

M.F.W. 160
1 1/2 Million-3-18.
H Q 1772.39.194.

In Reply Please
Quote No.-----

COPY

DESCRIPTION OF GRANT OF LEAVE
MILITIA AND DEFENCE.
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
Certificate of Leave of Absence Without Pay. -----191
In Duplicate.

This is to Certify that No (3135155) Rank (Pte)

Name in full (William Brenneman)
having been drafted under the Military Service Act 1917, and taken on the
strength of the (1st Depot Battalion, W.O.R.)
has, subject to the conditions undernoted, been granted conditional
leave of absence without pay, (until further orders.)

The address to which any notice requiring me to perform any military
duty may be sent is (Tavistock, ont., R.R. #1.)
and I understand that I am to report to Officer Commanding Military
District, (No. 1,) at (London Ont.,)
on the first day of January, April, July, October in each year, my
occupation and address and whether the conditions of my leave are still
in force, and that I am also to notify such Officer of any change of my
address in the interval between the dates mentioned. I understand that
if I fail in giving notice, I shall be liable as an absentee without leave.

(William Brenneman,)
Signature of man.

" This Certificate was granted at (London Ont.,)
this (8th) Day of (June) 191(8)
on the following grounds: (Religious ground.)

Countersigned
(A.H.B. Bevin, Maj.)
For D.C. M.D.

R. D. Black, Maj.
For Officer Commanding
1st Depot Battalion, W.O.R.

* Statement for grounds for Grant of Leave to correspond with
statement in Proceedings on Grant of Leave of Absence without Pay,
(M.S.A. 62) unless Leave is granted on Medical Grounds, in which case
the following will be inserted:

Until men in Catagory "C", "D" or "E", (as the case may be), are
ordered to report for duty or for examination.

M. F. W. 160.

(over)

Handwritten notes and stamps:
47W-160
21-2-Move
8911-22-1193

In Reply Please
Quote No.-----

M.F.B. 23
1/2 Million-3-18
H 6 1772-39-194

COPY

DESCRIPTION ON GRANT OF LEAVE.

(To identify the holder of this Certificate.)

This is to certify that No (315155) Rank (Pte) Age

Name in full (William Breneman) Height, (5' 10")

having been drafted under the Military Service Act 1917, and taken on the strength of the (1st Depot Battalion, W.O.R.Q) Complexion, (Fair)

leave of absence without pay (until further orders). Eyes, (Blue)

The address to which any notice regarding me to perform any military duty may be sent is (Tavistock, Ont.)

and I understand that I am to report to Officer Commanding Military District (No. 1, St. London Ont.)

on the first day of January, April, July, October in each year, and on the first day of my leave, and that I am also to notify such Officer of my change of occupation and address and address as mentioned. I understand that if I fail in giving notice I shall be liable as an absentee without leave.

Hair and how brushed, (Black, straight) Mustache, color and description, (None)

General appearance, (Good)

Distinguishing marks such as moles, tattoo marks etc. (None)

Character while in service, (Satisfactory)

(William Breneman)
Signature of man.

Orderly Room.
Date, ---
(Seal)
(No. Battn.)

This Certificate is to be correct description of the holder of this Certificate on the following grounds: (Religious Grounds)

(A.H.R. Review) (A.H.R. Review) (A.H.R. Review)

To be signed by the soldier.

I hereby acknowledge that I have received all the pay, allowances and clothing which I have become entitled up to the present date.

* Statement for grounds for grant of leave of absence without pay, statement in Proceedings on Grant of Leave of Absence, in which case (M.S.A. 62) unless leave is granted on Medical Grounds, in which case the following will be inserted:

Until men in Category "C", "D" or "E", (as the case may be) are ordered to report for duty or for examination.

47W-160

200M-5-18

NQ.1272-39-1193

M. F. W. 160.

Baden June 1st 1918
 S. J. Coffman,
 Vanland.

Dear Bro: Greeting.

Well after we left you last night we came as far, as the Dundas hill, then we had trouble with the clutch of the car which delayed us for two hours, we however reached Preston where I stayed with my parents. I came home today noon and found that two of our young brethren have been given notice to report on the 12th of June. I therefore went to see Manasseh Hallman together with Edgar Snyder to get a duplicate of his certificate and sent it to London.

The other Bro which is called to report is Harley Snyder

We expect to also attend to Harley
Snyder's certificate this evening
Now then Bro ~~when~~^{we} had been
thinking of asking you to go
along to W E Wismer Deputy
Registrar London, that is in case
these certificates would not
be excepted. Bro Snyder said
he would pay your expenses
time as well if you would go.
I am just asking you at this time
to let you know what you
might expect. We however hope
this need not be and we pray that
God may overrule these things,
that all may work out to his
honor and his glory and to the
salvation of our souls, I may
also say that I enjoyed the conference
real well.

Was real glad to hear you
 speak on the Military subject,
 and also glad for ^{the} teaching that
 Bro J Bixler gave us on the
 subject assign to him. I was
 pleased to hear Bro D Garber as
 well. I may again give you
 the names of these two Bros
 who are call to report.

Edgar Snyder Baden
 Harley Snyder Baden

Wishing you the Lords
 blessings and may we
 continue to pray and live
 lifes pleasing in Gods sight

Yours Truly O H Wisner
 R.R. # 2 Baden Ont

Vineland Ont., June 1, 1918.

Hon. F. S. Scott, M. P.,
Galt Ont.

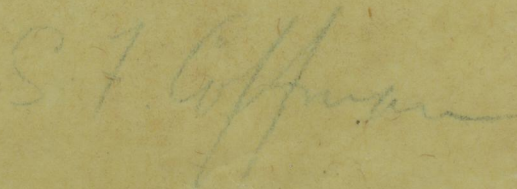
Dear Sir:

Your letters have been received and noted with satisfaction.

We are pleased that no more of our boys are being called, but are not certain that all are yet relieved from imprisonment. There has been no information that the Anish members in the London camp are relieved. The Tankers boys in the Toronto camp are still in detention and I noted in the Mail and Empire of last Thursday, that E. J. Swalm, the young man who was detained in Hamilton and whose father is a minister of the Tanker Church and has only one arm, was to be brought before the Court Martial in Toronto on May 31. If his case is to be made a test case it may be a correct procedure and I trust will be decided by Ottawa in a way that will give the Tanker Church proper recognition and their members complete exemption.

I have in my possession an interesting document a copy of which will be forwarded as soon as possible. Mr. Euler of Kitchener has had one communication with the Government at the request of some of our brethren there.

Yours truly,



Waterloo June 1 1918

J. S. Coffman
Wineland

Dear Brother
Greeling

Inclosed find copy of offices notice
sent to Mr W G Weichel of Waterloo
re exemption of Mennonites Quaker
& Dunkers also adherents

Also find copy for exemption
papers for adherents which
speaks for itself, kindly
caution all ministers to be very
careful about these exemptions
and pass none except genuine
adherents

May we all unite in
giving praise to the almighty
God,

all exemptions must pass through
Yours truly (Weichel's hands)

Thos Reesor

Treat the document as private
do not distribute except - as
strictly confidential

Vineland Ont., June 1, 1918.

I. R. Ebersole,
Milverton, Ont.,

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your phone message yesterday came to me while at the Conference of our Church. I was sorry that I could not be at home to receive your first call. The phone to which I was called was very poor and I was not able to hear distinctly what was said.

You inquired concerning the boys in the guardhouse in London. The last information that I had was that they were still in detention. That was more than a week ago. I had a letter from Mr Scott in which he said he thought the only ones now in trouble were in Toronto. I know of none of our boys who are in trouble in Toronto, but there are some of the Tinker boys in jail in Toronto, and one or two in Hamilton. I would be glad if they were all free.

Your stated that you thought that those in London were set free and others had been placed under arrest. I had heard nothing of such a nature. I hope that it is not true. There have been none of the boys called in any of the districts for some time, that I am aware of. Some who had been called were dismissed as soon as they reported. Mr. Scott says that the situation is now better than it has been for some time. I am glad that it is so. May our prayers be answered still further and the time soon come when we may go on with our work feeling that we will be molested no further.

Mr Scott has given no further advice concerning our registering, that is, concerning the registering of boys nineteen years of age. We have advised that they do not register, and the advice has been approved by Mr. Scott. We expect our boys to follow this advice. They should have their birth certificates, and always have their Church certificates with them, so that if they are approached, after today they will have something to show that they have a right to claim exemption.

I have received a copy of the Orders in Council of 1873 and 1898, and if I am not mistaken, the plan for the exemption claims for the Doukkobors is about what is being followed out at present, while the Government is recognizing us as Mennonites. The outlook is hopeful, but the situation is not yet altogether clear. See that the boys all have their Church certificates and any other papers that will prove their ages or rights to exemption.

I am sending another letter to Mr. Scott, and hope to hear more definitely from the Government.

We had a good conference and we are looking to the Lord to help us in our work as well as during the times of our trouble.

Yours in faith for Christ,

S. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont. June 3rd, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Thanks be to God for remembering us with His abounding mercy, having heard our prayers and prevailed for us. Through His grace the Government of our country has granted us our request and has freed us from the obligation of military service. Official notice has been forwarded to Mr. W. G. Weichel of Waterloo, that the Mennonites, Tunkers and Amish, ~~it has been decided that leave be granted to members of these Churches on certificates signed by one of the Bishops~~ ^{names} ~~names have been sent to the Government and to the Officer Commanding in the military districts where our members reside. The same exemption is also granted to the adherents of these Churches, who were regular attendants of the church but not actual members on the 6th July, 1917, and who have since that date united with the Church.~~

In order to secure exemption when called, for service, the person called should send to the Officer Commanding in his military District, a certificate of membership from his bishop or minister authorized to sign the certificates of members, and also report the matter to Mr. W. G. Weichel, Waterloo, Ont. ~~and adherent~~

Every member should keep constantly with him as certificate of his membership with the Church. The brethren who are near the military age should also have birth certificates. Do all that the law requires regarding the furnishing of evidence concerning exemption certificates etc. ^{Each minister} ~~Each minister~~ requires to have a certificate that they are ministers.

The following certificates should be made out and signed by those who were adherents and not members on the 6th July, 1917.

Date, ----- 191

To the best of my knowledge I certify that ----- was before the 6th July 1917 a regular attendant of the Mennonite Church and to the best of my knowledge and belief had the intention before that date of joining the Church and has actually joined since and taken the obligation as a Mennonite/.

Signed, ----- Bishop.

Address, -----

Signed, ----- Minister

Address, -----

We have informed the Government that we have instructed our young brethren who attain the age of nineteen that they need not register, and the Government has replied that the presenting of their certificates, in case they are approached for non-compliance with the Act, will be satisfactory to prove their exemption.

Ministers are requested to use special care in passing "Adherents," since the Government desires to exempt only those cases that are genuine.

Let us thank God and render unto Him the offering of pure and contrite hearts, remembering especially those who rule over us, that God may give them especial grace under these trying times.

All cases of exemptions will pass through the hands of Mr. W. G. Weichel, Waterloo Ont.

Vineland Ont. June 4, 1918.

Mr. W. G. Weichel,
Waterloo Ont.

Dear Sir:

Through the member of our committee, Mr. Thos. Reesor, I learn last Saturday, of the decision of the Government in regard to the exemption allowed the members of the Mennonite, Anish and Tunker Churches and their adherents. As a Committee we desire to thank you for your kind and timely much appreciated assistance. We shall also thank the Government, upon our first opportunity for the consideration and liberties that have been accorded us on account of our faith.

To-day, I have written to the Hon. Mr. Scott, asking him what steps the Government has taken regarding the donation which our people expect to give to the Government on account of the religious liberty that we have had and are now enjoying. This matter was placed in the hands of a Committee which Hon. Mr. Calder was the head and Mr. Scott was present at the time our meeting him. As soon as we learn the Government's wishes regarding a fund we shall proceed with the collections.

In his letter to me, Mr. Reesor stated that all exemptions must go to the hands of Mr. Weichel. As the Secretary of our Committee I have been sending out instructions to our members through the Bishops and ministers of our congregations. Any instructions which you may have for us will be transmitted to our people if you so desire. I am enclosing a copy of the circular sent out to-day. I have also called a copy to Mr. Scott.

Several members of the Tunker Church are still detained at the Exhibition camp in Toronto, and in the camp at Niagara. One of the latter, Ernest Swain, was tried by court martial last Friday and another, Charles Wright is kept under close guard, while still another, Earl M. Sider is imprisoned with William Carlton. Elmer Steckley and John H. Halse are imprisoned or detained in the camp in Toronto.

Some of the Anish brethren were imprisoned in London. Two by the name of Brunsmann and two by the name of Roth. They may be released by this time as they were called several weeks ago.

Do you desire the names of all who are called under the Order in Council? Some are sending in these names to me. Will it be necessary to send the list of names of those who are eighteen to the District Registrar? I received a letter from the Toronto office asking for such names from my congregation. Any assistance we may be able to render in order to carry into effect the provisions of the Government will be gladly rendered.

Yours truly and most gratefully,

S. F. Coffman,
For the Committee.

Military Service Act and Order in Council, 1917, 1918.

To Bishops and Ministers of the
of the Mennonian and Tunker Churches.

Vineland Ont. June 4, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Thanks be to God for remembering us with His
abounding mercy, having heard our prayers and prevailed for us. Through
His grace the Government has granted us our petition, and official notice
has been forwarded to Mr. W. G. Welch, Waterloo Ont., who acts as the
Government's representative in this matter, that the Mennonite Anish and
Tunker have been considered and their status decided. Members will be
granted exemption upon certificates signed by Bishops or ministers whose
names have been sent to the Government and to the Officers Commanding in
the military Districts where our people reside. Exemption will also be
granted to of those Churches, who were regular attendants of the Church but
not actual members on the 6th July, 1917, but who have since that date
united with the Church.

In order to secure exemption when called for service, the person
called should send to the Officer Commanding in his district a certificate
of membership signed by the Bishop or minister authorized, and also report
the matter to Mr. W. G. Welch, Waterloo Ont.

The following certificate should be made out and signed by the minister
or bishop for those who were adherents and not members on the 6th July,
1917.

Date, -----191

To the best of my knowledge I certify that -----
was, before the 6th July, 1917, a regular attendant of the ---\Mennonite,/
Church, and to the best of my knowledge and belief had the intention
before that date of joining the Church and has actually joined since and
taken the obligation as a ---\Mennonite/-----.

Signed, ----- Bishop.

Address, -----

Signed, ----- Minister.

Address, -----

Every member should have with him constantly a membership certificate.
Brethren who are near the military age should also carry a birth certifi-
cate. Ministers should have certificates of ordination signed by the
Bishop or Secretary of Conference. All should comply with the law regard-
ing these proofs of exemption.

We have informed the Government that we have advised our brethren who
become nineteen years of age that they need not register, but should pre-
sent their certificates as evidence of their exemption and the Government
has replied that this will be satisfactory.

Ministers are advised to use special caution regarding adherents,
since the Government desires to grant this favor only to those cases that
are genuine.

Let us render unto God the offerings of pure and contrite hearts, and
pray for our rulers that God may give them especial grace under these try-
ing conditions.

Information regarding the relief work will be forwarded soon.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman,

For the Committee.

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

S. Ramer,
Duchess, Sask.

Dear Brother:-- Greeting.

Through Brother David Garber, who stopped with us at the time of our Conference in Ontario, I learned of your colony and also of the movement on the part of the Mennonite Brethren who are purchasing lands and intending to remove from the U. S. to Canada. He stated that the Canadian Government has guaranteed them exemption from Military Service. We are now interested in having this favor granted to us as a perpetual guarantee. Our brethren had been allowed only partial exemption in Ontario, until just recently, as you may see by the enclosed circular letter. What definite information you may be able to give me will be greatly appreciated. I would like to know through whom this exemption was procured, and the terms of the agreement, if possible.

May the Lord continue His mercies to us and help us to respond to His love with faithful devotion and service.

Yours in Him,

J. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

Orphan H. Wismer,
Baden Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter received and noted. I sent you to-da under separate cover a copy of the circular letter to all of the minister informing them of the decision of the Government and giving instructions concerning making claims for exemption. I believe that it would be well for you to report the names and the circumstances of the two brethren to Mr. W. G. Weichel, or, if you have the opportunity, go to Waterloo and see him and get instructions as to what to do in this case. I think that you will have no further trouble, but will get word that the boys need not report.

Just as soon as the machinery of the Government is in working order I feel that there will be no further trouble in getting exemptions. We ought to claim our positions as excepted from the Act, but it seems that the Government is not a unit on the interpretation of that old Order in Council. We must submit to the authorities as far as it is possible for us to do so, but it will be necessart for us to keep in touch with the Master and endeavor to follow Him in all things.

The Lord willing, I am expecting to be at the Blenheim Conference on Wednesday evening and on Thursday. We may be able to meet there. Pray for us in our duties and labors for the Master.

Yours in faith,

W. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

J. L. Shellenburg,
Hosston Kans.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter regarding conditions in Canada came to hand in due time. I would be glad to give you all the information that you desire, but fear that I cannot do so. I am enclosing a circular letter which was mailed to our ministers and others of the Non-resistant faith today, giving the standing of the Mennonites and Tunkers under the present regulation concerning military service. It also answers the question concerning recent membership with the Church.

I understand that there is less trouble for our Mennonite people in the West than in the East since there they are mostly classed with the Russian brethren who are totally exempted. Some of the Mitterite brethren are coming into Canada, having had the assurance that they will be given religious liberty. I do not fear that the Government of Canada will interfere with any of our brethren who come into Canada. I understand that if they remain in Canada for sixty days that the Government in the United States cannot call them back for military service.

We are confident that the Government will treat our brethren with all the consideration possible, and while some have been called and have been imprisoned for refusing military service, we believe that all will be released and the remaining ones will secure exemption as soon as they are called. I trust that we may enjoy these liberties long under the domain of Canada.

We will be pleased to give you any information possible and trust that you may find a pleasant and spiritually profitable home in the West of our broad land where you have chosen your home.

Yours in faith,



COPY.

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918

Hon. F. S. Scott, M. P.
Galt Ont.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copies of circular letter which we have sent out to our ministers, under the instruction of the delegation which met Mr. Weichel at Waterloo on last Saturday.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter to the Minister of Justice from the present member of North Waterloo, who had been approached by some of the residents of his City, and asked for information as to the possibility of securing total exemption under the present Orders. It seems that he had an interview with the Government and signed up his opinion as per the copy.

It seems that Mr. Weichel is to represent those who claim exemption at the present time. Will all claims be sent to him? Some of the Tunker boys are still detained under guard at Niagara and in Toronto. Word was received that a few more of the Amish boys were called to London, and some of our boys from Baden are called to report in London on June 12.

Since the Government has decided our status, we are anxious to know what steps we shall take in the matter of donating the fund to the Government. Have you any information for us on this point? I believe that yourself and the Honorable Mr. Calder had charge of this matter. We are ready to collect the funds from our members as soon as we learn of the provisions that the Government is making for us.

We wish to thank you for the deep interest you have taken on our behalf and for the success that attended your efforts in securing our exemption and religious liberty for which we have prayed.

Yours most gratefully,

S. F. Coffman,
For the Committee.

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

Hon. F. S. Scott, M. P.
Galt, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Please note the following changes and additions to the list of Bishops and ministers who will sign or have signed certificates of members of the Mennonite, Amish Mennonite and Tunker Churches.

In the list of Mennonite Ministers and Bishops, the second list should now read as follows,

Bishop Freeman Rittenhouse, Dunville, Ont. R.R.# 4.

Bishop Ezra L. Martin, St.Jacobs, Ont. R.R.#1.

Ministers,

John Bowman, Elmira Ont.

Amos Gingerich, Elmira Ont.

Urias Martin, Waterloo Ont.

Israel Weber, St. Jacobs, Ont.

Christian Gayman, Unionville Ont.

Levi Grove, Claremont, Ont. R.R.#3.

Thomas Reesor, Pickering Ont. R.R.# 2.

Isaac Rittenhouse, South Cayuga, Ont.

John Sherk, Dunnville Ont. R.R.#9.

In the Amish Mennonite list, add the name of Peter Boshart, Milverton Ont., Acting Bishop.

In the Mennonite list change the name of John Gascho, Zurich Ont, to Christian Schrag, Blake Ont., Appointed by the Committee.

Trusting that this list will be of value in the work of the Department and in assisting our people in securing their exemptions without further complications, I am

Yours truly,

G. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

N. M. Bearinger,
Elmira Ont.

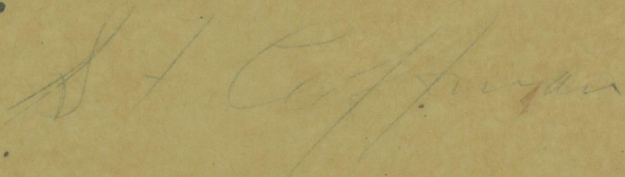
Dear Brother:- Greeting.

It has been some time since I have heard from you and the conditions in your section, but reports have been coming that the good work is going on there, and many of the young people are confessing ~~to~~ their faith in Christ and coming into the Church. May God grant them much grace to be faithful to their profession and bring many blessings to them.

A few lines from Brother Rittenhouse and a report from Brother Reesor tells the good ~~has~~ from Ottawa. We are certainly glad to learn of the decis-
ion of the Government and trust that we will be able to prove ourselves worthy of the favors we have received of the Lord and through the Govern-
ment.

I am enclosing a copy of the circular letter which has been sent out to the churches today.

Yours in faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. J. Coffey". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

Toronto Exhibition Camps
No. D. 3235409
June 5th / 1918

Dear Bro. Hoffman,

To day I was called before the military officers, and was told that if I could get a certificate from any Bishop whose name was on the list of Bishops received from the Gov. whether Mennonite, Amish or Tunker our case would soon be disposed of.

The Bishop of our district, Bishop John Sider, is not on the list so there fore not recognized, which account for writing to you.

Please send a certificate with your name signed to it, as to when I was received and present standing, and I will certainly appreciate your kindness.

William Charlton.

I am enclosing the list of
name whom the officers gave
me to choose from to sign
certificate, and it must be
some one from the list.

Please enclose both certificate
in a registered letter.

W. S.

June 5. - 1918
1st Depot. Batt. 2nd C. O. A.
magazine on the lake.

Dear Brother in Christ

I am writing you
in regards to Ernest J.
Swalm of Ottawa, as
I understand you are
working on the exemption
for us. I wish to say that
Brother Swalm was this
P.M. at 4³⁰ sentenced to
two years hard labor we
expect him to go from here
to St Catharines - civil
jail, this evening. I might
also mention that the
Adjutant, today informed
me that if I could secure

an affidavit, stating
that I had been a member
of the Tunker church prior
to, May 15th 1917, that he
would release me. I have
not been a member that
long, although I have been
brought up in that faith.
But Bro Swalm has been
a member nine years.
Bro John Sider told me
yesterday that you were
working on our case. So I
thought I would write you
and let you know how.
Bro Swalm made out
yours in the faith,
Elin A. Winger

you.

I have written to Bis.
Jno. Sider, asking him to
go over and inform you
of our present standing in
the church and when
received.

Please send certificate
as soon as you have
consulted with Bishop
Jno. Sider, with your
own signature. And you
shall receive my greatest
appreciation for all you
do.

yours in Christ

Carl M. Sider

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.

Old S. J. Coffman
Vineland,
Ont

June 7th 18

Dear Coffman, your letter of the 4th just
reached me today after I had written you,
your communication of today or 4th clear
rs matters considerably, and I am sending
out instructions to all our churches acc-
ordingly, which I feel sure will come
as a great relief. Anything further that
you have that may require action, will
be attended to if advised, and let us
ever pray, yours as ever. D. W. D.

Tavistock Ontario June 7. 1918

Dear Brother S. F. Coffman
Greeting in Jesus Name

I have received your letters in due time and was very thankful for them.

There are a few things I would like to ask you brother, about the registration of June 22nd. I have been asked quite a bit about it and did hardly know what to say. Today I was shown a piece in a newspaper which I will enclose herewith and will ask you what you think of it.. if we should register or should not register.

Will we make ourselves liable to lose our eternal salvation as shown in Revelation 13 is it that mark or that sign

The penalties that are put forth are very hard. it makes it almost impossible to live.. not to buy nor sell, to employ or be employed side in a public conveyance or streetcar or railroad.

We just thought we would ask your opinion of this. the brethren are very anxious about it to know

May we look to the Lord for His Guidance and mercy

Jacob R Bender
Tavistock Ontario

This clause where it says to procure the men necessary to maintain Canada's First Line of Defence." has been that has caused anxiety and consideration

M. Y. B 289

1 1/2 million - 3-18

H. C. 1772. 39. 194

Militia and Defence Canadian Expeditionary Force No. 1
Certificate of Leave of Absence without Pay 1918
in Duplicate

This is to certify that No. 3135155 Rank Pte.

Name in full William Brenneman
having been drafted under the military service act 1917 and
taken on the strength of the 1st Depot Battalion W.C.B.
has, subject to the conditions undernoted been granted con-
ditional leave of absence without pay until further orders

The address to which any notice requiring me to
perform any military duty may be sent is Tavistock Ont #1
and I understand that I am to report to Officer commanding
Military District No 1 at London Ont on the
first Day of January, April July October in each year
my occupation and address and whether the conditions of
my leave are still in force, and that I am also to notify such
Officer of any change of my address in the interval between the
dates mentioned. I understand clearly that if I fail in giving
notice I shall be liable as an absentee without leave.

William Brenneman
signature of man

This certificate was granted at London Ont.

this 8th day of June 1918
on the following grounds #: Religious ground
countersigned:

A. H. B. Bevan
for Doe M.D.

R. D. Black Major
For Officer commanding
1st Depot Battalion W.C.B.

Statement for grounds for Grant of Leave to correspond
with statement in Proceedings on Grant of Leave of Absence
without pay (M.S.A. 62) unless Leave is granted on Medical
grounds in which case the following will be inserted
Until men in Category "C" "D" or "E" as the case
may be are ordered to report for duty or for
examination

M. Y. W. 160.



SAY NOT ye, There are four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4: 35.

Ridgeway Jun 7 1918

S. J. Coffman

Greeting

your last here, stating what has been accomplished for our nonresistant people, we indeed can thank God for it as far as regards a "promise", and your untiring effort to accomplish the same is much appreciated.

Any individual or a government that cannot be depended upon by promise as you know better than I do what the result will be — We trust and pray much that the rulings so far as promised by government will not again be canceled or set aside as regards our nonresistant faith and practice and that those of like precious faith will be honorably discharged from the arm of persecution that has risen up against us and that God may rule in the heart of the Government — as well as in the hearts of the people, When fathers & mothers in israel gets hold by prayer onto the horns of the alter something must move as ever A Bears

Bish. J. R. Zook, *Chairman*

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, *Secretary*

Eld. S. G. Engle, *Treas.*

Bish. J. N. Hoover

Eld. J. L. Heisey, *Asst. Sec.*

Eld. J. M. Sheets

Eld. D. W. Heise

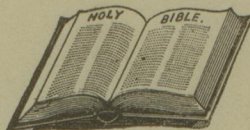
Matt. 28. 19-20

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.
Amen.

Matt. 9. 37-38

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Foreign Mission Board of The Brethren in Christ Church



Gormley June, 7 th 191 8

S. F. Coffman.

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Bro Coffman.

I am in receipt of the correspondence submitted by you, and have noted the contents fully. and I must confess to you that the whole matter seems conflicting, and is very much devoid of clearness. I really am at a loss to know where we are really at in the matter of our total exemption even as hinted at, and also declared in the correspondence. I am particularly at a loss to know what authority bro Reesor has for saying that the " GOVERNMENT " has done thus and so. or what grounds Mr Weichle has for imparting such information to Bro Reesor,

Do you not think this matter should be cleared up, and not hide the facts (if they are facts) under the political coniving of a defeated candidate.

The matter of having all claims for exemption pass through the hands of Mr Weichle does not appeal to me for one moment, unless there is some definite legal aythority for so doing.

I may however be hasty in comming to such conclusions, as you may have information by this time which wil clear up the whole matter, if I should be pleased to have it.

I attended the trial of three of our brethern in Toronto on Tuesday last, only one of them was actually placed on trial, and after hearing him give his reasons for taking the stand he did, I was given the privilege of testifying on his behalf, and also addressing the court to the Tenets, and Article s of Faith of our body, after which the Judge adjourned the Court, without calling the other two, I regard this as deeply significant. But so far no decision has been given in either case. Col McDonald however admitted that provision has been made for the exemption of our people, and I am writing today for reasons, if any, why these men are not liberated, or what their fate may be made known.

Any information that you may have in your possession which may throw light on the matters above mentioned would be much appreciated.

Yours In Love

D. W. Heise

Waterloo, Ont.,
June 7, 1918.

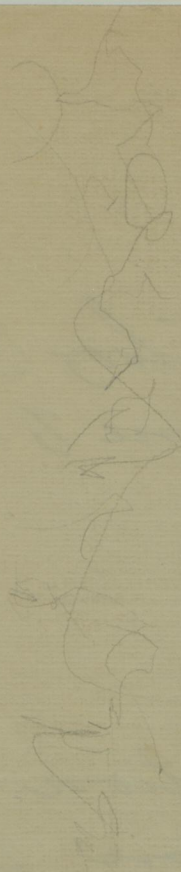
Mr. S. F. Coffman,
Vineland,
Ont.

Dear Sir. -

As an appreciation of your efforts to get us free from the Military Service Act I enclose herewith the sum of Ten Dollars. May your work prosper, thanking you again for your services. I remain

Yours Truly
Lloyd Chessman
(Do not publish)

450	- 260
660	425
400	140
<u>1710</u>	<u>825</u>
9	20
<u>15390</u>	<u>16500</u>
	<u>15390</u>
	<u>1110</u>



195.20
 146.00
 22.00
 00.00
 195.20
 146.00
 22.00
 00.00

Narkham, Ont. June 7th 1918

S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

My dear brother, Greetings. I have just spoken with the Heise family - and find that the young men have not yet returned to their homes. It, no doubt, will take a few days for the orders from Ottawa to be executed.

I am glad to report that br. Isaiah Hoover is slightly improved. It is four weeks since he took sick with neuritis. His father continues much the same. Mrs. John Ramey, Mt Jay, is sick in bed and sister Lizzie Bronsberger had a stroke a week ago.

From your last circular letter I conclude that you need a new type-writer. I will offer to buy your old one if that will help you to a new one. It would do to learn to operate one. State your price and let me know. May this find you well as it leaves us.

Fraternally,

L. J. Burkholder



House of Commons

~~OTTAWA~~ Galt, June 7th, 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Mr. Coffman:-

I have your letter of the 4th instant with its enclosures. I am much pleased that everything has worked out satisfactorily for your people. I am forwarding the revised list of those who are authorized to sign your certificates to the proper authorities. I regret that I have no further information to give you regarding the fund which you propose to raise. As you know the Premier, Mr. Rowell and Mr. Calder are all in England and these are the three men who were dealing with this. I will endeavour to get some information when I am next in Ottawa.

I am,

Yours truly,

J. Scott.

Tofield Alta June 8 1918

S F Hoffman

Dear bro Greeting your letter received was not at home when came now i would like to ask a question last year when everybody Registered now some of our boys were called then the officers said they should not have Registered because the mennonites were exempted now the time will soon be to

Register again i received form from Ottawa ~~form~~ stating that all British Subject must ^{register} now also we are not Citizens of this country would you kindly in form me how it is in regard to this matter

in his service
N E Roth

Duchess Alta June 10 - 18

S. J. Coffman

Dear Bro

Greeting you in Jesus Name
 The excription the Mennonites
 have west of Winnipeg. Is that
 promise that was made to the
 Russian Mennonites in about
 1873 or 4 when they settled in
 Manatoba and our or all other
 Mennonites in the west are under
 that cloak and the less we
 say the better we are off.

Those people made good for all
 they promised. and that is why
 they stand in so good.

The Hutterites are promised the
 same chance. But who promises
 it. I can not tell. you would better
 bring your people west and save
 making me trouble.

The circular letter you spoke
of was not in your envelope.

So I do not know what it contains
But I ~~of~~ sure would like to
see you all come west.

There are going to be a lot
here from the States in the
next year or time. We are all
well hope this will find you
all the same.

I am sorry that that I can
not give you the persons name
that is at the head of it:

you better write to

M. B. Stauffer he can give
you more information on
the subject.

Yours truly

S. B. Ramer

Hope to hear from you again
Hope you make out all right.

Stayer June 10/18

Eld. Coffman -

Dear Bro. Enclosed find a
recommendation of one of your
adherents in the person of
Howard Hunsberger -

He ~~is~~ was born Jan 15, 1899
He has never been a member
but by the recommend
given him you will
notice where he stands -

Yours in Him -

A. F. Gooding.

Breslau, Ont., June 10th, 1918.

S. F. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Brother Fred.- Greeting.

I just felt this evening that I would like to write you a line of appreciation. I know that some other things would be more adequate and applicable, but I do that which I can do.

I knew that there was a lot of work in connexion with the securing of exemption for our young men, but did not realize that it was quite so heavy until I was in your study a little while the afternoon that we visited you. Hence these few lines of appreciation feebly given.

My heart was made glad when the news came that the government has at last granted to us that which is dearer than life. I praised God for such good news in this day. But then my thoughts were immediately directed to the reasons why that we are granted this liberty, and I felt that one of the chief reasons was Fred. Coffman. I hope that you will understand me. I'm glad that you were in Canada at this time. I think that you had especial talent and ability for a special occasion, and that God gave you the willingness to be used in this especial way. I believe that God takes care of His own people in His own way, and I thank Him that one of our number could be used as an instrument to bring to us a promise of freedom of worship from the government.

Hence I give voice to my appreciation and thankfulness at this time, and pray that the Lord will reward you richly for your labors in Him.

Your humble brother in Christ,

Oskar Burkholder

Waterloo, Ont., June 10, 1918.

Reverend F. S. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Mr. Coffman:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 4th and hasten to reply. I can assure you that it gave me a great deal of pleasure to interview the Military Service Council in Ottawa a few days ago and the matter of adherents to the Mennonites, Amish and Tunkers was given every consideration and finally disposed after matured deliberation at the Council to the effect that "If the bishop of the district could say that to the best of his knowledge and belief if the man was prior the 6th day of July 1914 a regular attendant at the Church and a Bona fide adherent and has since actually joined the Church" that leave may be given," etc. This order has been officially proclaimed to the Commanding Officer of Military Districts Nos. 1 and 2, London & Toronto and I was only informed on Saturday by the Commanding Officer at London that after he had received my letter regarding the four Amish boys referred to in your letter to me that all of them were released that night and I presume that instructions will soon be given to release all others who are in a position to present a certificated signed by the Bishop to his Commanding Officer. It will not be necessary for you to send these names to Waterloo as it will only cause delay and all that is necessary is that you get out a form similar to the one that has been sent out in this district to the effect that "To the best of my knowledge and belief Mr. --- was prior to July 6th a regular attendant of the Church and a Bona Fide adherent and has actually since joined the Church and taken the obligations as a Mennonite!" Have this signed by the Bishop and a resident Minister and let the boys when they report at London take it to London and hand same to their Commanding Officer and they will receive leave of absence immediately. These are the instructions which have been sent out and therefore it will not be necessary to send me the names as same can be given to the boys, or if they are already detained in Toronto, London or Niagare the certificate should be sent to the Commanding Officer. In other words if the boy is at London camp then send the certificate to Colonel John Youngs, O. C. 1st Depot Battalion, and if the boy is at Niagara Camp or detained in Toronto then send the card containing his Military number and his full name in each case to Colonel H. C. Bickford, 149 College St. Toronto.

Hoping that by following these instructions that you may get good results and wishing you success in the future, I remain

Yours very truly,

Vineland Ont., June 8, 1918.

Mr. W. G. Weichel,
Waterloo Ont.

Dear Sir:

Relative to the phone message on the 7th inst. in reference to Ernest J. Swain, the member of the Tunker Church who was tried by Court Martial and sentenced to two years imprisonment, I would say that his father is a minister of the Tunker Church at Nottawa, and is also a farmer with no other help than this only son. The father also is a cripple, having but one arm. These facts had been brought to the attention of the Government in our previous appeals.

The son, Ernest, is now in the St. Catharines civil jail, and awaiting his transfer to the military prison as a conscientious objector.

Since the Government has defined the status of the Tunker Church, I trust that they will reconsider this case and grant a reprieve to this young man, who has been a consistent member of the Church for nine years and holds a certificate of good standing in the Church.

Charles Wright, who is also at the Camp at Niagara was Court Martialled during this last week and also awaits sentence. He is a member of the Church and in good standing with the Tunker congregation in Marshville, Ont.

These two cases were in progress before the decision of the Government regarding the Tunker Church, and we trust that both will be given the same consideration accorded all of the Tunker young men.

Your assistance in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

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

MILVERTON, ONT. ~~May~~ June 11, 1918

S. Hoffman,
 Vineland, Ont

Dear Bro to an extent of our Faith:-

There has been quite a confusion created through some of Amish Members in Gorra or Wilmot Townships getting information either from some one, when in London or from Mr Weichel or perhaps from both, that the young men should instead of registering, send their certificates to London, and it seems quite ~~on~~ a number of them had gotten their certificates ready to send to London. But when I heard this, I said I would ask you first before I do anything else from what your former directions were to us. For that reason Nicholas Nafziger and our Bishop John J Kueffer ~~thought~~ and I thought it wisest to call you up by phone before we take any other steps. and now it seems a good many are following our ways, and your instructions to me. so that I hardly think any, or almost none have sent their certificates, but I do not know this ^{all} for certain.

This morning I saw a piece in the paper which I copied from it, and am sending you a copy of same. I think this must have ~~come from~~ ^{been caused by} some one being almost too inquisitive at London, and that way left the said officers know what we are doing about registering. But to

the best of my knowledge a good many of us think it wisest not to register and even not to send the certificates, same as you directed us.

We heard that some one should have said that the time for registering or sending in certificates has been extended to June 15th.

So Now I hope you will consider the matter and if you think it necessary to send the certificates, let me know at once, by phone ^(collect). But if you do not think different from what you have said before, then please write at once, also about the following:—

To what extent does the official notice from the Government to Mr Weichel grant our petition or our desires to be free? Is ~~the~~ The Central Appeal Judges decision final? Will these Members be actually ~~be~~ liable for noncombatant service?

I am notified that these members are Exempted from combatant Service.

This is also said to be the decision of the Central Appeal Judge.

Kindly ans. as soon as conveniently possible.

Remember us in Your earnest prayer, as we hope to do for all needfull, but in great weakness.

J. R. Ebersol,