**—We recommend that they comply with every requirement of the government, availing themselves of every opportunity to present their claims for exemption, exercising care that they do not commit any acts that could be rightfully interpreted as desertion or treason—and at the time when they receive the summons to enter the military service, they present themselves to the authorities and meekly inform them that under no circumstances can they consent to service, either combatant or non-combatant, under the military arm of the government, citing them to the fact that they are members of a church whose creed and principles forbid them to have part in war in any form, and that their consciences coincide with this position; submitting to any penalty the government may see fit to inflict, trusting the Lord for guidance and protection.

3. **To Our Conferences and Congregations.**—We recommend that they make every provision for the wellbeing of our brethren who may be called upon to suffer on account of their faith as a result of this trying situation. While we expect an attitude of submission and loyalty on the part of our members, we should not deal harshly, but charitably and with consideration, with our brethren who may be put to the test in these days of trial.

With a fervent prayer to Almighty God that He may bless and so direct the rulers of our land that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in the full exercise of our religious convictions;

that we, as His children, may be faithful to and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints; that God in His wise providence may overrule all to the glory of His name and the strengthening of His cause among men, we humbly subscribe our names to these declarations and pledge our powers in devotion to the principles herein set forth.

Bishops

L. J. Heatwole, Dale Enterprise, Va.	J. A. Ressler, Scottdale, Pa.
Sanford C. Yoder, Kalona, Ia.	S. Gingerich, Wayland, Ia.
Andrew Shenk, Oronogo, Mo.	N. B. Stauffer, Aldersyde, Alta.
A. J. Steiner, North Lima, O.	D. G. Lapp, Roseland, Neb.
T. M. Erb, Hesston, Kans.	E. A. Mast, Kokomo, Ind.
J. S. Mast, Elverson, Pa.	Menno Esch, Mio, Mich.
David Garber, Lyndhurst, Va.	Aaron Loucks, Scottdale, Pa.
J. C. Driver, Garden City, Mo.	Peter R. Nissley Mt. Joy, Pa.
Peter Kennel, Strang, Neb.	J. M. Shenk, Elida, Ohio
D. H. Bender, Hesston, Kans.	Jonathan Kurtz, Ligonier, Ind.
J. E. Zimmerman, Wood River, Neb.	E. S. Hallman, Grand Bay, Ala.
J. M. Kreider, Palmyra, Mo.	Jacob K. Yoder, Wellman, Ia.
Daniel Kauffman, Scottdale, Pa.	A. I. Yoder, West Liberty, O.
S. E. Allgyer, West Liberty, O.	I. S. Mast, Mino., N. Dak.
S. F. Coffman, Vineland, Ont.	D. A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind.
Elias L. Frey, Wauseon, Ohio	Abr. Metzler, Martinsburg, Pa.
D. D. Miller, Middlebury, Ind.	J. S. Shoemaker, Freeport, Ill.
E. B. Stoltzius, Hudson, Ohio	S. G. Shetler, Johnstown, Pa.
Lewis Shank, Broadway, Va.	Jacob K. Bixler, Elkhart, Ind.
Benj. Weaver, East Earl, Pa.	S. J. Swartzendruber, Bay Port, Mich.
Noah E. Miller, Springs, Pa.	J. S. Gerig, Smithville, Ohio
John Nice, Morrison, Ill.	D. J. Johns, Goshen, Ind.
John Blosser, Rawson, Ohio	John Garber, Goshen, Ind.
C. A. Hartzler, Tiskilwa, Ill.	D. Burkholder, Nappanee, Ind.

Ministers

Silas L. Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.	J. A. Heatwole, La Junta, Col.
E. D. Hess, Masontown, Pa.	Paul E. Whitmer, Bluffton, O.
L. J. Miller, Garden City, Mo.	J. L. Hershberger, Wellman, Ia.
H. F. Reist, Scottdale, Pa.	David D. Miller, Kalona, Ia.
O. S. Hostetler, Topeka, Ind.	John L. Stauffer, Altoona, Pa.
C. F. Derstine, Eureka, Ill.	Oscar Burkholder, Breslau, Ont.
H. W. Stevanus, Sherkston, Ont.	Peter Ropp, Pigeon, Mich.
Harvey Freisner, Vistula, Ind.	Isaiah W. Royer, Orrville, O.

N. A. Lind, Medina, Ohio	John E. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.
D. Hostetler, Weilersville, O.	A. L. Buzzard, Metamora, Ill.
J. B. Hartzler, W. Liberty, O.	J. N. Kaufman, Dhamtari, C. P., India
J. S. Hartzler, Goshen, Ind.	I. R. Detweiler, Goshen, Ind.
C. A. Graybill, Schellburg, Pa.	Amos Gingerich, Versailles, Mo.
John W. Hess, Palmyra, Mo.	B. B. Stoltzfus, Lima, Ohio
E. M. Detwiler, Calla, Ohio	Peter Boshart, Milverton, Ont.
Ed. Miller, Elk Lick, Pa.	J. M. Brunk, Wichita, Kans.
Ben B. King, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	Niles M. Slabaugh, Greentown, Ind.
S. E. Graybill, Freeport, Ill.	S. D. Grieser, Archbold, Ohio
John D. Miller, Louisville, O.	J. W. Weaver, Union Grove, Pa.
A. G. Heishman, Broadway, Va.	F. J. Gingerich, Beaver Crossing, Neb.
C. K. Brenneman, Canton, O.	Calvin Mast, Millersburg, Ohio
C. D. Yoder, Windom, Kans.	J. Y. King, West Liberty, O.
J. S. Martin, Dayton, Va.	J. A. Good, Webb Summit, O.
Peter Garber, Cazenovia, Ill.	Y. C. Miller, Shippshewana, Ind.
A. M. Eash, Chicago, Ill.	J. J. Miller, Shippshewana, Ind.
I. B. Witmer, Leetonia, Ohio	A. M. Shank, Nampa, Idaho
Wm. Jennings, Concord, Tenn.	D. F. Driver, Versailles, Mo.
C. Z. Yoder, Wooster, Ohio	L. J. Johnston, Cherry Box, Mo.
J. W. Christophel, Wakarusa, Ind.	C. A. Shank, Wakarusa, Ind.
Ezra B. Yordy, Eureka, Ill.	A. B. Snyder, Preston, Ont.
J. S. Horner, Greentown, Ind.	A. S. Miller, Spencerville, Ind.
Jos. H. Byler, Belleville, Pa.	J. H. Moseman, Lancaster, Pa.
J. R. Shank, Purvis, Mo.	S. H. Miller, Sugar Creek, O.
H. R. Buckwalter, Palmyra, Mo.	Jonas Loucks, Nappanee, Ind.
M. H. Shantz, New Hamburg, Ont.	R. L. Hartzler, Topeka, Ind.
D. B. Kauffman, Kenmare, N. D.	J. J. Warye, West Liberty, O.
A. H. Leaman, Chicago, Ill.	S. W. Sommer, Fairville, Mich.
D. J. Fisher, Kalona, Ia.	L. W. Yoder, Nappanee, Ind.
J. D. Mininger, K. C., Kans.	A. C. Good, Sterling, Ill.
E. F. Hartzler, Marshallville, O.	J. B. Smith, Elida, Ohio
P. R. Lantz, Marshallville, O.	C. J. Garber, Alpha, Minn.
Henry Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind.	Jonas D. Yoder, Belleville, Pa.
Aaron Eberly, Dalton, Ohio	Levi Plank, Bellefontaine, Ohio
C. D. Esch, Dhamtari, C. P., India	Silas Yoder, Goshen, Ind.
H. R. Schertz, Metamora, Ill.	J. H. McGowan, Nappanee, Ind.
Daniel J. Wyse, Archbold, O.	D. D. Troyer, Goshen, Ind.
P. E. Brunk, Delphos, Ohio	John H. Bare, Nappanee, Ind.
Noah Mack, New Holland, Pa.	Henry Rychener, Pettisville, O.
George D. Ross Elida, Ohio	A. Nusbaum, Middlebury, Ind.
Peter Unsicker, Tuleta, Texas	Amos S. Cripe, LaGrange, Ind.
A. W. Hershberger, Kent, O.	W. B. Weaver, Elkhart, Ind.
L. A. Blough, Holsopple, Pa.	

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Deacons

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| J. R. Brunk, Windom, Kans. | S. P. Good, Elida, Ohio |
| E. N. Eby, Lititz, Pa. | Sam Smeltzer, Wakarusa, Ind. |
| A. S. Landis, Goshen, Ind. | F. J. Martin, Ft. Wayne, Ind. |
| Menno J. Yoder, Topeka, Ind. | H. B. Weaver, Goshen, Ind. |
| J. C. Frey, Archbold, Ohio | Henry T. Nice, Morrison, Ill. |
| J. V. Fortner, Dakota, Ill. | John Emmert, Topeka, Ind. |
| M. Wideman, Pigeon, Mich. | Jos. Mishler, Clarksville, Mich. |
| Menno Steiner, Fairview, Mich. | Jas. J. Mishler, Shipshewa, Ind. |
| H. D. Heller, Witmer, Pa. | Ira S. Johns, Goshen, Ind. |
| Noah Weaver, Foraker, Ind. | Noah W. King, Amboy, Ind. |
| S. J. Schmucker, Nappanee, Ind. | J. C. Hershberger, Middlebury,
Ind. |
| J. C. Lugibill, Graybill, Ind. | Melvin D. Lantz, Topeka, Ind. |
| E. D. Yoder, West Liberty, O. | H. V. Albrecht, Tiskilwa, Ill. |
| D. H. Coffman, Goshen, Ind. | G. L. Bender, Elkhart, Ind. |
| A. I. Hartzler, Orrville, Ohio | Jonas Brubaker, Elkhart, Ind. |
| J. G. Wenger, Hesston, Kans. | |
| J. I. Weldy, Wakarusa, Ind. | |

Lay Delegate

- D. S. Weaver, La Junta, Colo.

We, the undersigned, bishops, ministers, and deacons of several other branches of the Mennonite Church, while not affiliated in conference relations with those whose names are signed to the above document, most heartily endorse this as a statement of our position on the doctrine of non-resistance.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| S. J. Swartzendruber, Bay Port,
Mich. | C. L. Ressler, Nappanee, Ind. |
| E. G. Swartzendruber, Well-
man, Ia. | A. F. Wiens, Chicago, Ill. |
| J. S. Troyer, LaGrange, Ind. | B. F. Esch, Washington, Ill. |
| | C. N. Amstutz, Apple Creek, O. |

Mennonite Brethren in Christ

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. B. Yoder, P. E., Elkhart, Ind. | D. W. Hunsberger, Deacon, Elk-
hart, Ind. |
| C. K. Curtis, Pastor, New Paris,
Ind. | Wm. Moyer, Deacon, Elkhart,
Ind. |
| H. M. Metzger, Pastor, Elk-
hart, Ind. | |

Defenceless Mennonites

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| C. R. Egli, Bishop, Chenoa, Ill. | D. N. Claudon, Deacon, Mead-
ows, Ill. |
| E. M. Slagle, Pastor, Pioneer, O. | |

David Berkey, Sec. Conf.
New Dundee, Ont.

Vineland Ont. Sept. 11, 1917.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Please find enclosed a copy of the form of petition which was sent from the general Conference to the President of the United States regarding our position on the Military service question and requesting entire exemption from service under the military arm of the Government. You have undoubtedly read the report of the interview which our brethren who were commissioned to meet the Government have had published in the Gospel Herald. It seems that their efforts on behalf of our young brethren who were drafted have met with favor and our people could not ask more than the Government has granted them.

It is impossible to say in what way our Government in Canada will interpret "Non-combatant Service." Nor is it possible to say how any of our young brethren who are included in the first draft will be served on presenting themselves at the military posts when called for enlistment.

The most of our young men have grounds for exemption claims for the reason that they are working on farms and also that they are members of a church which forbids its members, according to its creed, from participating in any military service whatsoever. It seems that this latter reason has been brought before the Government very forcefully in the drafting of the Military service bill, and we have reasons to believe that the Government will be sincere in carrying out the provisions as interpreted by the churches which have such creeds; but it might be well to send some sort of a memorial to the Premier of Canada calling his attention to our standing and asking known our desire that our brethren be not impressed into the army at all even when presenting themselves at the call of the Government, and that provisions be made for them to enjoy their religious liberties until they may be assigned to such service as may be granted them by the Government under other than military control.

In order that there may be some arrangement to carry out any suggestions that might be offered by you regarding this matter, I would suggest that you send your replies and opinions to the Moderator of our Conference, Bro. L. J. Burkholder.

Let us not forget to pray that God may lead us in performing our duties first to Him and also to our fellow-men, and that we may prove that we are sincere in living lives of peace and good will to men by being ready at all time to bear the burdens of suffering and engaging in such labors as will help to care for and comfort the afflicted and relieve distress and manifest the fruits of the love of Christ in our daily lives.

It seems to me that citing the position which the United States Government has taken on the question of non-combatant service for our people would enable our Government here to understand our position and assist in securing privileges equal to those of our brethren on the other side of the line.

Trusting that God may lead us and enable us to fulfill our mission in life as we should, I am,

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman.

*James Snyder,
Watuks, Ont.*

Vineland Ont. Sep. 11, 1917.

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Trusting that God may lead us and enable us to fulfill our mission in life as we should, I am,

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman.

*B. J. Barkholder, Markham.
 Copies sent to: Anna Gosh. Petrolia,
 Jonas Snyder, Waterton,
 Maussel Holman, Petersburg,
 David Bergey, New Dundee.*

Vineland Ont. Sep. 11, 1917.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Please find enclosed a copy of the form of petition which was sent from the general Conference to the President of the United States regarding our position on the Military service question and requesting entire exemption from service under the military arm of the Government. You have undoubtedly read the report of the interview which our brethren who were commissioned to meet the Government have had published in the Gospel Herald. It seems that their efforts on behalf of our young brethren who were drafted have met with favor and our people could not ask more than the Government has granted them.

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It seems to me that citing the position which the United States Government has taken on the question of non-combatant service for our people would enable our Government here to understand our position and assist in securing privileges equal to those of our brethren on the other side of the line.

Trusting that God may lead us and enable us to fulfill our mission in life as we should, I am,

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman.



Ottawa, September 17th, 1917. 191

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 14th instant. I am sending you as you request, a copy of the Military Service Act 1917. On reference to it, you will see that by paragraph (f) of Sub-section 1, Section 11, provision is made for a person who "conscientiously objects to the undertaking of combatant service and is prohibited from so doing by the tenets and articles of faith, in effect on the sixth day of July 1917, of any organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada at such date, and to which he in good faith belongs," making application for exemption to the local tribunal and authority is conferred upon the latter to grant *such* exemptions. This provision takes the place of that to which you refer in the Militia Act.

Yours sincerely,

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham, Ont.

Chas J. Roberts

CANADA POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



NEW
SPZIE
17
CONFEE

JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION CANADA

	1867	1917
Provinces	4	9
Area (Sq. M.)	540,000	3,729,665
Population	3,600,000	7,600,000
Railways (Miles)	2,250	35,500
Grains (Bu.)	65,000,000	1,000,000,000
Postage Stamps Issued	\$669,000	\$23,000,000
Forestry	34,000,000	175,000,000
Mines	8,000,000	137,000,000
Fisheries	6,000,000	31,000,000
Manufactures	50,000,000	1,300,000,000
Foreign Trade	114,000,000	1,996,000,000

Since 1901 the total value of field crops has risen from \$195,000,000. to \$841,000,000.

The total value of live stock, in same period, from \$268,000,000. to over \$800,000,000.

Exportable surplus of agricultural products:—

1868-70—\$13,000,000.

1916-17—\$480,000,000.

S. F. Goffman

Vineland

Ont.

New Dundee Sept. 20, 1917

Dear Bro. Greeting - Have just heard from
W. G. Weichel M. P. through Bro. M. C.
He offers to meet us at Kitchener on Saturday
to arrange ^{with the Presby. which was granted,} time for interview. I think I have
to let you know by Phone after meeting
the M. P. Bro. Groh says that he is
willing to accompany us, he too is coming
to Preston over Sunday.

yours faithfully
D. Berkey

M. C. Cressman

RETAIL DRY GOODS

BOOKS AND STATIONERY, CLOTHING, CARPETS, RUGS, LINOLEUMS, Etc.

AGENT FOR DR. PETER FAHRNEY'S ALPEN KRAUTER, VITALIZER,

HEIL OEL, MAGEN STARKER, Etc.

Kitchener
~~Burlington~~ Ont., Sept 25th 1917

D Bergey
New Sweden

Dear Bro.

I had an interview with Mr
W. G. Weichel last evening. He recurred
me very courteously. He was very talkative
gave me the history of the Mennonites
what he knows of them since he was a boy.
He said he spoke with the Premier personally
in regard to the Mennonites as well as before
the House on several occasions. He claims
we have exemption from all military service,
that is those who want it.
In regard to going to Ottawa to meet the
Premier, he says he cannot give anything
definite until he hears from the Premier.
which he expects will be next Monday
the only thing for the deputation to do will be to
hold themselves in readiness to go on short
notice. Mr. Weichel will be glad to go along
if it is desired. I think personally it would be
well to have him go along. Yours truly
M. C. Cressman

Copy.

Kitchener, Sept. 25th 1917.

D. Bergey. New Dundee.

Dear Bro. I had an interview with Mr. W.G. Weichel last evening. He received me very courteously. He was very talkative, gave me the history of the Mennonites, what he knows of them since he was a boy. He said he spoke with the Premier personally in regard to the Mennonites, as well as before the House on several occasions. He claims that we have exemption, that is, those who want it.

In regard to going to Ottawa to meet the Premier, he says he cannot give anything definite until he hears from the Premier, which he expects will be next Monday. The only thing ^{for} the deputation to do will be to hold themselves in readiness to go at short notice. Mr. Weichel will be glad to go along if it is desired. I think personally it would be well to have him go along.

Yours truly,

Sgd. M.C. Cressman.

New Dundee, Sept. 26. 1917

Dear Bro. I enclose copy of letter from Bro. C.
I suppose we will have to wait the convenience
of the powers that be,

D. Bergey

Aaron Loucks, Gen'l Agr.
A. D. Martin, Secretary
Levi Mumalo, Treasurer

Bell Phone 158-5
Cor High St. and Walnut Ave.

Mennonite Publishing House

Printers....Publishers....Booksellers

Scottdale, Pa., 9/26, 1917.

Dear Brother Fred:-- Yours to hand and noted. Evidently it was written before you recieved my letter of inquiry as to what was done by the resolution committee with reference to the Canadian petition. Your petition is starightforward, and ought to reach the spot if anything will. If that is in response to the the work placed upon the resolutions committee in conjunction with your work, you have my entire approval and permission to use my name in whatsoever way you wish. Under separate cover I send you a few copies of the General Conference address defining our position.

God bless you in all your labors for Him.

Your brother,

Daniel Kauffman.

G.C. 6

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917

MEN IN CLASS 1

That is British subjects who were on 6th July, 1917, unmarried, or widowers without children, who were 20 years old on 13th October, 1917, and were born in or since 1883, (and are not within the exceptions set out in the King's Proclamation of the 13th of October, 1917,) you should, whether you have been medically examined or not,

GO TO ANY POST OFFICE

in the Province in which you ordinarily live and ask the Postmaster for a form of

REPORT FOR SERVICE

which you will fill in and for which you will be given a receipt. Every man in Class 1 must either report for service

OR CLAIM EXEMPTION

or exemption must be claimed on his behalf, on or before 10th November, 1917. If you propose to claim exemption, the Postmaster will furnish the proper form for you to fill in and will give you a receipt for it. If you have been medically examined you will save trouble by

ATTACHING YOUR MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET, IF YOU HAVE ONE

to the form of Report for Service or Claim for Exemption, which ever you choose.

DO IT NOW

ISSUED BY THE
MILITARY SERVICE COUNCIL

The Military Service Act

ITS MEANING AND EFFECT

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917, received the Royal assent on the 29th day of August, and is now the Law of the land.

It has therefore become the duty of the Government to enforce this law impartially, promptly and effectively.

The purpose of the law is to provide much needed reinforcements for our heroic and sorely tried troops fighting in Flanders and in France.

To accomplish this end, Parliament has imposed upon the Civil administration the burden of carrying the Act into operation.

The selection of the men and the dealing with questions of exemption are in the hands of the Civil Authorities. It is not until the men are actually called to colours that the Militia Department intervenes.

The reinforcements to be raised are limited to 100,000 men, and those from whom they may be raised are divided into six classes, which are to be called out in the order in which they are named.

The first class comprises men not in the schedule of exceptions who, on the 6th July, 1917, were unmarried or

widowers without children, are at least 20 years of age and were born on or since 1st January, 1883. The second class includes married men or widowers with child or children between the same ages. The four remaining classes comprise older men, the third and fifth classes being unmarried men and widowers without children, and the fourth and sixth classes being married men and widowers with a child or children.

It is the intention of the Government to call out the first class by Proclamation to be issued as soon as possible. It is hoped that after all Claims for Exemption have been dealt with, this class will supply a sufficient number of men, who are physically fit, to furnish the reinforcements which the national honour and our duty to those at the Front demand, and that it may not be necessary to call out any of the subsequent classes.

The Proclamation calling out the first class will specify a date on or before which the members of the class must report for service, or claim exemption on one or other of the grounds specified in the Statute.

Forms on which Reports for Service or Claims for Exemption are to be made, will be placed in the hands of all Postmasters throughout the Dominion and it will be the duty of every member of the class in question to fill in one or other of these forms and submit it in the prescribed manner on or before the named day.

The grounds on which exemption may be claimed (which are similar to the grounds recognized in Great Britain and the United States) are as follows:

- (a) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in Military Service, be engaged in other work in which he is habitually engaged.
- (b) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in Military Service, be engaged in other work in which he wishes to be engaged and for which he has special qualifications.

- (c) That it is expedient in the national interest that, instead of being employed in Military Service, he should continue to be educated or trained for any work for which he is then being educated and trained.
- (d) That serious hardship would ensue, if the man were placed on active service, owing to his exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position.
- (e) Ill health or infirmity.
- (f) That he conscientiously objects to the undertaking of combatant service and is prohibited from doing so by tenets and articles of faith, in effect on the sixth day of July, 1917, of any organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada at such date, and to which he in good faith belongs.

No Claim for Exemption should be put forward unless one or other of these grounds in fact exists, and no loyal citizen should assist in, or allow himself to be made a party to, any Claim for Exemption unless thoroughly satisfied that it is made in good faith.

All Claims for Exemption will be disposed of by local tribunals established for the purpose to the number 1,250 and upwards throughout the Country.

Each of these tribunals consists of two members, one of whom is appointed by the County Court or District Judge, and the other by a Board of Selection established by the House of Commons and the Senate and nominated half by the Prime Minister and half by the Leader of the Opposition. These tribunals are entirely non-partizan and non-military and their local knowledge should enable them to deal intelligently and justly with the claims that come before them.

Provincial appellate tribunals and a central appellate tribunal for the whole of Canada are also provided to secure uniformity of interpretation in the application of the law.

No man will be required actually to join the colours till after a date which will be fixed by the Proclamation sufficiently late to permit the local tribunals to dispose of

most, if not all, applications for exemption which may come before them.

No one will gain any advantage by delay in Reporting for Service, nor will prompt Report result in any disadvantage.

Medical Boards are now in session at suitable centres throughout the Dominion. Any member of the first class, desirous of ascertaining immediately whether he is physically fit for service or not, may attend before any one of such Boards at any time convenient to himself and be examined free of charge. Information as to the time and place of the Sittings of these Boards will be found in the Daily Press. Certificates of physical unfitness issued by these Boards will be accepted by Exemption Tribunals when they sit, without further investigation. Men found physically fit who have not reported for service may nevertheless apply for exemption on any of the prescribed grounds including the ground of ill health or infirmity, if dissatisfied with the conclusion of the Medical Board.

The purpose of this circular is to furnish those affected by the Military Service Act with early information as to its effect and operation. It is not intended to relieve them from the necessity of familiarizing themselves with the provisions of the Proclamation of the Governor-General in Council, which will issue in due course, and will prescribe in detail the procedure above outlined and the consequences of failure to obey the requirements of the law.

The Proclamation in question will be published extensively, but personal notice to those affected will not be possible and they are advised to watch for the appearance of this Proclamation.

Issued by Military Service Council.

M.S.A.—18.

Ottawa, September 26th, 1917.

Vineland Ont., Oct., 1, 1917'

Glavin Bearss,
Ridgeway, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

You will pardon my not meeting with you yesterday at the services. There were quite a number of brethren from a distance with us and in taking time to meet with them I did not get out to shake your hand and have a talk with you. Since your wearing a beard I am not always certain of you. My first impression was that it was you, but when I failed to find you, I was under the impression that it was perhaps another, and so I inquired of Albert's boy.

The matter that I wanted to speak with you about especially was what steps your church had taken with regard to the conscription act. I learned through Bro. L. J. Burkholder that your church had appointed Bro. Fred Elliott and a Brother Bearss to act for them in some capacity with the Government to see what could be done regarding complete exemption. Since yourself and your father are the only ministers by that name in our conference I thought perhaps you could tell me what was being done. Our Church has taken action through the Executive Committee of our conference to appoint a delegate to meet the Premier or other officials of the Government and see in what way the law is to be interpreted regarding exemption. We have not yet had an appointment of the government, but will likely have an interview before long. As I understand the act, there will be no service of any kind required since the exemption clause seems to effect those of conscientious objections the same as others who have disqualifications. Yet, in view of the fact that the Militia act of previous date requires some kind of service at the discretion of the Government in counsel, the exemption might be limited at any time. It was then our purpose to state to the Government our exact position on the matter of military service and let them know that our creed forbids military service of any kind. They could then act in regard to us as they saw fit, but we believe that in such a case, to would require some other form of public service of us rather than force military service or punishment.

I shall be glad for a line from you if you can give me any information as to the action of your church. You are in the same class with us and for exactly the same reasons. We pray that God may overrule events that we may continue to enjoy our freedom of worship and service as we believe and follow the teachings of Christ. Please pardon my not meeting with you personally yesterday. Shall be glad to have you make us a visit another time you come down this way,

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman

CANADA POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION C A N A D A

	1867	1917
Provinces	4	9
Area (Sq. M.)	540,000	3,729,665
Population	3,600,000	7,600,000
Railways (Miles)	2,250	35,500
Grains (Bu.)	65,000,000	1,000,000,000
Postage Stamps Issued	\$669,000	\$23,000,000
Forestry	34,000,000	175,000,000
Mines	8,000,000	137,000,000
Fisheries	6,000,000	31,000,000
Manufactures	50,000,000	1,300,000,000
Foreign Trade	114,000,000	1,996,000,000

Since 1901 the total value of field crops has risen from \$195,000,000. to \$841,000,000.

The total value of live stock, in same period, from \$268,000,000. to over \$800,000,000.

Exportable surplus of agricultural products:—

1868-70— \$13,000,000.

1916-17—\$480,000,000.

S. F. Boffman
Vineland
Ont.

New Dundee Oct. 2. 1917

Dear Bro. Greeting, Bro. M. C. Cressman
tells me that Mr. Weichel M. P. has arranged
an interview with Premier Borden for us
on Tuesday Oct. 9th at 10 a.m. Mr. Weichel
will go with us and says that we will go
via the Grand Trunk R. R. with the train
leaving Toronto at 11 P.M. Monday evening.
I suppose you will meet us at Toronto. We will
get there at 8.20 P.M. on Monday Evg.

Yours faithfully
D. Berges