

Vineland Ont., July 8, 1918.

Asa Bearss,
Ridgeway Ont. R.R. #1.
Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your inquiry concerning the condition of the Brethren who were detained in the camps and some in prison, was duly received, but not in time for a reply on Saturday P.M. I am glad to be able to inform you that all of the brethren are now released from the prisons and are waiting for the routine of getting their leave of absence from the army service. They are all, or were all, now in the camp at Niagara until their papers are made out and then they are at liberty to return home on an indefinite leave. Bro. B. E. Heise had been in Toronto to make inquiry as to the delay and was informed that all that was now required was patience until the forms were observed. The entire delay, in the case of your brethren was due to the failure on the part of the Government to authorize the signature of your ministers and Bishops. This was due to an oversight somewhere. Since receiving this authority, the D.O.C. has taken the proper action to release the boys. There is nothing at present concerning which we need to feel alarmed. The treats concerning the Conscientious objectors receiving a more severe sentence will not apply to the cases of our brethren. The Government has given us every assurance that our brethren will be given their leave of absence and will not be required to do any military service. Let us thank the Lord for this privilege and wait patiently upon Him for His intervening grace at all times.

Yours in faith.



House of Commons

~~XXXXXX~~ Galt, July 8th, 1918.

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

Dear Mr. Coffman:-

I have your letter of the 2nd instant and I have taken the matter up with the authorities at Ottawa. I have also pointed out that in connection with the carrying out of the instructions which have been issued from Ottawa regarding your people that there appears to be more difficulty in the District of Toronto than in any of the other Districts. I trust that my communication may have the desired effect.

I am,

Yours truly,

F. Scott.

Dunroon July 9th 18

Dear bro in the Lord, Greeting;
Bro Chas. Baker told me on
Sunday that he received
a letter from you, stating that
the Zunkers & Mennonites are
not free from Military service
and that we will have to accept
Non-combatant service. I was
wondering if something has lately
developed. I did not see his letter.
He also said you advised to hold a conf-
erence about this matter. Ernest
is not home yet, we had a letter
from him dated July 5th from Niagara
on-the-lake saying he was waiting
for his papers to be signed by the
Ad. General. Henry Heise from Busswah
is there too. He was discharged from
jail July 1st. It seems to take lots
of time. I would like to know the

latest developments as regards our exemptions and also your opinion as to whether or not we could conscientiously engage in Non-combatant service. Our boys are all free except Ernest & the 2 that were at Burwash and they are waiting for their papers. If they are only to be released to be called again into Military Service it will be quite a disappointment but we are meeting with them quite frequently aren't we. One thing we can rely upon that is; that God will not disappoint us in His promises. May the Lord increase our faith so we can appropriate His promises to us. If not imposing too much I would like a reply to this letter. Yours in the Faith. Isaac Swabru

Stevensville

July 9th 1918.

S. G. Buffman
Orleans, Ont.

R. R. No. 2

Dear Bro.

Grace and peace unto all of
them that love our Lord
Jesus Christ in sincerity.

I was very glad to receive
your letter and for the sympathy
and love you manifest in us.

Bro Sherk has informed us
that that there is no further
help to be expected from our
government. For which I
am very sorry. Not only

as far as I am concerned but
for the younger ones that will
come in the next draft.

I wrote to Toronto as you stated
but received no answer but
received word from Niagara
that my time would be extended
till the 20th.

Earl Sider and Will
Charlton, have a three months
leave and must then send in
a written report of what they
are doing so that is not so
bad. Charles Wright and
Henry Heise are back from
the farm at Sudbury. Charlie
is again held at Niagara

and Heise is in St-Catherines,
with Ernest Swalm.

Well we are surely thankful
that in these dark times we
can still look up for God is
still on the throne and is
caring for us.

We as younger members in
the church can look up to
our older ones as examples.

I was glad for what you
said in your letter in regard
to Non-Combatant service.

"That we cannot change
a conscience that the Spirit
of Christ has formed in us.

Gods word tells us of a time
 when there will be a falling
 away from the true faith, and
 I pray that we as plain sister
 churches, may remain true to
 what our Fathers in Israel ha
 taught us and stand out if
 it should mean imprisonment.

We boys will try and be true
 and will you keep on praying
 that God may in some way
 deliver us, and that He may
 get Glory to His Name.

You asked to hear from me
 and feel very grateful for your
 interest in me and May our Father
 in Heaven reward you wth my prayer
 For me an a Winger

Vineland Ont. July 10th 1918.

Isaac Swalm,
Duntroon Ont.,

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the name of our Master, Jesus.

Your letter of the 9th Inst. received and noted. My letter to the brotherhood may not have been as clear as it might have been. It is not always possible to make things clear when sending reports of other letter along with your own. This was the case with the last letter sent out. I quoted what was the opinion of the Central Appeal Judge and then explained that his opinion did not effect our arrangement with the Government. We will be able to go on with the securing the release from service of any of our brethren who may be called to service.

The brethren who have been in the Prison and detention camps are now all released. They are only waiting at the camps at Niagara until the necessary papers are made out for them and forwarded to the officers of the camps to hand them to the Boys. It is quite an important matter and a very slow and round-about procedure to quash a court-martial sentence and release such a person from the military prison, and get him his freedom besides. There has been a definite assurance from the officers who have this matter in charge that the brethren will be totally released. I have letters from Col Windgeyer that all the Tunker brethren who are detained will be given their leave of absence according to our arrangement. The trouble appears to some in the fact that after they are released from the prisons that they are sent back to the camps. This is the natural course. Any of the men who are courtmartialled will still be soldiers after their sentences expire and will be subject to military law. If they again refuse to serve they will receive a second sentence and so on. But in the case of our brethren, they return to camp and then get their leave of absence. They will not again be asked to serve and therefore will not be sent back to camp, *to remain there.*

I was in St. Catharines the day after Ernest was released from the jail. I met Mr Bush and he told me of it, and asked for Ernest's address so as to return a letter that had been received for him. It was likely returned to Duntroon. I thought that Ernest would inform you at once of his release and so did not write, as other work was on hand. I was glad to meet Ernest and have a little talk with him. Mr. Bush thought well of him and of all the objectors that were in his care. He is a fine and sympathetic man. I hope Ernest will soon be at home.

My wife was sick with an attack of her side which resulted from the old operation for gall stones. She was in bed for a week, but is out again, thanks to God who answers prayer. It is not Gall stone, but, a closing of the passage from the gall bladder. He who relieves the soul also helps the body and delivers men from the power of evil and sets people free from bondage and stays the power of the adversary and overthrows all the powers of darkness. We thank Him for every deliverance that He has given us in these days of trial. We would be glad to accept your invitation at some convenient time, Dear Brother, but must abide the opportunity. Thank you for your kind invitation and may the Lord bless you for your interest in us and your prayers in our behalf. We may meet again, and we shall when He comes.

Yours in Christian love,

Vineland Ont., July 11, 1918.

Norman A. Winger,
Stevensville, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 9th Inst. Received and noted. I was glad to hear from you and to learn of the nature of the leave of absence that you are given. When you next apply or report to the camp you should ask for the Leave of Absence that is specially given to the Mennonites and Tunkers. Your leave is extended from time to time. It is equal to an exemption, but is a very uncertain thing as far as its appearance goes and is annoying, and a trouble to yourself as well as to the officers. The nature of the leave that is granted to most of the brethren is "Until further Notice." According to this "leave" they are asked to report to headquarters every three months in writing, stating that they are still members of the church and also state the nature of their employment. This may be what the brethren have who are now released.

I was not aware that brother Swalm was in St. Catharines. I understood that he was sent back to Niagara, and that he was to await his Leave of absence while in the camp. Is he in the Jail or in the Barracks in St. Catharines? I have received notice from Toronto that all of the boys are to be released from their sentences and given leave of absence. This word is official, and it may take some time for the officers to go through with the proceedings in order to secure the papers, but they have given us their decisions and it will certainly be carried out. The delay seems long and to us unnecessary, but we cannot hurry their machinery without running the risk of injuring their patience. If this annoyance continues and seems to be purposely continued, there will be some relief afforded by appealing again through our representatives and asking that there be some further concessions granted as our brethren are not eligible for service and the work of their release and leave of absence is an unnecessary expense of time and labor on the part of the men and also of the officials of the militia department. We have now a petition with the representatives concerning the need of our brethren applying to the department and signing as soldiers before getting their release, and I think that there will be some action taken at that point. If the Government wants us to be honest, we also desire the opportunity of being so. For we cannot sign up to be soldiers when we know that we cannot be such.

These are times when men need to stand by their principles to their utmost power. There is too much compromising on account of the times and circumstances. If we are to be Christians we are to be such at all times and under every condition. God in Heaven is not changing because the Adversary is going about as a roaring lion.

May the Lord give you grace and also all of the young brethren who have had such experiences. You may some day also feel like thanking the Lord for the trials that you have had to endure for they have let you see the hand of God as in no other way. There are also opportunities of being brought into a warmer and sweeter relationship with Him on account of the driving power of the temptation or trial. These drive us to the only way of escape, that is, to Christ.

Keep lo hing up to the Lord. We have some assurance from the Government that they will see that we are not oppressed. I believe that they will carry out their plans in our behalf, and the younger boys will not be taken on the strength of any military unit, but we must keep trusting and seeking the help of the Lord

Brother John Sider of Marshville has received a letter from the Military Representative in Toronto stating that the Tunker brethren are exempted only from Combatant service and advised that the ministers get together and agree to advise the young brethren who are called to accept some form of non-combatant service. This is a thing impossible to do in the case of the Tunker or the Mennonite Church. It is vital doctrine of the Church and cannot be set aside under any circumstances. We have not believed in non-resistance as an expedient to avoid military service. We have believed in it as a doctrine of Christ for the sake of righteousness and the best method of dealing with our fellowmen as a duty to God and our Saviour. We cannot change a conscience that the Spirit of Christ has formed in us.

As to the course of procedure in your case, send your certificate of Church Membership to Colonel H. C. Pickford, D. O. C. Military District #2, No. 149 College St., Toronto Ont. Give your service number and assignment, and state the circumstances concerning your present leave of absence and ask to be given your leave according to the arrangement made for members of the Mennonite and Tunker Churches.

In case you do not get the leave or the promise of it when you again report, please let me know and we will take the matter up for you. The Brethren Earl Sider and William Charlton are now at home. I have received notice that Ernest J. Swalm will be released. This is encouraging news and we hope that there will be no further hitches in the working of the present plans. We may expect opposition, but let us exercise patience and quietness, while the Lord avails for us. Keep on looking to Him. Brother Stevanus told me of your desire to have a talk with me at the time of the meeting at Sherkston. I was very much disappointed in not having the privilege of meeting you. Accept our thanks for the substantial expression of your friendship and appreciation for the little assistance given in this work. The Lord reward you many fold for this fruit of Christian love. You should have kept it, since we feel that the suffering you have experienced is ample share in the trials that we have had on account of our faith. And may God grant you a glorious deliverance and a new testimony of His boundless love.

Will be glad to hear from you again regarding this case.

Yours in faith and service,

Hagersville July 11th
1918

Dear Bro. Coffman

May God's blessing be on
thee continually:

just a line in regards registration
Will our boys out on "leave of absence"
be required to register?

Bro. Elvin Winger did not get home
untill after registration day and he
has not as yet registered and we
were wondering whether he ought to
or not. We thought perhaps he being
recognized ~~as~~ as a Soldier on leave perhaps
it would not be necessary. if you
think it best that he register
would you kindly let us know.

Thanking you for your interest taken
in our behalf I remain yours in Him

John A. Vigh

Elmira, Ont., July 11th 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,
Vinland, Ont.

Dear Friend:

Your letter of recent date has been received. The advice it contained corresponded with that given by Mr. Weichel during an interview later on and everything is quiet as far as Military affairs are concerned.

I am asked many questions regarding the proposed donation but always advise the people that it is, as yet, in the hands of the committee. I do not care to undertake anything in connection with it without a definite understanding as to the steps advised by the committee.

Trusting that you will keep me advised on the matter and thanking you for having done so in the past, I am,

Yours in Faith
N. M. Bearinger.

Lion Head (1) Bruce Co out
July 12th/18

Dear Sir yours of the
Month of June advises
us to refer to you the
information Regarding
Ezem for Mennonite Brethren
a young Married man farmer
100 acres of Land about
60 under Crop no family
no one to take of his Crop
Cannot Engage in any
kind of service Regarding
This war he has refused
to put on Soldiers Collets
for Conscience sake

(2)

believes he is in the order
 of God by so doing
 he was converted some
 3 years ago but neglected
 uniting with us in Church
 fellowship until quite
 recently nevertheless was
 a constant-attendant
 whenever home with his parents
 will you kindly unite
 your prayers with ours
 that this young life
 may be directed for Gods
 glory in all these matters
Amen

3

He was home on Leave
 when he requested we
 should seek information
 from you Please address
 to Envelope enclosed will
 reach him always

as quickly as possible

Please inform
 him in what
 you believe to be the
 most direct course
 to take. Amen

As Ever Love
Innorthy Bro
Rev. R. Cetherington
Love Head Bruce
Rev out.

Duntroon July 12th 1918

S. F. Goffman
Vineyard, Ont.

Dear bro in the Lord. Greeting
in the name of Him, who said
"I'll never leave nor forsake you"
I received your letter to-day and
wish to thank you for the same. I was
sorry to hear that sister Goffman had
been sick but real glad God had
undertaken for her and to learn
she was better. We certainly have
a loving Father. He healed me of
a rupture a year ago last Winter
after I had been wearing a truss for
24½ years. Praise His name. Well!
he ~~had~~ has answered the prayers
of His children and returned my boy
on Wed. Eve. the 10th. We were to prayer
meeting and as we were turning into
our gate coming home about ~~11~~
11 o'clock We heard someone running
towards us and I said it was Ernie

at the same time, He said
"let me open the gate for you:"
I can tell you there was some em-
bracing and praising God for
his release and also thanking
God for the dear ones who helped
I got the letter ^{you sent} Wed. Eve. from
Chas. Baker and ~~to~~ after reading
it I understood it ~~as~~ the same
as the letter you wrote which
I received to-day. Ernest wishes
that you might pay us a visit
some time I'm sure we would all
appreciate it. Well! I must close
for this time. Give my love to
the dear children. Hope they
may all serve the Lord faithfully
Yours in Christian love
Isaac Swalm

N/R.R.D.

S. J. B.

Vineland Ont., July 12, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

In a letter to Mr. Scott, M. P. I stated the following,
 "I have been wondering much whether our boys who report when called, will be required to sign for service and take the medical examination. Their signatures would ~~require them~~ obligate them to do military duty and to accept military regulations. The medical examination would require their classification as soldiers. Under the present arrangement, their signatures to the Leave of Absence requires them to report regularly, and might be construed to imply their consent to do military service when called upon. We do not wish to appear as doubting the sincerity of the arrangements, but note a source of possible complication."

The above letter was dated the 2nd Inst. The reply is as follows,-
 "I have your letter of the 2nd Inst, and have taken the matter up with the authorities at Ottawa. I have also pointed out that in connection with the carrying out of the instructions which have been issued from Ottawa regarding your people that there appears to be more difficulty in the District of Toronto than in any other District. I trust that my communication may have the desired effect."

The three brethren who were court-martialed and imprisoned are now released from prison and in camp awaiting their leave of absence. Word is at hand that they will be granted their leave of absence. The only brother still in detention, to my knowledge, is Clarence Fisher of Batteaux Ont. No further trouble has been reported from any of the districts. I believe that some of the previous exemptions will be appealed by the Public Representative, Mr. Smythe, of Toronto, and these brethren will be obliged to either send in their credentials to the appeal Tribunal or Report in person and present their Certificates of Membership, as evidence that they will not be able to serve even if called, and that they will be able to secure a leave of absence from the Officer Commanding in case they report for service. In case their exemptions are cancelled by the Appeal Tribunals it will not affect our privilege of secure freedom from service through the present arrangements granting leave of absence. Our brethren will only be obliged to go through further ceremonies and secure their freedom.

Please find enclosed copies of the Memorandum of the laws affecting our Churches as pertaining to their privileges of exemption. These were copied from the copy secured by Brother Reesor. It is well that we have these copies and it might be good to have either more copies made or printed for the use of our brethren who have the work of the Churches in hand. Those brethren who have been on the Committees should have a copy each, and it is my purpose to make another five copies so that each of them may have a copy. It might not be any advantage to print and distribute these laws indiscriminately. But I think it would be well if each of our ministers had a copy of them. It would help them to understand the general situation much better.

Yours in faith,

S. J. Coffman

Enclosing copy of
 "Statement of faith"

Vineland Ont., July 13th, 1918.

N. M. Bearinger,
Elmira Ont.,

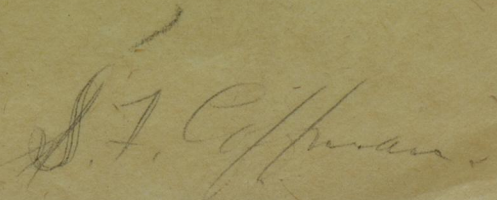
Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 11th Inst. received.

In reply I would say that as far as the work of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization is concerned, the Executive Committee had a meeting recently in Mrkham, and formulated some plans for proceeding with the work of collecting the contributions from the various Churches. This work will be undertaken as soon as they have the necessary literature which will be sent out to give instructions regarding the collecting of these funds. It is probable that it will be done in the near future.

Brother D. W. Heise is the Secretary of the Organization and will have the work of sending out these papers and keeping the brotherhood informed concerning the collecting of the money. It would be well if some of your brethren could get together and make out some kind of a plan for collecting in your district. It may be that Brother Thomas Reesor, who is the Treasurer of the Organization, would have some plans to suggest. But it is certain that each district will have to adopt a plan that will be most suitable to its own conditions. We trust that there will be a hearty response on the part of all of our people and, while we have not all of the favors we would desire from the Government, we should thank the Lord that we have been so highly favored that none of our brethren are today in any way associated with the militia to the extent of being compelled to serve in any capacity by the Government. There are no new developments at the present time. All are released from prison and will be given their papers of leave as soon as they can be procured.

Yours in faith,



Stevensville

July 14th 1918

S. F. Coffman.

Your letter
was a source of encouragement
to me. My leave was extended
until the last of July ten days
at a time. They send in about
a week before time to report.

I received an answer
from Col. Dickford stating
that it would be necessary
for me to report, and ask for
leave of absence, owing to
the fact of being a Punker.

and hand in a church
certificate signed by a bishop
who is authorized to do so.

Do you think it would
be a mistake to write and
ask in. In this leave or
better report in person.

If no would write in time
so they could reply.

Am sorry to have made
you so much trouble, but
hope some day when the
mists and clouds of this
life are over. You shall receive

a reward. and, hear thee
Savior, blessed words.

"Inasmuch as you have
done it - to the least of these
I ego have done it unto me."

Yours in His service

S. A. Wenger

Marathon Ont July 15th 1918

Ray A. Wideman,
Gowley, Ont.

Dear brother, Greetings. From the instructions to hand you will need to send a certificate of membership to Colonel H. C. Bickford 149 Collyer St. Toronto and ask for exemption. He is the Officer commanding in Military District No 2.

I think you will need to make a further explanation. Be sure to give the serial number and the consecutive number which I think you will find on your notice.

I am enclosing two copies of certificates. I have now been with the ministers and deacons names mine will be sufficient because Col. Bickford has been instructed to that effect.

I would have like to have the names of the brethren Wambold and Tretz who sign for the Albin brethren.

I would be glad for a line to know how you get along, and am ready to give you any help which is in my power.

May the Lord hear our prayers in behalf of the young men who are called.

Your brother, L. J. Buehler

Vineland Ont., July 16th, 1918.

R. Eltherington,
Lion Head, Ont.

Dear Brother:/ Greeting in the name of Jesus.

Your letter for the interests of Lorne Boyle, written on the 12th Inst, was duly received. Enclosed you will find a copy of the Letter written to him and which will explain to him the nature of the exemption that is granted at the present time to members of the Churches which our Committee represents.

We are sorry that we have not been able to secure a better recognition for our non-resistant faith. It seems that there is so much prejudice and opposition to the granting of any exemptions, and especially exemptions for religious grounds, that the Government has not considered it advisable to grant us complete exemption such as was our privilege under the previous Statutes of Canada. However, it is impossible for us to get all the recognition that we want in this world. One thing is certain, and that is, that the Lord's kingdom is not of this world. It is a matter for the Government to consider to permit religious freedom in the land, but it is not in their providence to say how a person must worship. In order to conciliate all religious bodies it is sometimes necessary for them to show that they favor no special religious principles, and that is perhaps the reason that we are not given our full privileges, although we are glad that they have not, thus far, obliged us to violate any of our principles by compelling any of our members to do military service. Under the present law our brethren are called soldiers whether we desire it or not. They are also considered to be soldiers under the present arrangement, and are considered to be on Leave of Absence without pay. But this is their attitude toward us. We accept the conditions under protest, and are still glad that we are free from the service, and thank God for the consideration that has been given to us by the Government under which we live.

I am enclosing you copies of the letter written to Brother Boyle and the form of certificate used for adherents. This form you can exchange, if necessary, to meet your own needs, or write out a similar one that will answer for your Church. I have tried to outline the course of procedure as best I could, not knowing the exact circumstances of the Brother's relation to the Church. You will understand that your signature to the Certificate, will be honored by the Officer Commanding, Colonel John Youngs, London, To whom you must apply for the Leave of Absence. A letter to him explaining the case and requesting the favor that is granted to Mennonites will undoubtedly bring about results.

Trusting that this may be of some assistance in affording relief for one of those for whom Christ died and whom we love because He loves him, I am,

Your servant for Christ's sake,

Vineland Ont., July 16th, 1918.

Pte. Lorne Boyle,
C Co. 1st Depot Batta, W.O.R.
#3139120, Platoon 28 A.
London Ont.

Dear Friend:-

A letter from your pastor, Bro. R. Eltherington, of Lion Head Ont., written on the 12th Inst. was received yesterday. His inquiry was concerning the provisions that are made for the exemption of members of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ. You will understand that certain exemption privileges that were granted some time ago are now considered canceled and none of our Ontario brethren are considered to have exemption privileges save from non-combatant service. However, an arrangement has been effected with the Militia Council at Ottawa, through the efforts of certain Members of Parliament who were appointed a Committee by the Government to deal with these matters in our behalf, and the arrangement is as follows:-

All persons who are bona-fide members of the Mennonite or Tunker Churches, - including all branches of the Mennonite Church, - are to be granted an indefinite leave of absence, when reporting to Head Quarters after receiving notice to report for service, and presenting a Certificate of membership, showing that they are members of the Church before the 6th of July, 1917, and the Certificate signed by a minister or Bishop whose signature is authorized by the Government.

Another arrangement exists for persons who are adherents of the Churches mentioned. The adherents are considered to be those persons who were regular attendants of the Church prior to July 6th, 1917 and whose intentions were to unite with the Mennonite Church and who have since that date made application and have actually joined and taken the obligation as a Mennonite. The time limit for the uniting with the Church of an adherent has not been stated. In fact it would be an injustice to set such a limit, since it would effect the work of the Church, and would be equivalent to setting a ban on the work of the Non-resistant Churches on the part of the Government.

Since I have no further information as to the conditions of your membership with the Church I am not in a position to give you further directions. If you have been received as a member of the Church prior to your having been called and later than the 6th of July, 1917 your claim for exemption can be made as a member of the Church and your membership Certificate, signed by your Pastor, should be presented to the Officer Commanding Military District No. 1, London Ont and Leave of Absence asked for according to arrangement made for Mennonites. In case you have become a member of the Church since the date mentioned, you should receive a certificate as an adherent, a copy of the form is herewith enclosed, and the same presented with your request for leave of absence as a Mennonite. Your Pastor, Bro. R. Eltherington, is authorized to sign a Certificate, and his signature will be honored by the Officer Commanding at London.

In case you have not yet become a member, and it had been your intention prior to your being called of becoming a Mennonite, you have the privilege of membership, but it may rest with the Officer to consider the case in the light of their own judgment, but even such cases have been granted the Leave.

I hope this may be of some assistance in your case. Our principles are dear to us as from our Master, Jesus. May God bless you.

Copy

This young man registered under the conditions of the Order in Council, on the first day of June, last, at Cayuga Ont., and the number of his registration form has been sent you in my previous letter. His age is 19 years.

Mr. Armstrong did not register under the previous condition of the M.S.A. and therefore he could not apply for the usual exemptions, and has not been assigned the registration number given under the M.S.A. and since he has not been assigned for service he holds no service number. *He has not, as yet, applied for exemption.*

In a number of instances the ministers of some of our Mennonite congregations have been asked by your department to send in the names of members who are of military age, or who are between the ages of 19 and 34. Those who were asked to do have responded. Since Mr. Hoover is a member of the Church this information was sent you after his registration in keeping with the request of your Department, and this may be the cause of the misunderstanding regarding his case.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Moses Hoover.

COPY OF LETTER TO BROTHER HOOVER.
Toronto, July 16th, 1918.

Rev. Moses Hoover,
R. R. #2
Selkirk Ont.

Dear Sir:-

RE Leonard A. Hoover.

I wrote you on the 15th of June last and again on the 2nd of July asking whether or not the above man filed claim for Exemption or Report for Service and if so the Serial number thereof.

Please be good enough to reply in this matter by return mail.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. Leslie Wilson,
Ontario Registrar.

MFC-EL

Vineland Ont., July 17th 1918.

Freeman Johnson,
Stevensville Ont.,

Dear Brother in faith:- Greeting.

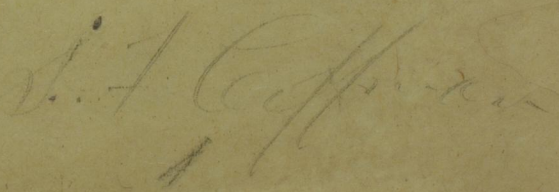
Enclosed you will find Certificates of Membership on regular forms for yourself and Roy. Roy will not need any other class of certificate at present and may not need any other. It is a question as to whether the Government will require an adherents certificate from one who united with the Church before he became 19 years of age. If such will be required it can be furnished on the regular forms when needed.

At the present time all of our boys are out of the camps and also the Tunker brethren. Some were already serving their court-martial sentences at Burwash, but the authorities revoked the sentences and have given the boys an indefinite leave of absence from the army. We are certainly glad for the favors that have been granted us thus far, and hope that there will be no further complications regarding our relation with the Government and the military department. We do not know what will yet be done by the Government. When the heads of the Government return from their trip to England, where they have been in consultation with the British authorities and the Chiefs of the Military Council of the Allies, it may be that some drastic legislation may be enacted, and we may be more implicated than now, but we trust by the grace of God to be kept from the ordeals of military service and conflicts with the military authorities.

I trust that you are enjoying the experiences of a consecrated christian life, and that the knowledge of your new relation to Christ and the blessings of your fellowship with Him are giving you constant satisfaction. There is much to be learned, and one of the lessons that is so hard to learn is that we are not always able to keep the body and the flesh under the perfect control of the Spirit. We need to strive for this mastery. There is no perfection in the flesh, but we thank God that we find the renewed spirit in our hearts is always endeavoring and always true to the Lord. The discouragements that we get should never be allowed to discourage the Spirit. He will continue to afford us His help, and ever prompt us in a new endeavor to go on to perfection. As long as we find this Spirit present and prompting us we know that the Lord is present to give us His help and to allow us to partake of His grace and mercy. May the Lord give you new victories and renewed grace each day. We pray that all of your loved ones may be able to know and fear the Lord.

I am enclosing a copy of the Resolution of our General Conference on our attitude toward military service. I hope that your daughter is improving in health and that the remainder of the family are well. My wife has just recovered from a siege of sickness and we thank the Lord for her recovery and for daily mercies.

Yours in faith,



Vineland Ont., July 17th 1918.

Norman A. Winger,
Stevensville, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the name of Jesus.

Your letter of the 14th Inst. received. According to the usual method of securing Leave of Absence, you would be required to report at Headquarters and apply for your Leave. You should present your Certificate of Membership, signed by Brother Bert Sherk, and ask for the Leave of Absence which is granted to the Tunker brethren.

Since you have been in the camp and the officers are acquainted with your profession and have granted you leave for periods of ten days, it might answer the same purpose for you to send in your certificate and ask them to grant you the Leave to which you are entitled as a Tunker, and to inform you if it is not possible to receive that character of Leave without your apply in person for the same. If they insist on your reporting in person then it will be necessary for you report in person with your Certificate of Membership and secure the necessary papers. There is one consideration which you may be aware of, and that is, the Leave must be signed by yourself, and hence it could not be signed unless sent to you and I am doubtful if that would be done by them. It might save both time ~~o. reportxxxx~~ and trouble for you to report in person and then everything could be attended to satisfactorily.

I do not know whether or not you had made use of the certificate that was given you by your Bishop in securing the leave that was granted you until the last of July. That certificate should have been sufficient to secure you the indefinite leave under which you are required to report once in three months, on the first days of Jan., April, July, and October. When you report take with you the letter you received from Col. Bickford for evidence that you are entitled to a special Leave. This may be of some assistance to you since it is evident that the officilas at the camp have been allowing you only what they have been inclined to give you from the fact that you have not received what was entitled you and not what others of the brethren have received. I hope that you will be able to get a satisfactory paper the next time you report.

I had a letter from Brother Isaac Swalm this week stating that Ernest arrived at home on the 10th Inst. It was a happy occasion for the family and the Lord was praised for the deliverance which He gave to one of His sons who was in trouble for so long a time. May there be more joy for the sake of others who are thus made free.

It will be a pleasure to give you any other assistance that you may require if in our power to give it in this matter. The Lord direct your way and give you His blessing each day and under every circumstance in which you may need His help

Yours in Him,

J. C. Swalm

Delbrück July 17/18

Dear Ben

Greeting in German name
enclosed letter from C. J. J.

Wilson; please give
me full information
what to do and where

He is to file the

claim for exemption

I am not very well
and all this work
is too much for me

If you think best
Leonard can come
down and see you

So everything will
be alright

Truly yours

Andrew Hoover

Marshallville July 17 1918

Bro. S. G. Coffman -

Greeting in the precious name of Jesus
 this morning I thought I had better let you -
 to the best of my knowledge I believe all our
 young Brethren are at home. Charles H. Wright
 came home one week ago this evening got home in
 time to get to Prayer meeting - that was quite a change
^{we} were all glad to have them with us again at our
 service may God's richest blessing rest on our
 young men as they have stood out so bravely -
 the Lord truly was their strength - in Christ
 our strength is quite sufficient - he plainly
 says in his word without me ye can do nothing -
 I am glad I have learned to put my trust in him
 who is a present help in time of need -
 we can say we as a church truly feel thankful
 for the assistance you was able to render when
 the test was on and our young Brethren were in
 the hands of the Military power - so I feel to say
 praise the Lord for he is good - may we render unto
 him a whole hearted service - and finally see him
 when he comes in the clouds to gather all his saints
 - have been wondering how Sister Coffman is by this
 time hope that she is able to enjoy usual health again
 - the church expects to give you a gift - you said to me
 on the phone if I am right you would accept it - so we
 intend to do - in love to all the family John Sider. Marshallville
 JMS

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 alway, *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 July, 17th, 1918

Eld S. F. Coffman.

Vineland Ont.

Dear Bro. GREETING

I have your communication of the 12 ty, inst. And in reply I may say briefly, that all of our Boys are again at home, so far as I know, with the exception of Bro J. H. Heise, who was home for one week, but returned to Toronto yesterday for further information, and his final LEAVE. I have not yet learned what success he met with, but have nodoubt he will be home again in a few days. You will of course have notice the possibility of Parliament being summonsed to meet for a special session, Do you not think that we should be very allert in the event of matters taking such a turn, and be prepared to have our interests looked after. This may be worth considering at least.

Yours In His Name.

D. W. Heise

P.P.#2 Pickering July 15 1915

S. J. Coffman
Wineland
Ont.

Brother Greeting

Your favor of July 12 1915
received and noted

Regarding the printing of a number of copies of statute law of Mennonites I think there would be no harm, as a great many of our people are perfectly ignorant of facts and are building on supposition of legends.

I sent the original to Elmira and Mr Bearinger took several copies. so they are supplied possibly your branch have none in Waterloo district

I was wondering if Mr Scott M.P. could not use them to a good advantage among his colleagues in parliament if there were some printed. As the statement you sent possibly it would be well

to send me about 6 if you
have them to spare I will
distribute them in Waterloo
as opportunity permits

May the Lord bless our
efforts is my prayer

Yours truly

Shoo Reesor

Vineland Ont., July 19th 1918.

Bishop John Sider,
Marshville, Ont.

Dear Brother in the Lord:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 17th received and noted with pleasure. We have reasons to thank the Lord for the favor that has been bestowed upon us for delivering us from the power of temptation. We feel that He has intervened in the matter of our securing relief from the obligation of military service. This was a great trial to the whole Church and there were many prayers offered up by many faithful souls. We feel that those who prayed in sincerity and with faith were the ones who accomplished most in the matter of securing relief from the things which were so hard to bear. It is not always the power that is manifest that accomplishes the most. But the Lord has accomplished all for us.

We feel to rejoice that all of the brethren are at last free from their detention and imprisonment, and that they are again privileged to be with their friends and in the midst of conditions that they enjoy and in which they may be of some service in their testimony and faith. It is true that their testimony while in the camps may have counted for a great deal. There were many who came in touch with the truth while they were there who would never have known of such a faith and who may never have thought of the truth of the Gospel in the light of non-resistance had it not been for the witness of these brethren. So there was some blessing resulting from their time spent in the camps. The seed that was sown will bring about a harvest in due time. We should continue to pray that the Lord will bring about much good through the trials that our brethren have been called upon to bear. There is no doubt but that it has been an experience that the whole Church has realized some good from, and we hope that the blessings that come from having been brought very near to the Lord will keep us very near to Him and very true to His word. We need to have such experiences at times, and may we always be found near to His side and under the power of His blood that cleanses us from sin.

A letter from Brother Heise says that all the brethren from that District are at home again except Brother John Heise who has returned to camp for the sake of getting his leave.

Regarding the Gift spoken of, which your congregation has so generously offered in appreciation of what has been done in their behalf, it must be left to their own discretion. The brethren at different places have taken it upon themselves to help bear these expenses, and to make it possible to give time and attention to this work, so that the family as well as your servant might be able to get the necessities of life. The fund that was raised for the expenses of those who were engaged in this work was intended to meet any actual outlay in the work, such as travelling expenses, postage and such like. There is ample fund on hand for such expenses at the present time. The fund for special expenses was contributed to by all of the Churches and is in the hands of the Treasurer of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, Brother Thomas Reesor, and it is probable that your congregation also contributed to this fund. Our own needs are amply supplied at present and there is actually no need on our part. We could not ask for other gifts, and feel that there are so many others who are in actual need that if your congregation desires to make a gift to the Lord for some special favors that we will be just as glad for them to bestow the gift there as to bestow it upon us. The sense in which I said we could not help accepting a gift was, that if it was set apart only for us, we could not do otherwise than accept it. But we do recommend that the greater needs of others have the preference. We have so much to thank the Lord for, in the way that He has helped us, and we feel that He will

and as
other sources and contribute
affection

Continue to gives us all that we need. Through His grace, my Dear W. was restored to her health, after being in bed for a week and while we were fearful that an operation might be her only relief. She is not real strong yet, but able to be about, and I know that she does things beyond her strength. Yet, the Lord is giving this grace. We have refused to accept some gifts that were offered us by persons who were directly affected by the consequences of this draft law and whom we gave assistance in our capacity as appointed by the Church. We could not feel justified to add to the burdens which they were already bearing, especially when we had no special need. These things are written to you, Brother, not as boasting, but as giving you information that may help you to understand our condition as well as our position regarding these gifts. We trust that your dear brethren will understand us. We rejoice with them in their desire to thank the Lord for His mercies to them and their children, and feel it our duty to also share in their thank offering to Him, rather than to receive it from them. We have often prayed that the Lord might make it possible for us to be able to get along without being a burden on the generosity of the Church so that the Church might be in a position to do other work that needs so much to be done. And for this we still pray.

Now, Brother, let the Lord direct you in this matter. Feel free to do what He directs, and feel that you are under no obligation, by what I have said, to make a gift to us. And may the Lord have the praise for the hearts that are willing to impart their blessings to others. The spirit of the brotherhood there is a joy to the Lord, and we praise Him too for such a spirit and may He abundantly bless you and direct you, so that you may have fruit that will abound to your account.

The family are all well, and the children have been picking fruit. All are busy as far as they can be, and seem to enjoy being able to earn something that will help them to do a part in supplying the needs of the home. They have always taken an active interest in earning something too, to help along in mission work. They have their mission fund every year and it is good to see them take an interest in doing good to others.

Brother Heise writes me that there is some possibility of there being a special session of Parliament some time soon and that it may be necessary for our people to have their interests guarded at such a time. For the session will likely take up the question of obligatory military service. This brings us to the fact that while we are enjoying the protection of the Lord in present circumstances, we need to continue to pray that the blessings that we have secured may continue to be ours for the sake of a true testimony of the Gospel of peace and good will to all men. Let us not forget that we have a place to fill and may we not forget to keep our brethren alert to the mission that is ours. If our ministry is to do good to our fellowmen, the door is open and there is much good that needs to be done. Our sons are spared to us, and we are thus in a position to do that much extra of good to the needy ones in the world.

We are glad for the privileges of fellowship that we have enjoyed together and may the Lord keep our hearts warm and our faith strong in our common cause. We will be glad to have you come and be with us again. With love and best wishes to all, I am

Yours in Christ,

*An welcoming statement of our faith as expressed by
General Conference Resolutions.*

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

MILVERTON, ONT. July 19, 1918.

J. J. Coffman,

My Dear Friend:-

Enclosed find M.O. for \$10.00 to help some with your expence in behalf of our young Brethern. That is to help pay you for your part of service to us.

\$5.60 If this is from our congregation give to me by our Deacon to send to you.

Now I also recieved some from both of our districts for my service so I am taking some of this to add to the \$5.60 to make it \$10.00 for you. Now I bego you if you think you ought to have more from us for your service, please tell me so and I will try to get more for you. I feel as this is a small enough amount, or almost too small. but do not hesitate to ask as you think.

I expect our deacon of lower district Daniel Jantzi has sent you some, if not, I expect he will send you some.

Thank God that none of our you Brethern as yet were not called, and May His Mercies continue over us all. We do not know what the future will be. Some are somewhat afraid on account of the 19 & 20 class registering but I hope it will come out all right. I am sorry I did not also receive a copy

(2)

A letter from you of July 3rd, but we copied
it from Nicholas Naffziger's letter, and this is
good enough for the time.

Remember us in your earnest prayers as
I hope to do for all needful, but in great
weakness.

Respectfully Yours,
J. R. Ebersol.

Vineland Ont., July 19th 1918.

Thomas Reesor,
Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother- Greeting in the name of the Lord.

Your letter of the 18th Inst. received and noted. I am enclosing several copies of the Statement of our position on the question of military service, and trust that you may be able to make use of them.

I am in favor of having the report of the Statutes regarding the mennonites and military service printed, and made use of in a judicious manner by our Non-resistant Organization, and I believe that it will be a good thing to place it in the hands of some of the members of Parliament. I had a letter from Brother Heise yesterday and he thinks that we should be on our guard, and watch the developments, since it is evident that Parliament will meet in extra-ordinary session in the near future and we will then be in a position to have our interests looked after if we see the members in time and have them take an interest in our case. We should not think of asking them to bring any new legislation before Parliament now, since there is an extze amount of prejudice against us. We will be satisfied with what we have under present conditions, provided the Government again renews its pledge of total exemption when the conditions are more favorable to us, or rahter, we will be satisfied if the Government allows us to understand that our privileges are not now taken away from us.

I am giving you a statement herewith regarding the expenses which have accrued on account of corresponden ce for the Committees and for the M.R.R.O. Since last November I have used a thousand printed envelopes, and making a rough estimate of a thousand sheets of letter paper. I am putting in a bill for postage to cover what has been used since the last allowance was made for the same, or at least the most of what was used.

1000 Printed envelopes,	\$2.25
1000 letter paper	1.50
Postage	10.00
	<u>\$13.75</u>

The enclosed bill, receipted, will answer for the settlement of this account, and please enter an item on your books for the same amount from Vineland, without stating the name. This will balance your books and show an item of expense from the fund. The reason that I am doing this is on account of the fact that there has been funds sent to us for our personal use in the work and we have felt that the actual outlay should go into your fund, even though we feel that we do not want to make the draft on your funds for the amount.

Some contributions came to us, from some of the Amish congregations, which were sent in appreciation of what was done and to help bear the expenses and time spent. Time, of course has been the largest item with me, but it is rather a difficult item to estimate and to value. If any of these contributions were intended for the general fund they should be placed there and reported. There may have been some misunderstanding in some of these items, and I will be glad to have them cleared up.

How did Brother Hoover get along with his appeal case? Hope all is well with them. My wife is better agin, but not strong yet.

Yours in faith,

Vincalnd Ont., July 19th, 1918.

D. W. Heise,
Gornaley Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 17th instant received and noted. It is well worth while that we give some attention to the matters of Government that are likely to be taken up and to note the possibility of the re-assembling of Parliament to take action regarding the man-power bill that has been challenged by the Provinces of the Dominion. It is altogether likely that when the heads of the Government return to Canada, that there will be some drastic action taken to provide recruits for the army. In that case there will undoubtedly be a challenge of the privileges that have been accorded the young men in our churches. These same young men have already proven to the Government and to the Military authorities what stand they will take regarding military service. But the Government may attempt to persuade them to take up some form of non-combatant service, and this fact has been intimated by the letter that has been sent out to most of our bishops and some of our ministers, suggesting that we hold a conference and decide on advising our young men to accept such service rather than to have them shut up in prison. We have replied to that letter, and have since sent to the Public Representative in Toronto a copy of the Resolution of our General Conference held in 1917, in which is stated the position which all of our churches hold regarding military service. But this may not be the end of the effort to coerce us in these things. The Quakers are accepting some forms of non-combatant service, especially with Red-Cross organizations under the direction of the Quaker organizations in England and the United States. These organizations are not connected with the army, but are working on the fields and giving aid as hospital units, but are supported entirely by funds from the Quaker and other bodies of similar faith. Some of our brethren have offered their services with those units, but only a limited number have been accommodated. I do not think that we are ready to offer such service to our brethren. The nature of the service rendered may be perfectly christian, but the affiliations are not clear to my mind. Other services are out of the question.

It will be well for us to watch the trend of affairs and to get in touch with those members of Parliament who have rendered us a great service as soon as it is deemed expedient. I will write Mr. Scott in the course of a few days and give him a report of the present circumstances of our brethren and suggest the possibility of our standing being brought before Parliament in case it meets in extra-ordinary session.

Thank you for your suggestions and please keep us posted on any matters that come before you. We have limited sources of information, since our paper comes from Hamilton, and the Toronto papers only seen when calling on the neighbors.

Let us keep on praying while we wath and labor.

Yours in faith,

Vineland Ont., July 20th 1918.

Moses Hoover,
Selkirk Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 17th received and noted.

I am enclosing herewith a letter to Mr. C. Lesslie Wilson which you may sign and return to him. I think that is the information which he desires. I do not know why he has written you again since the former letter explained all about the case. There will likely be no further trouble about the matter now.

I am also sending you a copy which you may keep for yourself as a duplicate of what was written. there is a little difference in the letter to Mr. Lesslie in the wording, since I rewrote it on account of a few little mistakes and faults that were corrected.

Hope you are feeling better again.

Yours in faith,

