

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

S. F. Coffman
Vineland
Ontario
Canada.

Hesston Kans Apr 15th

Dear Bro.

Received your letter this morning
 Since my mother has been doing pract
 ically all for me with regards to my
 exemption, I find my self unable to
 quote the names of the different tribunals
 I am forwarding the letter to ^{him} with a
 necessary explanation. Bro Cussman and
 I are the only boys concerned, and his father has
 been looking after ~~the~~ ^{it} ~~also~~. Will consider it an opportunity to
 remember your committee more definitely

for all
 by Stanley & Runtz
 Thanking
 you
 in
 your
 name

Blair Apr 17th 1918

S F Hoffman

Vineland, Dear Brother
 Greeting. In reply to your inquiry
 regarding exemptions There
 was only one of our Brethern
 who applied for exemption
 as a Mennonite.

He was granted Exemption
 from combatant service
 on account of his religious
 belief and it was granted by
 Tribunal 3A3 Kitchener it
 was granted to Lloyd Snider
 German Mills, Ont. - Occupation
 Farming. I hope you will pardon
 my delay in answering, and
 hoping that the Lord may
 Bless your efforts to His honor
 and glory and the welfare
 of souls. Isaiah Wismer
 P.S. No Appeal. Blair, Ont.

June 4th 1918

S. F. Coffman
Vineland.

Dear Brother

Greeting. I am afraid I did not understand your request right when you asked for a list of our Brethern who got exemption. Brother Lloyd Snider was the only one of our number exempted as a Mennonite. The Brethern Edwin Feick Roy Snider and Kennard Snider. were exempted as Farmers. and now they have not exempted Bro Edwin they will probably write you and tell of their efforts in his behalf

Brother Kennard Snider
is called to Report on June 12th
they intend to correspond first
and if that does not secure
him then to apply personally
at the Deputy Registers Office.
Bro Feicks have been working
through Mr Euler the
~~Liberal~~ Liberal Member of
North Waterloo while
they are in the South Riding
which may possibly account
for some of the difficulty.
Hoping that my mistake
has not inconvenienced you
and hindered the efforts in
behalf of our Brethern and
hoping that He may sustain
and guide you in your
efforts. Fraternally.

Isaiah Wismer.

R.R. 1. Blair.

Ont.

Elmira, Ont., April 17th, 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Friend:

Enclosed please find a list of the names of persons exempted from Combatant Service by the Tribunals mentioned. The list is forwarded at the request of Bro. Thos. Reesor.

I wish our committee God's blessings in their desire to re-establish the liberties which our fore-fathers enjoyed.

Yours very truly,

N. M. Bearinger

Kingwood Ont April 15th 1918

S. F. Coffman

Lineland Ont

Dear Brother Greeting in Jesus
Name

Received your letter to day it was
addressed to Wellerly but my
address is Kingwood so I just
got it to day. I see that you would
like to know what our young
Brethren have done they all applied
for exemption, but I think they
only got exempted from combatant
service only, but I will try and
find out what there exemption
papers say, as soon as I can, and
I will let you know.

I dont think any of them appealed

But my son he appealed but,
we appealed a little to late
and the appeal was not allowed,
I did not understand it right
and so we were a little to late
with the appeal, but perhaps we
should have appealed again
will let you know more later
When I see the young Brethren

yours in the Masters Service

John Gascho

Do you intend to take ^{the} papers to the
Government, to try and get Complete
Exemption. I hope the Lord will
Bless your work and give us Complete
Exemption, let us pray that God
may Bless us and, the War come
to an end

Yours Truly

John Gascho

P.S. Please let me know when you
get this and if I have filled the
papers alright-

Kingwood Ont April 22nd 1918
S. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont

Greeting in Jesus name
Having filled out the papers you send
me, I hope it will be alright - and hope
you will understand them, you will see
that my son Samuel L. Gascho
had appealed but he appealed to late
and so his appeal was not allowed
we did not know or did not understand
it right. you will also see that
Joseph G. Roth has Exemption on
farming or was Exempted as farming
he had applied for Exemption on
claim no 8, just the same as the
rest of them, but when he came
before the Tribunals they give him
Exemption on farming

Kingwood Ont May 14th 1918

Greeting in Jesus Name

Received your letter yesterday stating that you received instructions from the Military Service Council that Mennonites are Exempted from Military Service. for which we should be thankful to the Giver of all good. you addressed my letter to Wellesley, my address is Kingwood, Ont. Wellesley so it takes a few days longer till it reaches us, you also put one cent on envelope and did not close letter. I think perhaps it would be better to close the letter perhaps some person might read those letters and would not be pleased about them, when you get other news please let me know.

Yours Truly, John Gascho

Baden April 17th / 18

Dear Brother in the Lord Greetings

We are all well at present I thank
the Lord Hope you may Enjoy the Same Blessings
Further I will send you some of
young Brethern's Exemption; I have not got
them all in yet some are a little slow
in coming on account of a distance

I heard saying to day of sad news
from the government in the today's papers
that all Exemption's are thrown over again
and nobody will be Exempted, may God
provide a way that this awfull war
might come to an end is my prayer
and all nations might have peace again
but all is in the hands of the Lord and
he knows best when to stop and so
it is best to pray they will be done
but deliver us from all Evil,

Wander if you have heard of the
Disiewn of Joseph Cressman,
now will close with Best Wishes
to all

Yours in Faith
Chr Gaseho



OFFICE OF
THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION
AND COLONIZATION

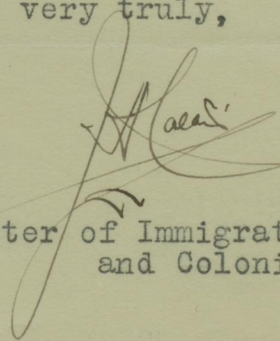
Ottawa, Ontario,
17th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, transmitting copy of a communication you addressed to Chief Justice Duff, Central Appeal Judge.

Shortly after my interview with you here, I prepared a memorandum and had the same transmitted to the Prime Minister with a view to having a decision reached respecting the matters you placed before me. Owing, however, to pressure of other important and urgent work, the Government has not as yet been able to deal with the questions you raised. Within the course of the past ten days the Prime Minister's attention has been centred on some exceedingly important problems, and in addition the work of the session has been such as to prevent him from giving attention to numerous problems that are awaiting consideration. I am sure at the very earliest opportunity he will give his consideration to the memorandum I placed before him.

Yours very truly,


Minister of Immigration
and Colonization.

S. F. Coffman, Esq.,
Vineland,
Ontario.



House of Commons

OTTAWA April, 18th, 1918.

Mr. S. F. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Mr. Coffman,

I received your letter of the 10th, instant today. The delay in my writing is caused by my being out of the city.

I am getting in touch with Mr. Justice Duff in an endeavour to find out just where your people stand in connection with the Military Service Act as interpreted by him.

I note that you have sent a copy of a Petition to the Hon. J.A. Calder. I will make it a point to see Mr. Calder at the first opportunity.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

FSS/EB.

F. S. Scott

Stayer Apr 18/18.

Rev. Coffman

Dear Bro. Enclosed find names of four of ~~your~~ our young men who have had exemption granted as you will note. This is all the persons now charge requiring it at present.

Yours truly,

A. F. Gooding

Stayer
Ans.

Juried
 Ont- April 18, 1918.

S. F. Coffman.

Vineland
 Dear Bro Coffman

Greeting
 your letter or notice ^{re.} and
 and have tried to fill
 out ~~best~~ ^{best} of my abilities
 our boy did not ask
 permission to appeal to
 Central appeal judge. Just
 appealed to to Mr. Warner at
 London and they all got
 their decision from there
 but two of the brethren had
 to appear before judge today
 the 18th and he did not
 give a decision trusting this
 is satisfactory same as for you
 humble bro in the Faith C. Schrag
 Pray for us. ^{with}

Kitchener Ont April 18 / 18

S. F. Coffman.
Vineland
Ont.

Dear Bro Greeting in Jesus
name. I enclosed ^{Church} Exemption
sheet. We have only one
Bro who came under the
M.S.A. and he did not
appeal.

Yours in Christian love

Simon Cober

TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO FARMERS AND FARM LABOURERS
IN CATEGORIES LOWER THAN "A".

C.E.F. Routine Order No. 355 is replaced by the following:-

1. Any member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada, in a Category lower than A, who can be temporarily spared from military duties, may be granted leave of absence without pay, on the authority of the Officer Commanding the District, on the production of a certificate from the Agricultural Representative for the District, appointed by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, to the effect that the man concerned is an efficient farm labourer, whose services are urgently required on the land.
2. Such leave will be granted in the first instance until the fifteenth of July, and may be extended on or before that date by the Officer Commanding the District for a further three months, on production of a further certificate from the Agricultural Representative, to the effect that the man has, during his first leave, been continuously engaged in agricultural work, and that his services are still urgently required therein.
3. Leave already granted under C.E.F. Routine Order No. 355 may be extended until the fifteenth day of July on the production of a further certificate from the Agricultural Representative, providing the man is not in Category "A", and may be extended again from the 15th of July for a further three months, on the production of a second certificate from the Agricultural Representative as mentioned in Para. 2.
4. Men granted leave or extension of leave hereunder will be granted a certificate of leave of absence without pay (M.F.W. 160). A Nominal Roll of all men so granted leave or extension of leave will be kept in each Battalion orderly room, with a note of the date on which the leave terminates in each case. One week before the termination of the leave a notice will be sent to the man by registered mail, ordering him to report for duty, unless an extension has been granted, and if he fails to report, as ordered, immediate steps will be taken to apprehend him.

1918

Vineland Ont., Apr. 18, 1917.

Asa Bearss,
Ridgeway Ont.

Dear Brother :- Greeting.

Your inquiry regarding the contribution to the expenses of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, came to hand.

Brother D. W. Heise is the Secretary of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, Brother Thomas Reesor, of Pickering, is the Secretary, and Brother L. J. Burkholder is the President. It is owing to his position as Secretary, and probably also to his being the representative of your Church on the Committee that he has written to your brethren asking for a contribution to the expenses of the organization. The different bodies represented are donating to this expense fund and the Treasurer will apportion the amount of each from the funds collected and will keep the balance for the General fund or for further expenses in connection with the Organization. Regarding the nine trips to Ottawa, there were only three in the party that went to Ottawa the last time, and it is probable, altho I have no information, that the other trips refer to some of the expenses of the Delegation which previously went to Ottawa regarding the Exemption of our Non-Resistant people. The Amount which Brother Heise mentions will cover all the expenses and not your portion. Your contribution will help to meet this total. I believe the Amish Brethren have already contributed generously to this fund. Our congregations have not yet all contributed, but expect to do so.

Today I received word from two members of Parliament stating that our position as non-resistant people would be brought to the attention of Chief Justice Duff personally, and also, regarding the Relief Organization that a statement of our plans and position was prepared to present to the Prime Minister and that his attention would be given to it as soon as some of the very important matters now on hand will be disposed of. We are awaiting with interest the report that will be made, and, according to some of the recent decisions of the Chief Justice on conscientious cases, we do feel that the positions of Churches who hold the tenets of faith as opposed to all military service, that such faith and persons holding membership will be given just consideration.

May we pray for those who have these matters to decide.

Yours ,

S. J. Apper

Pickering Apr 19/1915

Rev S J Hoffman
Wineland

Dear sir + Brother

Inclosed find cheque for amount of bill.

Would it not be advisable to get in touch with Mr Scott M.P. at once to guard our interest at Ottawa I believe a wire would not be out of place as we are passing through a critical stage,

I spoke to Mr C.H. Burkholder this morning he wished me to write,

May God be with us and lead the Government according to his will

Yours truly

Chas Reesor

m/s. H. J. H.

Aldersyde.

April 20/1918

Dear Bro Coffman.

Your letter of recent date hand.
and so far as I was able to I have
given information requested.

I have however thought that it
might be to the interest of our young
brethren here not to have this information
sent to Ottawa.

I have had several interviews
with the Registrar at Calgary, with
reference to our young Brethren, and
was informed by him, that if these
young men were bona fide Mennonites,
they had no occasion to comply with
the Military Service Act, as they were
already exempt by virtue of an agreement
with the Government.

I was also given the assurance that
they would get their exemption tho they
might have to wait some time. They have
got it. Now I have concluded from
the registrar's talk that he was referring
to the last agreement of 1873, with the
Russian Mennonite Brethren in Manitoba
and of course he is classing us with them.

under this agreement.. and to none
 of us (The young Brethren myself) was any
 mention made of "Non-Combatant"
 service.. and I concluded they were free
 from all service.

I of course did not tell him that
 we were not Russian Mennonites, and
~~thought~~ if they wished to grant us
 total exemption with the Russian Brethren
 well and good.

As matters stand now all claims for exemption
 have been allowed, and if you think it
 right and proper that we be reported from
 the west then do so; and if you think it to be
 to the best interest of our young Brethren to withhold the
 report from here, do so.

At present prospects are not too good. I have
 not noticed that the Government has cancelled
 any former agreements with the Non-resistant
 bodies

May God Bless you in your
 important work.

Your Bro in Christ
 A. D. Hauffer

N-R. R. O.
Com. to Gov't.

Vineland Ont., April 20, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

In reply to letters sent to members of Parliament concerning the Communication to Chief Justice Duff, I herewith copy replies

Ottawa 17th April - 1918

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th Instant, transmitting copy of a communication you addressed to Chief Justice Duff, Central Appeal Judge.

Shortly after my interview with you here, I prepared a memorandum and had the same transmitted to the Prime Minister with a view to having a decision reached respecting the matters you placed before me. Owing, however, to pressure of other important and urgent work, the Government has not as yet been able to deal with the questions you raised. Within the course of the past ten days the Prime Minister's attention has been centered on some exceedingly important problems, and in addition the work of sessions has been such as to prevent him from giving attention to numerous problems awaiting consideration. I am sure at the very earliest opportunity he will give his consideration to the memorandum I placed before him.

Yours very truly,

Signed, J.A. Calder,
Minister of Immigration and Colonization.

S.F. Coffman,
Vineland Ont.

Ottawa April 18th, 1918.

Mr. S.F. Coffman,
Vineland Ont.,
Dear Mr. Coffman,

I received your letter of the 10th instant today. The delay in my writing is caused by my being out of the city.

I am getting in touch with Mr. Justice Duff in an endeavor to find out just where your people stand in connection with the Military Service Act as interpreted by him.

I note that you have sent a copy of the Petition to the Hon. J. A. Calder. I will make it a point to see Mr. Calder at the first opportunity.

I am,

Yours sincerely

Signed, F. S. Scott.

The above letter speak for themselves. The matter under consideration will receive the attention of the Government as soon as it is possible for them to give attention to it. Regarding the new Orders about to be issued there is the same consideration given, but the Name Mennonite is ~~stated in the Order. I believe that we should~~ ^{availed ourselves of the priv-}ileged of claiming the exclusion as belonging to all Mennonites.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman

Wineland Ont., Apr. 20, 1918.

N. W. Bearinger,
Elmira, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter with enclosed lists received and glad to get the report. I was very much surprised to learn the number of young men who have applied for exemptions as members of our churches.

In looking over the lists I noticed that you have included about all, if not all, of the members of the Waterloo, St. Jacobs and Elmira or Floradale Churches, as well as those of your congregations. I had sent blank forms to Brother Abram Gingerich for the Floradale and St. Jacobs congregations, and to Brother Noah Hansberger for the Waterloo Congregation and, not having heard from them I thought that perhaps there had been some arrangement to have them all reported together. It is immaterial whether or not they are reported together, since we are desirous of knowing only what class of exemption was granted them, or the special grounds for which they are exempt from service.

Could you inform me as to the wording of the exemption granted by
the Waterloo Tribunal?
the Elmira Tribunal?
the Drayton Tribunal?

Have the decisions of these various Tribunals been the same in all the cases that have come before them? that is, did they decide all the cases the same way? or were some exempted for other than religious reasons? You cited one case that differed.

Did any of the brethren appeal to the District Tribunal for a more complete recognition of their faith, claiming exemption from all military service? and what was the decision of the Appeal Tribunal, if any? I have some reports showing that the Appeal Tribunal at Kitchener dismissed every appeal that was made to them. That means that they have left the decision the same as it had been given by the Local Tribunals.

The District registrar at London has also refused a number of applicants the privilege of making an appeal to the Central Appeal Court, in an effort to get a decision on their cases according to the decision of the Military Service Council which says that all Mennonites are excluded from the Act and have no duty to perform the service.

Any information that you can give me on these matters will help in getting the report complete. I have heard from nearly all of the congregations so far. Some of the Amish Brethren have not yet sent in their report.

I notice in the new Order about to be issued, that provisions are being made for Mennonites, and I think that none of our brethren need apply. A letter from one of the Members of Parliament states that he is expecting to see the central Appeal Judge regarding the claims that have come before him and we will likely hear from him in the near future. Hoping and praying for our continued privileges, I am

Yours in faith,

S. J. Coffman

Amira, Ont., Apr. 27/18.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Friend:

Greetings:

In your recent letter you desired some information which I will try to furnish to the best of my knowledge.

Regarding the decisions of the different Tribunals, that of Amira and Strayton were practically the same. The Waterloo Tribunal differed in the fact that they did not accept any young men's certificates which claimed the bearer to be an adherent but not a member of the church, whereas the other two tribunals accepted and exempted such cases where the bearer of certificate was an adherent only. This difference may cause us trouble later on should the Government see fit to consider the request of our committee.

Rev. Thos. Reesor forwarded to me a copy of the reply of the Hon. Mr. Calder to you. This would indicate that there is still hope as the request of the committee does not seem to

have been brought up for consideration at the dating of that letter.

I was not aware of the fact that forms such as were forwarded to me were also forwarded to other brethren and therefore filled out as many as I could. It is possible that you will receive many of the names ^{twice} on the different lists that will be forwarded to you.

As far as I can learn no appeal has been made for a more complete recognition of our faith. A copy of the laws dating from the seventeenth Century dealing with the exemptions of conscientious objectors shows that this class of people was at all times considered and their faith respected and it is to be hoped that our government will follow in the footsteps of the former governments of our land.

Let us not be discouraged and if we must suffer and bear persecutions let us submit in the spirit of the male-factor at the cross who begged to be remembered by the Lord when "Thou comest into Thy Kingdom". And glory to us if we could also hear the reply which greeted the ears of the sinner and which soothed his every pain.

Yours truly

N. M. Bearinger.

Mr. F. S. Scott, M.P.,
House of Parliament,
Ottawa.

Vineland Ont., Apr. 22nd, 1918.

Sir:-

As a result of the recent passing of the Man-Power Bill by parliament the exemptions and appeals for exemptions of many of our Mennonite and Tunker Brethren have been cancelled. This has resulted through no failure on their part to fulfill the provisions of the M.S.A., 1917, nor from their lack of effort to take full advantage of every provisions that had been made to grant full exemption from all military service, or enjoy the provision of the "Exceptions" to the Act as under the Order in Council of August 13th 1917. We note that similar "Exceptions" are provided in this new Measure for reinforcements. We desire to place ourselves in a proper light with the Government. We do not wish to evade any issue that we may justly, and from the standpoint of our religious principles, conscientiously assume. We do not wish to place ourselves on the list of excepted classes if it is not the purpose of the Government to class us as such, yet we feel that, owing to our tenets of faith and the practices of our christian principles we belong to such excepted classes. We do not feel that the Government will call upon any of our brethren to engage in a service which they cannot perform. This is not a question of morals, physical power, patriotism or political inclinations. It is a question to which our convictions and sentiment have been drawn by the most sacred associations of teaching and worship. We have chosen, we know, a different way than many others have chosen. We are not seeking to commend ourselves or to censure others. We hold ourselves responsible only to our Master. In your associations with our people you understand their principles, and we believe that you will render what assistance may be given in helping to so define our position before the Government that any friction and undue trouble or suffering as a result of misunderstanding with the officials who are expected to enforce the law may be avoided on the part of our brethren.

We have addressed a letter to the Hon. J.A. Calder, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, stating a few questions concerning which we would desire some information so that we may rightly instruct our members as to the proper course to pursue in relation to the recent act of Parliament.

Thanking you for your past favors and interest in our cause and on our behalf, I am,

Respectfully and gratefully,

The Committee of
The Non-Resistant Relief
Organization.

Yours truly,

S. F. Coffman,
Secretary of Committee.

Tofield Alta
Apr 22nd 1918

S. F. Coffman;

Dear Bro Greeting;

Your papers at hand and filled out and will forward them by return mail.

You may notice the change of of address the Mayton people got tired of the long trips to town and as my wife could not stand the high Altitude and her mother also so it was decided to try this locality Ask an interest in your prayers.

J. H. Lehman.

New Hamburg April 22 1918

Bro Coffman Greeting in the
Master's Name. Our boys are anxious
to hear ~~of~~ as to there standing in this
new Military Law. Have you any reply
have you any thing to give by way of
advice which might be a help to us and the boys
Our prayer is that God might open a
way for our boys and that our
Church might be kept pure from all sin
waiting an early reply

Osiias Cressman

Vineland Ont., Apr. 22, 1918.

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Please find enclosed a letter to Mr. Calder, Ottawa regarding the new situation. I am sending out a circular letter to all the members of our Committees and to Ministers stating that they shall be slow in registering, and rather claim the provisions to the Exceptions that are made for Mennonites. This question must come to a test and perhaps we may soon learn what disposition has been made of our appeals. Praying that God may give us special grace at this time, I am,

Yours in faith,

S. J. Coffman

If the Letter to Mr. Calder meets your approval, Please send it on.

Wm. Burkholder

Markham, Ont., Ap. 27th 1918

Dear bro. S. F. Greetings. Yours of the 20th inst. re reply from Eldon to Mand. Bro. J. F. Byler called me by phone this A.M. and states that he has a favorable reply to his letter to the Hon. Mr. W. Powell. Mr. Powell states that our people were considered in the new order in council and we are entirely outside the operation of the Act. We are included in the "exceptions". The ordinary "conscientious objector" has his exemptions annulled. Bro. J. F. says that the President of the King Council is very positive and emphatic in his statements. This gives occasion for thanksgiving to the Lord. I think also when you have official information along this line we should speed up on relief work.

I thank you for the counsel in your letter last week. Our inquiry meeting yesterday was a pleasant affair. Rain prevented many from being present. That may account for the absence of our bro. from the west part of the district.

In His service.

L. J. Burkholder

TO THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE MENNONITE AND TUNKER CHURCHES IN CANADA.

"In as much as ye have done it unto the least
of these."

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The NON-RESISTANT RELIEF ORGANIZATION was formed in the month of January, 1918, having for its object the raising of a MEMORIAL FUND, to present to the Government of Canada in recognition of our religious liberty and for the purpose of relief work made necessary by the present war conditions. The fund is to be used by the Government in whatever way may be found necessary while at the same time using it in harmony with the faith and practice of the religious bodies constituting this organization.

The objects of the organization have been considerably delayed on account of the uncertainties which obtained relative to the legal status of the Churches represented in this movement, under the Military Service Act of 1917, and the Order-in Council of April 20th, 1918.

After considerable inquiry and effort these uncertain ties have in a large measure been cleared up and with gratitude to God, and grateful appreciation to the Government of Canada, we rejoice to be able to say, that we, as a Non-resistant People, shall be permitted the continuance of the privilege of honoring God, and His Gospel principles, and our personal convictions, by being relieved of the duty of taking up arms, and engaging in military service.

While many of our people have been sharing in the works of charity and relief of suffering, giving generously of their labor and means, as far as consistent with their peace-loving principles, the movement in connection with this Organization is a special effort, and affords a favorable opportunity to do more work along the same lines, and to share more fully in the privations and burdens of our fellow-citizens, and to support the charitable work of the Government.

The Government of Canada has been earnestly solicited to devise for us some plan by which such a donation could be expended for the benefit of the worthy poor, either at home or abroad, who are in actual need of relief (preferably widows and orphans) and who are not pledged to support, as war dependents.

In view of the foregoing facts, this letter comes as an earnest appeal to every member of the churches forming this organization, for a generous financial contribution, in the name of Him whose word says, "But to communicate, and to do good forget not, for with such sacrifice the Lord is well pleased." We should show in a very practical manner, that ^{we} we, as a people, are averse to the bearing of arms or engaging in carnal warfare in any form, we, nevertheless, are not a selfish, unsympathetic people in the matter of our duty towards suffering humanity, fulfilling such duties in harmony with the principles which we profess and by which we live.

We therefore bespeak for all of our people, a largeheartedness and a liberal response to this most worthy cause.

The methods of raising this fund will be left to the choice of each individual congregation or district, but care should be taken that any method chosen is in full keeping with the principles and practices of those churches, and that it may be done in as private a manner as possible.

Formulated by-- D.W.Heise, S.F.Coffman.

Approved by--S. Goudie.

Executive Committee,--L.J.Burkholder, S.Goudie, D.W.Heise, Thos.Reesor, C. Gasho.

P.S. All contributions should be forwarded to Thomas Reesor, Treasurer,
R.R. #2, Pickering Ont.

Mennonite Archives of Ontario
Military and Order in Council.

Vineland Ont., April 22nd, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

Copy

This letter is being sent to all of our ministers and to others interested suggesting a course of uniform action relative to the New Order regarding military Service. Letters have been sent to members of the Government endeavoring to guard our interests and secure favorable decisions respecting the liberties of Non-resistant Churches. In the meantime it may be best for us all to claim the Exception to the Act, as provided for Mennonites and Doukhobors, who are not required to register for service. Any of our brethren called to register or report for service should claim to be under the Exception which the Military Service Council decided applied to all Mennonites, who were not required to register and who had no duty to perform. The Exception mentioned seems to be based on the laws of Canada which also exempted Quakers and Tunkers, who would thus have equal rights with the Mennonites to claim exemption. This is an opinion and has been made the ground of an appeal to the Government, and we trust to have a favorable decision thereon.

We have also asked for a decision regarding the minor sons of fathers disenfranchised by the Elections Act, since such minor sons could not then be called for service and we trust for a favorable decision. We advise all interested persons to act prayerfully and with the utmost discretion. We do not wish to antagonize the Government, but urge all to remain true to the principles of the faith which is more precious to us than our life, Pray that we may find grace with the Government, and that the Government may have special wisdom and power in these days of trial.

S. F. Coffman Secretary.

Copy of Original

Hon. J. A. Calder,
Minister of Immigration and
Colonization.
House of Parliament,
Ottawa.

Vineland Ont., April 22nd, 1918.

Honourable Sir:-

Permit me to again address you with regard to the Petition of the Mennonites and Tunkers respecting their freedom from all Military Service, which question has again been brought before them by the recent Order in Council approved by Parliament.

If, among other conditions of exemption, Conscientious reasons as provided for under clause 8 of the Exemptions, are removed, what will be the standing of our young men who have applied for exemption and were granted exemption on those grounds under the M. S. A., 1917.

What application will be made of the provisions for Mennonites as stated in the Man-Power Bill? Will it apply to all Mennonites as well as to those established Churches, - Quakers and Tunkers, - whose faith was recognized and provided for by the laws of Canada in the past?

Some of our Members, Mennonites and Tunkers, were exempted for other ~~th~~ than Conscientious reasons by Local Tribunals, although they applied for exemption as Mennonites or Tunkers. Under the Man-Power Bill, will they become subject to call to any military service?

Under the War-Times Elections Act provisions were made that the sons of Disenfranchised Conscientious Objectors were not to be called into service. Will those provisions be cancelled by the Present Bill, and are such minor sons, although they are adherents and not members of the Church eligible for service and subject to call?

We trust, Honourable Sir, that we do not seem hasty in seeking an interpretation of these new conditions. We do not desire to be rebellious against the laws of the land. We feel that provisions are made for those who are sincere in their religious views on the question of warfare, else no provisions would have been made for those specially mentioned in the recent Bill. We desire only to understand whether it applies to all who hold the same principles of faith as do the Mennonites concerned especially in the provisions of the Bill.

Whatever you may be able to do in behalf of those who are deeply concerned with these questions, will be accepted most gratefully. I am also writing the Hon. Mr. F.S. Scott, M.P., as many of his constituency are interested in this matter.

Yours respectfully and faithfully,

Committee of
The Non-Resistant
Relief Organization.

S. F. Coffman
Secretary of Committee.

Vineland Ont., April 23, 1918.

C. Schrag,
Zurich, Ont.

Dear Brothe:- Greeting.

Your letter and the report of the exemption claims received today. Thank you for them. I sent you a letter regarding the New Bill for military classes to be called. Enclosed find a later port which begins to look more favorable. May the Lord open the doors of mercy for us, and may we become more earnest in making use of our opportunities for the use of the Master. I wish to thank you for the letters which you enclosed and herewith return them as I have made copies of the same for my use and the brethren may want them for themselves.

I trust that all of our young brethren will appreciate that they have been greatly blessed in not having to suffer as some of our Brethren have in other places. May they consecrate themselves anew to a devoted service for Christ. We are hoping for a complete exemption by the Government's decision.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman

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

MILVERTON, ONT. Apr 22 1918

S. F. Coffman
 Vineland, Ont.

Dear Bro- to and extent of our Faith :-

I read your letter of 10th to our ministers and some of our Brethren yesterday, but some are not so well posted in english language, and are some what undecided what to do in the matter. Then some moved to have the whole church council over it, which we then decided to do on our next meeting.

We expect to council over it in lower district next Sunday and the following saturday in our district in our upper district. I am sorry to detain you in this matter of information. But I will let you know again either with the desired information or our decision again, if I live and the Lord willing.

Well we have no decision in our cases from Ottawa yet; and I expect you are aware better than I am that it is said that Government has passed a new act cancelling or annulling all exemptions, and will call out at certain ages regardless of occupation without exemptions. And one of our Brethren said he was shown in the Globe paper that they will call them out regardless of creed or occupation.

Some of our Brethren do not seem to be much alarmed or concerned about it. But I can not help

(2)

that it does concern me. I feel a ~~ref~~ responsibility on me in this part, and feel that we all should earnestly pray to God to help us all through all of our difficulties.

If you have any more information in this matter to give our Brethren in regards to the necessity of sending you the names and details of young Brethren, then send it at once. Of course I think I understand your purpose, and I tried to explain it to them as good as I could.

Also please let me know what you think this last act will do with us.

Remember us in prayer as I hope to do for all needfull.

Respectfully Yours,
J R Eversol.

Wellesley Ont.
April 22nd 1918.

S. F. Coffman
Vineland.

Dear Brother:-

We have filled out those blanks from you & your young brethren, except about 5 that we didn't meet but their exemptions are almost alike. There is only one of our young brethren that got (exemption allowed.) He should have been satisfied, but did not know, and did appeal.

Let us pray to God that he will save us. His hand is not too short that he can't help us.

Pray for us and we will do likewise.

Yours Sincerely,

C. S. Zehr.

Brunner Ont April 22 nd 1915

S F Coffman

~~Middleburg~~

Dear Bro in The Lord
Greeting in Jesus name -

You will notice that blanks are not all filled out have filled them as far as I have information, thought you would probably want information right away, if however there should be time and better information wanted kindly let me know, and send blank and I will get required information, you will also notice that Samuel Ruzki has complete exemption he was the first to appear before Judge Barron at Stratford, you will also notice that David Waffziger is exempted for farming his application was for exemption on religious belief but when he appeared before the tribunal at Milton they told him they would exempt him for farming so he took that -

then again you will notice that
Gideon Wagner's is not filled out he
was at a different tribunal so I don't
know his decision he lives quite
a distance and does not come to
church every Sunday but as far as
I know he was exempted the same
as the rest from combatant service.
Remember us in prayer we are
likewise minded.

Fraternally Yours
Nicholas W. W. Wagner
Brunner, P. O.

P.S. if better information is wanted
kindly let me know before Sunday
W W

To the Committee to Ottawa

Regarding Exemption from Militar Service
and

The Committee to interview Governmet

Regarding Non-Resistab Relief Organization.

Vineland Ont. April 22, 1918.

Brethren:-

Since the passing of the late Man-Power Act, for securing reinforcements for the Canadian Forces in France, a new situation has presented itself to us. All exemptions have been removed from the first Class between the ages of 20 and 23, and giving power to call youths of the age of 19 and disallow exemptions, and giving power to call any age of any class and disallow exemptions of those classes which were granted under the previous Military service Act. We do not know what steps will be taken by the Minister of Malitia who now has been given charge of the military matters. A provision has been made for Mennonites and Dukobohrs, as under the Order In Council previously cited in the Military Service Act.

The enclosed letter will explain what has been done regarding our present standing. These Members of Parliament have both been interested in interviewing the Government previous to the passing of the late Act, but in their letters to your Secretary have not stated any success at gaining an interview or having received any information as to the action of the Government toward the claims which we have presented to them. We still await the decision of the Government as to our exemptions from all military service and also await the decision of Judge Duff concerning the appeals that have been made by our young brethren who have asked to be freed from all military service as members of the Mennonite or Tunker Churches.

We have nothing definite to recommend to our members who are now subject to the call of the Minister of Malitia or the Government for military service. The only safe ground for us is now to claim the Exception to the Act, as has been advised by the Military Service Council under the Military Service Act, 1917. And we feel that this recommendation should be followed by those of our brethren who have previously registered and whose claims for exemption^{1/2} may now be considered canceled by those who will be given authority to send out notices to persons of the former class called, to present themselves for service.

Your Secretary assumes that your consent will be given to the sending of notices to all of our ministers giving the advice as above stated. We will work in harmony by following the course that the Government evidently had provided for. This may lead to a definite test, but we trust that we shall have an early reply to our letters to the members of the Government giving us assurance that our interests are amply provided for and our privileges secured with the approval of our Government. Shall we pray and trust to this end.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman. Sec.

Hon. J. A. Calder,
Minister of Immigration and
Colonization.
House of Parliament,
Ottawa.

Vineland Ont., April 22nd, 1918.

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Committee of
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Relief Organization.

S. F. Coffman,
Secretary of Committee.