

Vineland, Ont., Aug. 1, 1918

Moses M. Brubacher,
Waterloo Ont., R.R. #1.

Dear Brother in faith and service:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 30th July, received and noted. There are several versions of the decision of the Military Service Council concerning the exemptions granted to Mennonites, and of the Decision of the Central Appeal Judge regarding the privileges of exemption granted to members of the Mennonite Church or the Tunkers and Amish. We have been informed of nothing that has taken place in the Department at Ottawa that effects the privileges that we are now enjoying. Were such the case, that exemption and freedom from service would be granted to only one branch of the Church we would be informed of it. If the privileges which we have would be cancelled we would also learn of it through those who have been engaged in giving us relief and who are still engaged in looking after the interests of our people, by keeping in touch with the Departments at Ottawa. The news papers are always getting a hold of sensational reports. They certainly make interesting reading matter, and are a sort of a feeder of the prejudices which many have against our people. But it is strange that there should be in Kitchener an editor of a news paper who does not know what Mennonites stand for. It is an evidence that many are not investigating the nature of the belief of the Mennonites and others of similar faith. They are acting under false impressions and blind prejudices, and the result is that their criticisms and oppositions are unjust.

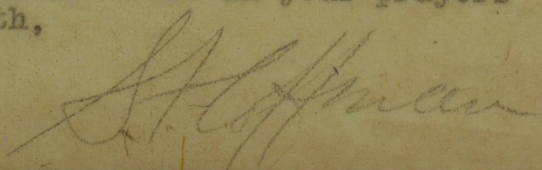
There have been recent decisions of the Central Appeal Judge. He has decided that the Ontario Mennonites are not Excepted from the operation of the Military Service Act. That means that they will have to apply for exemption under the section of Exemptions and the clause describing religious reasons. This is what we have been doing all along. There has been a decision rendered by the Military Service Council, a branch of the Department of Justice, which says that those persons who have united with the Non-resistant Churches on or since the 13th of October 1917, will not be recognized as members in good faith and will not be granted the privileges of exemption for religious reasons. But, these decisions will not effect the present arrangement which have been made for the release of any of our brethren who may be called to report for service. The certificate of the bishop is the authority for the Officers Commanding to grant a Leave of Absence to any of our brethren.

I hope that there will be no further difficulty, but there is always a possibility that something may be done by those who do not understand the position which our people take regarding war that may result in making some trouble for our brethren. Let us continue to pray that the Lord will deliver us from all our trials along this line, and help us to be faithful in our testimony and service in the ways of righteousness and love and peace.

May the Lord ever bless you in the work to which He has called you and give you courage for the work, patience under the trials and victory in the cause of faith, and souls saved for your testimony of salvation.

Ella has not been well for a few days. Has a touch of Grippe and indigestion. She is some better. We ask an interest in your prayers for our labors and needs.

Yours in faith,



Vineland Ont., August 2, 1918.

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 31st Ult. received and noted. It is evident that the Officials of the Exemption Courts are again at sea with regard to the exemption of the Mennonite and Tunker and Amish Boys. There has been a disposition on the part of some to grant them Exemption and others are just as much opposed to them. Why are they rehearing the cases that have already been passed on? If these cases are appealed by the Public Representative, it is evident that Mr. Smythe is responsible for the present situation and is fulfilling his declared purpose of getting the boys yet, and, since the Church has not taken action to advise the boys to accept non-combatant service he may be making an effort to land them in the penitentiary. You will remember the letter which he sent to some of our ministers, advising that the Church hold a conference with a view of seeing whether it would not be possible to have our boys accept non-combatant service.

With reference to the case of Willis Wideman, I think that it would be in order for you to inform the Judge that Bro. S. Wideman is not now a Bishop of the Church, and that he is not in a position to speak for the Church, and, that on account of his indiscrete judgments he was relieved of his official work. This may help the Judge to weigh the statements and conduct in their proper ~~light~~ value.

I am writing Mr. Scott again to-day, stating a few of the facts of the cases transpiring at Toronto, and asking him to keep in touch with those matters. Have not had a reply yet from him, respecting the matters last referred to him.

Ella is not improving as we would like to see her. There are some conditions that are showing a change which may require surgical work to correct. We are hoping that it may not be so and praying that the Lord will save us from requiring to take that course. Yet, He knows best. We are trusting in the Promise, "Your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless, unto the coming of the Lord. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." Will you join us in prayer for our present need?

Yours in faith.

S. F. Coffman.

Vineland Ont. August 2nd, 1918

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

Dear Sir:-

It appears that a number of cases of members of the Mennonite Churches in the Toronto District, especially those in the vicinity of Markham, Ont., are being re-heard by the Tribunals at Toronto. In one case, that of Willis Wideman, judgment was reserved. In two other cases exemption was cancelled. In the Wideman case the former exemption was, "Allwed, Mennonite." In the latter two cases, the Papers stated "Granted, Class 3," which likely referred to the exemption for religious reasons. On account of these cases before the Exemption Tribunals and the pending decisions, one of our boys, who appeared before the Officer Commanding with his Church Certificate asking for Leave of Absence was given a Leave on the following terms, "Leave of Absence granted on the strength of being a Mennonite, - from July 25- Aug. 26, 1918. Pending decision by A.A.G., M.D. No. 2, Toronto. W. E. P. - With permission to wear mufti." (Signed) B. Blackey, Capt. Adjt.

Another case was that of a young man who appeared before the Officer Commanding at Niagara. His Leave of Absence was assured. Still another case of a young man who appealed for his Leave, was promptly given. We are glad that there has been no actual interruption in the plan that has been arranged, but these cases are mentioned so that you may see where there is a possibility of there being a break in the plan which has been arranged with the Authorities at Ottawa. It seems that there will be more of the cases of our young men re-heard by the District Tribunals, and the decisions may bring about complications that will require more effort to adjust.

Yours truly,

Glenmount, Ont. Aug. 3/18

Mr. C. F. Coffman,
Wineland, Ont.

Dear Bro,-

Kind enclosed letter which explains itself. Kindly give me a certificate as required. Enclosed you will find copies of documents for your information; also addressed envelope in which please also send back all the papers.

I read a letter some time ago from yourself in which you stated the results of the conference at Ottawa some time ago. In it you stated that no military service would be required. The accompanying letter speaks as if it is from combatant service only.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Yours in Him,
E. W. Klinck.



House of Commons

~~XIXTAVIX~~ Galt, August 5th. 1918.

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

Dear Mr. Coffman:-

I have your letter of the 2nd instant and in reply would say that I do not see what more can be done in connection with these cases. If it is found that any of your young men are forced into the service through the action of these tribunals if you will bring the individual cases to my attention I will see that they are investigated and believe that we can get them relieved.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

F. S. Scott
per J. H. Secig.

Vineland Ont., Aug. 8th 1918.

A. G. Warder,
Collingwood Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

I am enclosing herewith a letter to E.M.Klink, to whom you referred in the blank form which was sent you regarding the application for exemption of young men in your congregation. I am sending him a temporary certificate which he may not be required to use until he secures one signed by Brother S. Goudie, to whom the Tribunal and Officer Commanding in District No. 2, has given Authority to sign certificates for the M. B. C. Church. The reason I am sending you the letter is for the sake of avoiding any possible deception in securing and making use of a Church certificate by persons not entitled to them and also to avoid falling into a possible trap by officials who might doubt our sincerity. I believe this case is genuine, but am not anxious to take any risks. You will please forward the letter, since you are likely aware of the circumstances.

The question of the authority of your ministers to sign certificates has been referred again to the persons who are taking up these matters for us with the Government. Let all stand fast for the principles of non-resistance, which we have accepted and which is the profession of faith of the Church. We stand for exemption from all kinds of military service. The Government has in some manner decided that our faith forbids combatant service only or has limited us to that extent of exemption. We have appealed against that definition of our faith and the authorities have not answered us regarding it.

My wife has been ill with an attack of Gall-stone trouble. was in bed for a week. The Lord has heard our petitions and she is better, and able to be up again but not all of the time. We thank Him for such great mercies and wait upon Him with new devotion and desire to serve Him. Remember us in prayer. Regards to your family.

Yours in faith,

Goshen College
Goshen Ind.

Aug. 8 '18.

Dear Bro: Kauffman;

Greeting you in
Jesus name. I have had many
pleasant experiences since I asked
you those few questions which in-
deed were very vital. When I recall
the most outstanding events of my
life during the last half year, I can
say with a great deal of satisfaction
that deciding ones life work is a
very important step in any young
persons life. It gives a person some-
thing to look forward to & to
work to that end. After careful
& prayerful consideration I
have decided to give my life

as a foreign missionary, if God permit. Surely if there is any reason to believe that God does open up the way & supply the needs for the preparation, He has done it for me & for that reason I am firmly convinced that I am at the place where I ought to be. Even during these trying days, our plans may not be changed so very much if we trust God for guidance.

In a letter from home yesterday they sent us a few newspaper clippings with reference to treaties made recently between Canada & U. S. in regards to Canadian citizens in America and American citizens in Canada. According to those statements we would be obliged to either enlist, or be subject to draft here, or leave the country. The time allowed was given as sixty days after July 31st.

Do you think we could get our exemption from Canada & be given permission to stay in school here at Goshen? No doubt you will have heard about this new treaty so you are in a position to inform us what steps to take. I'd rather come home & work on the farm than to stay over here & go to camp, but if it is possible to make arrangements to remain in school this coming year that is surely what I would like to do.

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Do you think we could get our exemption from Canada & be given permission to stay in school here at Goshen? No doubt you will have heard about this new treaty so you are in a position to inform us what steps to take. I'd rather come home & work on the farm than to stay over here & go to camp, but if it is possible to make arrangements to remain in school this coming year that's surely what I would like to do.

It seems to me if our government exempts us in Canada, they would not care if we would go to College in U. S. Probably the government here would not allow it. Irwin wrote to the Military Service Branch at Ottawa to ask for information. As long as we do not receive any official notice I should think we need not be alarmed. I would be pleased to hear from you by return mail, how conditions are as to the new treaty & what we should do.

We are having very dry, and hot weather. The corn is very much in need of rain.

Wishing you every success,

I remain yours in His service

Norman Bauman

Vineland Ont., Aug. 8th 1918.

EM M. Klinck,
Glenmount, Ont.

Dear brother in the Lord:-

Your letter of the 3rd Inst., received and noted. You will find enclosed the papers returned as per your request and also a Certificate which will answer your present purposes, but I would suggest that you send to your Presiding Elder, Samuel Goudie, Stouffville Ont., for a Certificate for permanent use. He is now authorized to sign Certificates for the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, and I do not understand why your ministers are not thus recognized since their names were sent in to the Authorities at Ottawa as persons qualified to sign certificates of the use of members asking exemption or Leave of absence from military service.

There have been some changes made by the Government and the Military Service Council since our visit to Ottawa. The members who are now called for service are required to report to the head quarters from whence their call comes and are there to present their certificates and to the Officer in Command of the District in which they reside, and are required to be assigned to an army corps and then be given a Leave of Absence, which means, that they will not be called upon for further military service although they may be called upon to report at regular intervals. So far, this arrangement has worked out satisfactorily. There may be other changes made regarding our privileges, and we are looking for such changes, but we have the assurance that we will at all times be given our freedom from military service. The ministers will all be notified of such changes.

Yours in faith and service,

Military Service Act, 1917.

Copy

To the Members of the Non-Resistant
Relief Organization,

Wineland Ont., August 8th, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

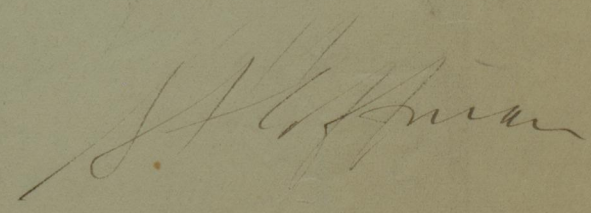
You will please find enclosed a copy of a letter recently received by me and to which I replied, sending a Certificate to the effect that the same was a member of the M.B. C. Church, since the person in question sent copies of certificates from the pastor who signed and also from the present pastor. I returned the letters to the present pastor with a letter of explanation so as to avoid any possible impositions. Also, I referred the person to the Presiding Elder, Samuel Goudie for a certificate to be used, since mine was only a provisional one.

There seems to be a question raised by the Department in regard to the eligibility of the Ministers of The M. B. C. Church to sign certificates. There appeared in a recent paper a report to the effect that the Status of the different branches of the Church were to be called into question. I have received no intimation that such has been the case, but there seems to be some trend in that direction, since we were informed that the names sent in to the Department at Ottawa would be honored and now are refused recognition. Let us hope that such is not the actual condition of affairs. One thing is certain, - that is, we should stand together for the principle upon which we have made our appeal to the Government. We may have other differences, but those do not effect our appeal. All of our Churches have stood for the Non-resistant faith, and have done so as long as the history of our denominations is in existence.

The matter of the authority of the ministers above mentioned has been referred to Mr. Scott, as well as the matter of the possible questioning of the faith of the branches of the Churches concerned in our appeal and in our organization. We believe that there are those in the Departments who do not understand our position and our faith and do not fully understand the privileges that have been accorded us by the Department at Ottawa. We must be patient and allow these questions time to be worked out. Mr. Scott has given me the assurance, in a recent letter that any cases that come into any difficulty should be reported to him at once and he would look after them and believed that there would be no difficulty in getting them released.

We shall endeavor to keep each other posted in all these matters so that we may be able to act intelligently and harmoniously.

Yours in faith,



Vineland Ont., August 8th 1918.

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 29th Ult., Was received and I at once referred the cases to Mr. Scott, at Galt. I also referred to the case of the Brother who went to the camp at Niagara with Brother Reesor. In reply I received the following:-

"I have your letter of the 2nd instant and in reply would say that I do not see what more can be done in connection with these cases. If ~~it~~ is found that any of your young men are forced into the service through the action of these tribunals if you will bring the individual cases to my attention I will see that they are investigated and believe that we can get them relived.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Signed F.S. Scott,

per J.L. Sec'y.

Yesterday I had a letter from a M.B.C. brother from Collingwood Dist. asking for a certificate, since his minister was not authorized to sign certificates. Only our Bishops were listed as eligible to sign certificates. I have wondered if there is now some attempt to discriminate between the branches of the Mennonite Churches or those who have taken the stand on Non-Resistance. Your previous letter intimated a similar condition as existing in the offices at Toronto, and stated that Brother Goudie has been authorized to sign certificates. I sent the brother a certificate for his present use and ask d him to apply to Brother Goudie for a Certificate from his own Church.

Things seem to be moving to closer quarters and to finer distinctions on the part of the Authorities. We will need to be on our guard and to be in touch with the Lord of Lords. By the reply that Mr Scott has given he seems ready to give us his good offices in these matters and, I believe, will be ready to give us any advice and assistance possible in dealing with the Government. By the reports given out by Mr. Rowell there will some further action be taken by the Government in order to get more recruits for the army. The United States has set the example and we may expect our country to follow closely. Some of our brethren have been expressing a desire to come to Canada, but, I believe, that they will not be benefited by making the change. The steps that will be taken shortly to get recruits will effect those of our brethren who are already here.

I am asking Mr. Scott regarding the official powers granted to Ministers of the M.B.C. Church.

Ella is improving. She has been out of bed for short periods of time. Her condition is clearing up, and we thank the Lord for a gracious deliverance.

Will be glad to hear further regarding the purposes of the Registrar's department with the cases which have been disallowed their previous exemptions.

Yours in faith,

S. A. Coffman.

Vineland Ont., August 8th, 1918.

Howard H. Stevanus.

Sherkston Ont.

Dear brother:- Greeting.

Since you were here several articles in the papers have come under my notice with reference to the question under consideration. The conditions of the new draft law are not yet in force, and will not be so until a proclamation has been sent out by each Government. Canada has not yet called for her citizens who are in the United States, and the U. S. Government has sent out no proclamation concerning the U.S. citizens residing in Canada. Until such proclamations are sent out there will be nothing to do by either persons.

The registration of american citizens for national service was obligatory. I am not certain what would be required of persons now coming into the country. We know that any persons coming of the age of sixteen after the late date of registration are required to register, and it stands to reason that all who have not yet registered are required to do so and are required to produce registration cards under the penalty of a fine. So it would be well to register.

When the proclamation is made by the U. S. for her citizens in Canada to register, the citizen will have the option of reporting to a U. S. Consul, and have the privilege of making his claims for exemption the same as if he were in the United States. If he fails to do so, after a period named in the proclamation, he will come under the Canadian regulations automatically and will be obliged to abide by the decisions of the Canadian regulations regarding exemptions. They may make claims for exemption through the regular tribunals in the same manner as a Canadian citizen. It is rather difficult to know just what would be the decision of a Local or District tribunal in the case of a member of the Mennonite Church who had left the United States in order to escape the penalties of the Military Regulations regarding Conscientious Objectors. These Tribunals are very severe and might not allow any exemption at all, and inflict the full penalties of the Canadian Act or deport the person to the United States and deliver him to the Authorities there for penalties. It is hard to know what would be done under the present embitterment against even honest convictions. There will have to be some test cases, and they will likely come in some section of the Country.

If you could see some official at the lines, some Immigration officer about intending citizens and their privileges, it might help you out in this matter. I am not ready to write to Ottawa with regard to this matter since the Secretary of that Department has not yet returned to Canada. As soon as he returns I expect, the Lord willing to write to him in behalf of those of our brethren who are now in Canada and are still citizens of the United States, but intending citizens of Canada.

I am glad to report Ella is improving in health and strength. The Lord has definitely answered our prayers. His name be praised. Nothing preventing, I am expecting to go to Clarence on Saturday and will return on Monday. Brother Kanagy will take my place here on Sunday.

I hope that you will find no difficulty in the case concerned and that all will come out right at last.

Yours in faith and Christian love,

Vineland Ont., August 8th 1918.

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

Dear Sir:-

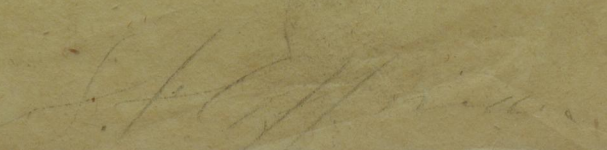
Your letter of the 5th instant, regarding the cases brought before the tribunals at Toronto for rehearing, has been received. Thank you for the advice. We will keep in touch with matters there and report in case there should be need of action being taken.

Information has been received that the names of the ministers of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church which were sent to Ottawa as persons authorized to sign certificates of membership for that Church are not being honored at Toronto. I today received a letter from a young man in Collingwood asking for a certificate, and enclosing a letter stating that his certificate should have to be signed by a Bishop of the Mennonite Church and the names of the Bishops of our Church were given as the only ones authorized to sign Certificates applying for leave of absence. Perhaps there is some misunderstanding by some members of the department having to do with his case. But a similar case occurred in Toronto recently, when it was arranged by our Rev. L. J. Burkholder, Acting Bishop in the Markham district, that Elder Samuel Goudie, Stouffville Ont, of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church, and a Presiding Elder, would have authority to sign certificates. We hope that the Department at Ottawa and at Toronto will not call into question the distinctions of Doctrine in our respective Churches. While there are differences, there is no difference whatever as regards the article of Non-resistance. This is the ground of our common appeal for relief from the Government.

Thanking you for past favors, I am,

*Copy
recovered*

Yours truly,



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

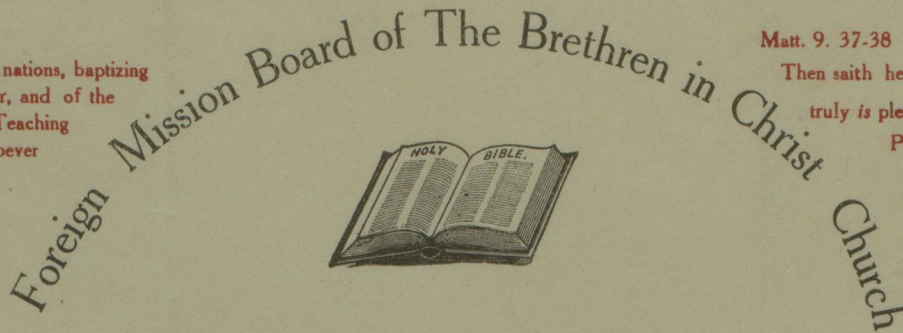
Eld. D. W. Heise

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.



Gormley Aug, 10 th, 191 8

Dear Bro Burkholder.

I herewith inclose you a copy of the letter sent to Roy Wideman by C. Lesslie Wilson. Which is only one of the many communications issued by the various officials in connection with draftees that are difficult to reconcile with that of others issued sometimes by the same official. This one however seems to be final so far as the draftee is concerned. But what may we expect next?.

I have again gone over the letters from S. F. and I find no mention made by him relative to the printing of the Legal status of our people, so I conclude he omitted mentioning the matter to me, it is all right however, and I will proceed just as soon as I here further from you as to the number required Etc.

Yours In The Faith.

D. W. Heisey

Markham, Ont. Aug. 12th 1918

S. F. Coffman
Wineland, Ont.

Dear brother, Greeting.

Yours of the 8th inst. to hand. I note you fear that the C. C.'s military districts are discriminating between the branches of Mennonites. From what I learned when I was before Lt. Col. Widegas on July 23rd I think there is no reason for alarm. It seems that the M. B. C. minister names which were sent to Ottawa have not been accredited to sign certificates. I cannot explain why this is so. If I have it right the Trinker brethren also had their bishops names omitted immediately after you had sent the full list to Ottawa. Bro Heise was in Col. Bickford's office at that time and found the names of our bishops, the Amish and also Samuel Gaudin but these were missing. That branch now has the bishops names on the list.

You will notice that the letter of the M. B. C. man Mr. Ehrick is under date of July 18th. M. Bricker and I were in Col. Bickford's office July 23rd and when we found that Col. Widegas had only the name of S. Gaudin we thought the easiest way for them would be to have Bro Gaudin issue the letters over his signature and supply his ministers with copies for their use. Mrs. Gaudin told me this morning that her husband is attending

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to this matter. It is probable that some of the M. B. C. men when called will still send in their certificates signed by the pastor and they will be rejected. After all their young men are supplied with the proper certificates from bro Gordie there should be no difficulty.

Col. Widegar gave not the least intimation that there was any difference between the M. B. C. church and ours.

On July 25th bro. Ray Wideman was given 30 day leave of absence by the officers of the Exhibition Camp. Since that I understand he has a letter from C. Leslie Wilson which in effect is as follows. - "Exemption granted on strength of being non-combatant. You may accept this as being equal to cancellation of your order to report for duty."

I am giving the above from memory only. I cannot understand how the Registrar can cancel the order to report after a man has been posted with a company in his Regiment. A few other men will be due to report this month at the expiration of the 30 days leave. I think one of us shall accompany them.

I am enclosing clippings which will explain themselves. The editor says the news despatch came from Ottawa. I think the rest of it is local coloring. At Exhibition Camp the other week like statements were made.

Alderside Aug 14
1918

S. F. Coffman.

Oriskany.

Dear Bro. Greetings
of Love.

Is there any provision
made for those of our
Young Brethren who
have become Members
of the Church subsequent
to Oct 13-1917.

We have had a number
of accessions who may
be called for medical
examination, that have
united this summer and
nearly all of them are adherents.
These will undoubtedly have
to do with the Military

authorities before long.
and I have wondered
whether there is a ruling
that will meet this
situation.

So far we have had no
trouble excepting in a
few cases where through
registering some have
come into the meshes of the
military service Act
but all have been released.

Crops hardly $\frac{1}{2}$ of an aver-
age. Weather mostly good.

A goodly number of confessions
the the Labors of Bro C F Yoder.

God Bless you all.

H B Stauffer

Edgeley Ont.
Aug 15/910.

To Elder S. F. Coffman.

Dear brother.

These questions appeared in the Orange Sentinel some three weeks ago they were sent in from a subscriber from the north west and I forget his address. I cut it out and sent it on to Bro J. Goudie. And told him he might send it on to you if he thought fit. He has not sent me word, so I am sending them on for you to read. I am sending you a clipping from the Sentinel of this week, and it doesn't speak very favourably of the Mennonites. Of course there are more than one kind of Mennonites, but the outside world counts us all as one, around the 5th Vaughn there is strong prejudice against us, where I live. I have taken the Sentinel for a number of years, so as to keep posted concerning the

intrigues of the Papacy. This paper prints what no other paper in Canada dare print and that is why I like it. I am no party man. I have not voted in 30 years.

The Editor of the Sentinel, Mr Hocken, has been returned as member for West Toronto.

The paper has a wide circulation throughout the Dominion.

Excuse me for taking the liberty of writing you. You may think it best to take no notice of the matter.

Trusting you & family are all well.

Remain your bro in Christ.

Probably they are
Russian Mennonites.

J. Bolwell.
L

Vineland Ont. August 17th, 1918.

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

Dear sir:-

A letter received from Mr. Thomas Ressor, Pickering, Ont., states that as a result of an interview with yourself and Mr. Weichek, of Waterloo, You would like to have the names of the Bishops and Ministers in the Mennonite, Amish Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren in Christ Churches and the Tunker Church, who are qualified or appointed to sign Church Membership Certificates to be presented to the Commanding Officers or others in connection with military matters. The List is herewith enclosed.

We are pleased to report that everything is working smoothly as far as the liberties of our young men are concerned. There are some little misunderstandings arising occasionally, but there are no changes in the exemptions as leave granted to our brethren. The Tunker boys are having no further trouble as far as I have been able to learn. There are reports coming from Ottawa and reports published in papers in various centres that are perhaps used to arouse sentiment, but, there have been no changes in the attitude of any of the militia officers either in the Tribunals or in the Officers Headquarters. We hope that matters will continue so, and wish to thank you for your assistance in securing such results in our behalf.

Yours truly,

List of Ministers and Bishops in two Branches of
The Mennonite Church who are Authorized
To Sign Membership Certificates.

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First List.

Bishop Jonas Snyder,	Waterloo Ont.
Bishop Abram Gingrich,	Elmira Ont.
Bishop Manasseh Hallman,	Petersburg Ont.
Bishop S. F. Coffman,	Vineland Ont.
L. J. Burkholder,	Markham, Ont. Acting Bishop.
Christian Schrag,	Blake Ont. Appointed by Committee.

Second List.

Bishop Freeman Rittenhouse,	Dunnville Ont. R.R.#4.
Bishop Ezra L. Martin,	St. Jacobs, Ont. R.R.#1
John Bowman,	Elmira Ont.
Urias Martin,	Waterloo Ont.
Amos Gingerich,	Elmira 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,	Dunville Ont., R.R.#9.

List of Elders and Ministers of the
Mennonite Brethren In Christ Church
Authorized to sign Membership Certificates.

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Presiding Elder, Samuel Goudie, Stouffville Ont.

Presiding Elder, C. N. Good, Kitchener, Ont.

Ministers.

M. Bricker,	Markham Ont.
J. Bolwell,	Edgely Ont.
W. Brown,	Kitchener, Ont.
I Brubacher,	Elmwood Ont.
P. Cober,	Maryboro Ont.
S. Cressman,	Breslau Ont.
R. Eltherington,	Lion's Head Ont.
H. R. Frey,	Sunnidale Ont.
A. T. Gooding,	Stayner Ont.
J. N. Kitching,	Toronto, Ont. 181 Brunswick Ave.
Elmer Moyer,	Aylmer West Ont.
N. H. Schwalm,	New Dundee Ont.
E. Sievenpiper,	Stouffville Ont.
C. I. Sinden,	Dundalk Ont.
D. J. Storms,	Hespeler, Ont.
A. G. Warder,	Collingwood Ont.
W. Yates,	Long Bay Ont.
F. J. Lehman,	Vineland Ont.

List of Bishops and those of the Amish Mennonite
Church Authorized to sign Membership Certificates.

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Bishop Daniel H. Steinman,	Baden Ont.
Bishop Christian B. Zehr,	Wellesley Ont.
Bishop Daniel S. Jutsi,	Tavistock Ont.
Bishop Nicholas Nafziger, -	Brunner Ont.
Bishop John J. Kuepfer,	Brunner Ont.
Bishop Joseph W. Kuepfer,	Milverton Ont.
Bishop John Lichty,	Wellesley Ont.
Peter Boshart,	Milverton Ont. Acting Bishop.

List of Bishop of the Tunker Church who are
Authorized to Sign Membership Certificates.

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Bishop Charles Baker,	Batteaux Ont.
Bishop Fred Hahn,	Kindersley Sask.
Bishop John Reichert,	Fordwich Ont.
Bishop John Sider, -	Marshville Ont.
Bishop Peter M. Sctckley,	Bethesda Ont.
Bishop Bert Sherk,	Stevensville Ont.

C O P Y.

NAMES OF BISHOPS OF THE MENNONITE AND AMISH CHURCHES
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP, FOR
EXEMPTION CLAIMS.

Bishop Jonas Shyder	Waterloo, Ont.
Bishop Apram Gingrich	Elmira, Ont.
Bishop Manassed Hallman	Petersburg, Ont
Acting Bishop L.J. Burkholder	Markham, Ont
1 Bishop S.F. Soffman	Vineland, Ont.

AMISH MENNONITES.

Bishop H. Steinman	Baden, Ont
Bishop Christain B. Zehr	Wellesley, Ont
Bishop Daniel S. Justi	Tavistock, Ont
Bishop Nicholas Nafziger	Brunner, Ont.
Bishop John J. Kuepfer	Brunner, Ont.
Bishop Jacob Licjty	Wellasley, Ont
Bishop Joseph W. Kuepfer	Milverton, Ont

Bishop Freeman Rittenhouse	Dunville, Ont
Bishop Ezra L. Martin	St. Jacobs, Ont
Bishop John Richert.	Forwich, Ont.

Samuel Goudie, Presiding Elder of the Mennonite
Brethern in Christ may be treated as a Bishop for the
purpose of issuing these certificates.

Quernsey, Sask. Aug 17th. 18
 S. F. Coffman.. Dear Bro. Greeting in Jesus name

At a committee meeting held to consider Questionnaires rec'd by some of our young Brethren I was requested to again write you -
 It appears thru the public press that the Ontario Mennonites are not enjoying the full measure of exemptions as do the Russian Brethren -
 Do you know if the report is true that Ontario Mennonites may plead conscientious objector only?
 If so do our members still carry certificates or exemption cards. The questions addressed to our boys here are somewhat difficult to answer in this that they ask for the number of adherents of like faith in Canada? Where is the Governing head of this body located? etc etc.

These questions call for immediate answers and are accompanied with a statutory declaration form for the local minister to affirm as to bona fida standing of the brethren affected. Thus far nothing alarming has developed, The Regina registrar has so far refrained from signing our exemption cards "until the status of Mennonites be fully decided by Ottawa" Hoping in the meantime either Bro S. S. Rosenberger or the writer may again hear from you if any new phase

to our standing^{II} appears.

Health is good - crops very light
perhaps 10 bu to acre wheat. Still much to be
thankful for - may God ever guide you
and all of us in our varied walks of life.

Yours Fraternally -
Abraham Bowman.

Vineland Ont., August 19th 1918.

Thomas Reesor, Tres.
Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the name of the Lord.

Your letter of the 15th instant received. I had copies of the lists of names of the Ministers and bishops of the several Churches represented in our Organization as well as the revisions of those lists. I made out complete lists as revised and have sent them on to Mr. Scott.

All of the ministers and Bishops of your branch were included in the list. This was according to your former arrangement. Only the Bishops of our Church, and those acting in that capacity in districts where we have no Bishop, were included in our list. The Tunker Brethren have sent only the names of their Bishops, including one in the North West. The Amish Branches have their Bishops names only. The M. B. C. Church have sent the names of their two presiding Elders and all of the ministers in the congregations of the Ontario Conference.

There should not have been the misunderstanding about these lists that there seems to have been. Perhaps it was due to the sending of the lists from the Departments in Ottawa. There may have been some misunderstanding also in the way that the matter was presented to the Department. Some seems to have had the idea that only the Bishops were to have the authority to sign the Certificates and since not all the Churches were represented by Bishops they were perhaps cut off of the list. I have made it clear on the lists that all of those whose names appear on the list under the heading of the Church name are authorized to sign certificates.

I am glad that you took this matter up with Mr. Scott. He seems willing to do all that he can to help our cause, since he more fully understands the position that we take. Mr. Weichel is also a faithful helper and we should be especially grateful for the way in which he has voluntarily given us aid. Things seem to be settled down to a state of quietness at present, but we may expect some change about the first of October, or soon after the Fall seeding and harvest are past. We need to continue our prayers to the Lord for His help.

Wife has been quite sick with her old Gall Stone trouble. By the mercies of the Lord she is again improving. Pray for us.

Yours in faith and service,

Vineland Ont., August 19th 1918.

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 10th Instant regarding the providing of a minister for the Almira Congregation, as recommended by the York County Ministers meeting, was duly received. I am sorry that I overlooked replying to you, but it was owing to the illness of my wife at that time and subsequent attacks which she has had that kept me from looking after some of these matters. I am sure that I would be glad to grant the permission to the Congregation as well as approve of any action on the part of you Ministers Meeting to provide ministerial help for your work there. I am not so certain about meeting with your Committee on account of the uncertain condition of Ella's Health. She had a very severe attack of her trouble last Friday, at which time a specialist was called in for consultation. He decided that an operation was not advisable at this time, stating also that her condition would likely improve, but advised an operation later on to remove the cause of her troubles. We feel, however, that the Lord has wonderfully blessed us and has heard our prayers. We feel that He will grant us all and more than we have asked for. Ella is still in bed and, while her condition is improved, she needs care and assistance until she is stronger.

All as well as usual. I mailed Brother Lapp a letter in your care today. We are expecting him here on Thursday and Friday.

Yours in faith,

Vineland Ont. August 19th, 1918.

L. J. Burkholder,
Markham Ont.

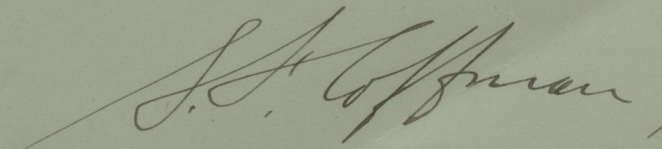
Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 12th was duly received and read with interest. Some matters were cleared up, but there is also a little haziness in the atmosphere as to why the distinctions are made regarding the differences in our churches and the source of the reports that have appeared almost simultaneously in a number of local papers. I would like very much to have copies of the clippings from the Markham papers. I felt almost like keeping those enclosed in your letter, but thought that you saved them for your own file.

Would it be possible for you to get me a copy of the Exemption paper sent to Brother Roy Wideman from the office of Mr. C. Lesslie Wilson, after he had received his Leave of Absence from the Officer Commanding? I would like very much to add that to others which I am keeping on file. I believe that some officers are making an effort to reject, in some manner, all of the boys that come under their charge from the Mennonite and Tunker Churches. There was such an experience at the Niagara camp recently in the case of a Tunker Brother from Bertie District. The Officer told him that he need not report as they did not want any of the Tunker boys in their camp. It is evident that they recognize a difference between the brethren of those Churches which hold the definite articles of faith on non-resistance and those denominations and individuals who are indifferent or express only personal opinions regarding the matter. The Lord has been working for us in this instance, we feel sure.

Brother Reesor asked me to send to Mr. Scott a copy of the lists of Bishops and Ministers of our several Churches, who were authorized by the Churches to sign Membership Certificates. This I have done, and have made the distinctions between the several bodies and have given the lists as revised after sending the first list. These are now complete, and include the Bishops and those Acting Bishops or Appointed in our Conference; the Bishops and Ministers of the Conservative branch; The Bishops and one Acting Bishop of the Amish Branches; the Bishops of the Tunker Church, including one in the North West, and the Two Presiding Elders and all of the Ministers in charge of Congregations of the M. B. C. Church. There are no new names added to the lists.

Yours in faith,



Vineland Ont. August 20th, 1918.

J. Bolwell,
Edgeley Ont.

Dear Brother:-

Your letter of the 15th instant received in due time. on account of the sickness of my wife, - a severe attack of Gall Stone trouble, - I was not able to answer at once. We thank the Lord that he has helped us in this time of trouble as in times past. We are looking to Him to fully recover her.

The items which you sent are interesting as revealing the opinions of people who know nothing of the Mennonite people and who undoubtedly have not taken the trouble to get reliable information concerning them. It would have been a very easy matter for the writers of the items to refer to the Government records and find out all that he asked in his list of Questions. The special Order in Council may be had from the Government by any one who applies for it. In that Order the conditions of the coming to this Country of the Russian Mennonites are all stated.

The items clearly refer to the Russian Mennonites of the West. You may have considered the advisability of making a reply to these statements. For my part, I think it would be inadvisable to do so at present, owing to the efforts certain members of the Government are making to shield us from just such antagonisms. To agitate the question now would be embarrassing them in their efforts. A reply to statements in local papers might be in order when local questions are broached, but it might be best to keep out of the public press. Our statements would most certainly be misunderstood.

For your own benefit I am sending you a copy of a speech by Lord Dufferin to the Mennonites of Manitoba soon after their settlement in this Country. It is interesting in the light of what one of the writers in the Sentinel has said, and many other false assertions made in the same articles. The Russian Brethren in the West have been claiming exemption for their children, even if they are not members of the Church We have claimed exempt only for those who are members of the Church. That is the only local exemption. If this reply is not satisfactory, please write again. Yours in service,

EXTRACTS OF LORD DUFFERIN'S SPEECH OF WELCOME
TO THE FIRST MENNONITE SETTLERS
IN MANITOBA?

August 21st, 1877.

Fellow-Citizens of the Dominion and Fellow-Subjects of Her Majesty,--

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

 Mennonite Reserve, Manitoba.

R R # 2 Pickering Aug 21 1918

S H Coffman
 Vineland

Dear Brother, Greeting

On Monday I had occasion to go to Waterloo on behalf of a boy who is in Niagara camp and has been threatened for a draft overseas, I called on Mr. Weichel but he was away so I went to Galt to see Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott is a very busy man and appears to take less interest in our case than Mr. Weichel, but he wired to Ottawa on behalf of our boy I suppose the cause of our trouble is being struck off list for certificates. Mr. Scott has written to Ottawa regarding the matter and Mr. Weichel promised to make a trip ~~at~~ to Ottawa if necessary. I asked you to mail ^{copy of} list of ministers which was sent to Ottawa to Scott

Mr Weichel would very much like a list, could you send him one also, I have no complete list to send to him

Outside of the one boy everything is quiet here there is no disturbance in Waterloo that I know of, May God protect us in our tribulations

Yours truly

Chas Reesor

Vineland Ont. August 22nd 1918.

Mr. W. G. Weichel,
Waterloo Ont.

Dear Sir:-

At the suggestion of Mr. Thomas Ressor, I take pleasure in sending to you, herewith enclosed, a copy of the list of the bishops and ministers of our several churches who are authorized by the Conferences and congregations to sign the Membership Certificates of the young men who require them for presentation to the Military Authorities in the matter of securing their relief from military service.

We are certainly glad for what has been accomplished for us through the agency of our friends, and trust that the understanding which we now have with the Government may continue uninterruptedly.

Yours most truly,

Narkham, Ont. Aug. 24th 1915

S. F. Coffman

Vineland, Ont.

Dear brother, Greetings.

Yours of the 19th is to hand. We join with you in praise to God for the improvement of sister Ellis' condition. May her recovery be complete and speedy if it be His will.

You will please receive this as a notice to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of Conf. at Baden on Sept. 2nd after the afternoon session of S. S. Conference. The question of supplying a minister for the Alvinia congregation; and the method of raising a memorial fund for war relief work will be considered. Any other questions which may arise will also be dealt with. Your presence is sincerely desired.

I intended that you should keep the clippings from the Narkham paper.

I am sending copy of the letter to Roy Wideman. I do know that I will need it again. You will notice this bears date of July 29. and he had already reported and was posted in a C. of the Bat. on the 23rd. I considered therefore that it was worthless. Today I had Roy W. John Noakes and a M. B. P. man Edgar Lager in Col. Bickford's office. L. F. Col. R. P. was very courteous. He confirmed the cancellation of Roy's order to report. This counsel was verbal.

The 30 day leave of absence to these men expired with this week.

Col. Windegar extended the leave until Sept. 9. and in our