

Sept 3rd 1918
Milverton R.O.
Ont.

Dear brother I will send
you a Money Order for
thirty nine dollars and six
cts \$39.06. Of this amount
32.36 is for the war sufferers
relief fund and six dollars
and seventy cts is for you
for the trouble you are
having about the war. This
a contribution from the church
at Poole, Ont. Trusting you
will see to it that it
reaches its destination.

Yours truly
Daniel Gehr

Vineland Ont. Sept. 5th, 1918.

Daniel Zehr,
Milverton Ont.

RR.#1.

Dear Brother in the Lord:- Greeting to you and the Brotherhood at Poole in the name of aHim whom we love and serve.

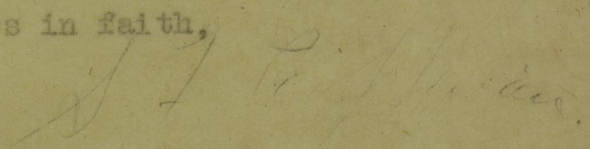
Your letter with the enclosure, which was mailed on Sept. 3rd, was duly received. The Money Order for \$39.06, was disposed of according to your directions. I have sent the amount of \$32.36 to the Treasurer of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, Brother Thomas Reesor, of Pickering Ont. and he will acknowledge the receipt of the amount to you.

Up to the present time there has been no definite arrangement made with the Government as to the use of any funds that might be placed in their hands for charitable or relief work. Those who were appointed in the Government to arrange these matters for us have been away in the Old Country and have returned very recently. As soon as we can get in touch with them again some plan may be forthcoming. If there is no arrangement possible with the Government, our Organization will make use of the funds through other channels. We know that the Lord will bless those who have given to the cause in this way and we know that He wishes us to remember the poor and suffering that are about us on every hand.

The amount that was sent to us for our use, is very much appreciated as a token of the good will and brotherly love that exists in our hearts and we pray that the Lord will bless all the brethren and those who have had a share in the Gift. We feel that we are unworthy of these favors and have felt repaid for all that we have been able to do by knowing that our efforts were appreciated and the homes of so many of our people are happier on account of the release of the sons from the ranks of those whom the officials of our land have called to bear arms. We thank the Lord for giving us this liberty and may we prove faithful to our privileges of freedom and exercise ourselves in greater works of mercy.

Thanking you again for your kindness and thanking the brotherhood for their love and sympathy, I am,

Humbly, Yours in faith,



Vineland Ont., Sept. 5th, 1918.

Thomas Reesor:-
Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

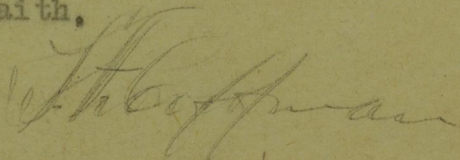
Please find enclosed a Post Office Order for the amount of Thirt-two Dollard and thirty-six cents, (\$32.36) which was sent to me from the Poole congregation, Amish, for the war-sufferers relief fund. It was sent by Daniel Zehr, Milverton Ont., R.R.#1. and might be acknowledged to him.

I was in Warelooc County the first of this week and met Brother L. J. Burkholder there. As I had some business in Kitchener, I went to see Mr. Euler, to find out what methods he had been using in securing the release of several young brethren from service. His methods were practically the same as those used by others, requiring the membership certificate and securing the indefinite Leave of Absence from the Command-in Officer. I had not time to go up to Waterloo to see Mr. Weichel, as I would like to have done in order to find out what was being done concerning the special donation to the Government. I learned through Mr. Euler that Mr. Calder has returned, and since he is the one who was appointed by the Government to look after that matter for us. I thought it would be in order to write him again and call attention to the matter and say that we are waiting to learn what suggestions the Government has for us.

Owing to the shortness of the time that I had at my disposal I was unable to call upon Mr. Scott. I have learned that the limitations placed on the date of members being received into the Church will not effect any of our boys who have been brought up in the Church. The Government is only making provisions that will effect any one who has come into the Church solely for the purpose of escaping from Military Service. There are no such cases among us that I am aware of, and it is very probable that Our brethren will not be required to do any Military Service of any kind.

May we hope that we will be spared any further complications with the Government respecting our position and attitude toward the Government. We have endeavored to act under the instructions of the Government at all times and desire to do our duties as citizens and subjects. I hope that there will be a hearty respose to the appeal for the memorial for the Government.

Yours in faith,



Goshen College
Goshen Ind
Sept. 11, '18.

Dear Bro. Coffman:

We received your letter about a week ago. We are thankful to you for the information you have given us. We have been getting information from various places, which we believe can be trusted, we know now, a little better where we are at, and what is required of us. We are mailing our questionnaires to-day, asking for Diplomatic Exemption. If you know anything about the forms & think that it might bring us into difficulty by staying over here, let

we know. We received some help from J. A. Hartzler in filling out the questions. We have hopes that we will get thru alright without coming home, and yet we feel just a little uneasy yet as to how long we are allowed to stay if our exemption should be disallowed. We will ask some definite questions in a letter to Ottawa in a few days.

We would like to have you send us the necessary papers for crossing the line, in case we do come home before the 28th of Sept. We have no Church Membership Certificate forms at hand. Mother sent us two but we used those for our questionnaire. Any help you can give us along this line or anything you think we need, will be greatly appreciated. We are not at all uneasy as to what might happen, we have decided to go home if we are not absolutely sure that we will not be liable to U.S. draft, we will rather take the safe plan. The folks at home are very much alarmed about us & think we should go home immediately rather than delaying till we cannot get home.

If we understand it correctly the exemption the boys get at home would not do us any good. Had

a letter from Cressman & he
said that they had their exemption
& permission to come to U.S. but
if they would come they would
be subject to U.S. draft. He had
that word from Washington D.C.
These surely are days of un-
certainty & only as we trust
in the Lord can we be kept from
unnecessary anxiety.

We are having plenty of rainy
days. Silo filling is the work out
among the farmers. I was going to help
fill the silos out on the farm to-day
but it has been raining ever
since morning.

Hoping to hear from you soon
in regards to letters of church
certificate for crossing the line.

May success, health, & happiness
be to you & your family.

Yours in His service N. S. Bauman

Vineland Ont., September 7th, 1918.

Hon. J. A. Calder, M. P.
Minister of Immigration and Colonization,
Ottawa Ont.

Honourable Sir;-

With respect to the objects of the Non-Resistant relief Organization, which had in view the presentation of a fund to the Government as a Memorial for freedom from Military Service, our Organization awaits the pleasure of the Government in suggesting channels through which this fund may be presented and objects, in harmony with the religious principles of the Churches represented in the organizations, to which the Government may apply the use of the Fund thus presented.

The regulations now in force, whereby our members are given indefinite Leave of Absence from service, are satisfactory in affording relief from former unpleasant conditions. We trust that such favors may be continued to us. Our gratitude, we trust, will be proven by faithful and loyal responses to every civil obligation and duty.

Yours, respectfully,

J. F. Coffman

for the Committee

Copy Wendland East, Sep 7, 1918

Oscar Burkholder
~~Frank~~ Burkholder East.

Dear Brother: ~~Excuse~~ Excuse.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the General Conference resolution referred to. The special sentence to which the officials are said to object and upon which they base their claims to a violation of the espionage act, is found under "recommendations" - 2. "Under no circumstances can they consent to service, etc." This is only a recommendation to the Brethren and not a binding resolution. Anyone has the privilege of leaving the Church if they desire so to do. Their obligation ^{to the Church} to refrain from military service was taken when they joined the Church and not when the Conference resolution was passed. I hope you will have no trouble.

Yours & His

A.C.

Vineland Ont., September 7th 1918.

Hon. W. A. Euler, M. P.
Kitchener, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

You will please find, enclosed herewith, a copy of the speech of Lord Dufferin to which I referred when in your office on Wednesday, last. You will notice therein some of the principles of our national Government which have been lost sight of in the attitude which the Government has taken toward our non-resistant people, both in the West and in the East.

Respecting the position which our Churches take on the question of military service, our confession of faith has been understood to apply to all forms of military service as objectionable to christian living. Since we are disenfranchised by the War-times Elections Act, which exempts only from Combatant service one who conscientiously objects to combatant service, we are still under a condition which affords no relief to our conscience. This position is peculiar, and the Church and the law come into direct conflict. There is actually no place for our people under the Act except that of the Russian Mennonites whose faith is recognized in the Order in Council and under the law which is cited under that Order in Council.

Any information that may be given in helping in the solution of this question will be gladly given, and we thank you for the interest and help that you have manifested and given in our behalf.

Yours truly,

Vineland Ont., Sept. 7th, 1918.

Moses Shantz,
Baden Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

In a conversation with Brother Royer, while here, there was an intimation that the Federal authorities of the United States were considering taking action against the General Conference, and the Ministers and others who signed the Resolution regarding the stading of Church on Military matters.

It may be that our Ministers in Canada who signed the resolution may also be approached for evidence as to the signing of the resolution and the purpose of it. We ought to understand that the Resolution was not considered as a regulation forbidding any of our members acting as they saw fit. All who united with the Church took the obligation of the faith not to engage in any form of military service. The Church has not obligated any one to take this stand after they have united with the Church. The Resolution was intended solely to give information as to how the church stands regarding the question of non-combatant service, since this question had never been made an issue before as it has been made at this time by the Act regarding Military service as passed by the governments of the United States and Canada. The conditions called for an expression of our Church on this special point, and the resolution clearly brings out this fact. Our people were desirous to know if any distinction was to be made on this point and the Conference gave its interpretation. It was not the purpose of the Conference to dissuade any one from being obedient to the Government. The statement was handed to the Governments of the United States and Canada and our negotiations with both Governments have been carried on in the light of the statements given in the resolution and we have been acting in harmony with the advice given to us by the Officials of both Governments.

I thought it best to let you know about this. I had a talk with some of the brethren at the Conference and had overlooked the fact that you were also a subscriber to the resolution. It may be best to keep this matter to yourself for the time being.

We are enjoying reasonable health, but Ella has been suffering somewhat from a cold and sore throat. Hope your family is well and that you are gaining in strength.

Yours in faith,

Vineland Ont., Sept. 7th, 1918.

Peter Boshart,
Milverton Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

While Brother Royer was here I learned that some of the Authorities in the United States were about taking action against the bishops, ministers, deacons and delegates of the Mennonite Church who attended the General Conference and who had signed the Resolution regarding the Attitude of the Church on Military service, both combatant and non-combatant service. This intimation was also given in the last Gospel Herald.

It is impossible to say how this action may effect our ministers in the Dominion of Canada. Some of them may be asked to give evidence as to their having been at the conference and that they signed the resolution. I think that we ought to understand that the Conference did not intend to make any of our brethren liable to prosecution by the Government for diloyalty or rebellion. All the members of the Church who came into the Church took the obligation of the faith not to do any military service, since that is one of the principles which we have always taught and still hold. So the General Conference did not change the faith and did not change the opinions of any members as they were expressed at the time of their uniting with the Church. The resolution was not intended to do this. ~~xy~~ Any person who desired to engage in military service could renounce his principles and leave the Church if he so desired. The Church could not be expected to change its doctrines because the Government had made a law that opposed to the faith of the Church. The members could ask the Church to express its opinion on the points of difference, and that is what General Conference did. It gave the opinion concerning Non-combatant service, since this is the first time in the history of the Church that such a distinction was made and called for an expression by the Church.

We should understand that copies of this resolution were handed to both the United States Government and the Canadian Government and we, as a Church have been asking the counsel of the Governments concerning all that we have done in regard to the action of our members in relation to the laws that have been passed. We are not opposing the Government nor conspiring against them in any sense. Our purposes are true and our actions are all above board. I hope that you will have no trouble and that we may be understood by our Governments as not doing more than we have had a right to do and not more that a Church has the privilege of doing under constitutional regulations.

It may be best not to make this too public until we may know more of what is to be done. I had a talk with some of the brethren at the Conference, but overlooked the fact that you had also attended the General Conference.

With thanks to God for mercies that He has granted us, and wishing you are yours every blessing from the Lord, I am,

Yours in faith,

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

- I. Local Tribunals granted "Exemption from Combatant service on account of religious belief."
 1. Application to Dist. Tribunals for complete exemption, were Disallowed or Dismissed.
 2. Dist. Tribunal changed a few appeals as follows,-
 - a. "Allowed on farm, and exempt from combatant service as Mennonites
 - b. "Allowed as a farmer and from combatant service.
 - c. "Allowed as a farmer."
 3. A number applied to Dist. Tribunal for complete exemption and received no report.
 4. Applications for appeal to Central Appeal Judge,
 - a. Majority refused appeal.
 - b. A number applied the second time and were allowed.
 4. Appeals to Central Judge,
 - a. Record of only three,- Total exemption refused.
 - b. Majority have received no report.

- II. Local Tribunals granted "Exemption as Farmers, or "While remaining on the farm."
 1. Class of exemptions specified,
 - a. As a farmer, or on the farm.
 - b. As a farmer and from combatant service.
 - c. As a farmer, also on account of religious belief.
 - d. Until he ceases to be a farmer.
 - e. Until date mentioned.
 - f. As a farmer, not called upon for duty as a soldier.
 2. Appeals from these decisions to the Dist. Tribunals for total exemption were treated as follows,-
 - a. No decision.
 - b. Dismissed.
 - c. Changed to Exemption from combatant service.
 - d. Allowed exemption while engaged as a farmer and from combatant service.
 3. A few appeals for permission to Appeal to Central Judge, Disallowed.

- III. Local Tribunals specified exemptions as "Granted" or "Allowed."
 1. Appeals from these decisions to the Dist. Tribunals for total exemption were treated as follows,-
 - a. Exempted while engaged in farming.
 - b. Disallowed.
 - c. Exempted while in present occupation.
 - d. Allowed from combatant service on account of religious belief.

- IV. Local Tribunals granted Exemption because of religious belief; not specifying the belief, nor from what service exempted.
 1. Appeals from this decision to the District Tribunal for total exemption answered as follows,-
 - a. Exemption from combatant service on account of religious belief.

V. Local Tribunals refused exemption.

1. Appeals from these decisions to the District Tribunal for total exemption were treated as follows,-
 - a. Exemption allowed.
 - b. Exemption allowed as a farmer and from combatant service, on account of religious belief.
 - c. Allowed on farm.
 - d. Allowed until Class II is called by Proclamation, if remaining on the farm.

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

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

VIII. Local Tribunals granted exemption as "Allowed while in present employment," \employment not specified/.

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

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

X. Local Tribunals granted exemptions as follows,

- a. Granted,-Mennonite," or "Allowed,-Mennonite."

These were not appealed, believing them to have been given in the interpretation of the act in accordance with the decision of the Military Service Council.

XI. Appeals, a few, direct to Military Service Council for exemption, were acknowledged but not further decided. These were from Canadian citizens in the United States.

COPY.

H.F. Beresford,
Deputy Registrar.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
Military Service Branch.
Office of Deputy Registrar, under Military Service Act.

London Ontario. Sept. 9, 1918.

Mr. Ezra Baer,
R.R.#2,
Petersburg Ont.

Dear Sir.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. enclosing certificate of membership of the Mennonite Church. For your information will say that western Mennonites are immune from Military service and constitute one of the exceptions to the Act.

It has been decided that Ordained Ministers of the Mennonite faith in the four western provinces shall be authorized to issue to the men, belonging to their denomination, of military age and conditions, certificates of such memberships and the police have been instructed to honour these certificates. Eastern Mennonites, according to the ruling of the Central Appeal Judge, do not constitute an exception to the Act and will be exempt from combatant service only.

It will, therefore, be necessary for you to produce a certificate of membership to the Western Mennonites before you would be immune from the operation of the Military Service Act.

Yours Truly,

(signed,) H. F. Beresford.

Deputy Registrar, under Military Service Act.

149 College St. Toronto, Ont.
Sept. 10th 1918

Mr. L. J. Burkholder
Markham, Ont.

3315164 Pte. John G. Voskes.

With reference to your letter of 4th inst. addressed to the Officer Commanding Canadian Garrison Regiment with regard to the marginally named man this office is now in receipt of a letter from the Officer Commanding Can. Gar. Reg. to the effect that this man was struck off as erroneously ordered to report on the 14th day of June 1918.

In view of this fact he will not need a further certificate for leave of absence.

Signed R. C. Windegar,
Lt. Col. for A. A. G., M. S. No 2.

149 College St. Toronto Ont. Sept. 10th 1918

M. L. Burkholder
Warkham Ont.

3315164 Pte J. G. Woakes

With reference to your letter of the 4th inst. addressed to the Officer Commanding Canadian Garrison Regiment with regard to the marginally named man this Office is now in receipt of a letter from the C. C. Com. Gar. Reg. to the effect that this man was struck off as erroneously ordered to report as on the 14th day of June 1918.

In view of this fact he will not need a further certificate for leave of absence.

Signed R. C. Windegar

Lt. Col. for C. C. G., M. O., No 2.



-E.C.

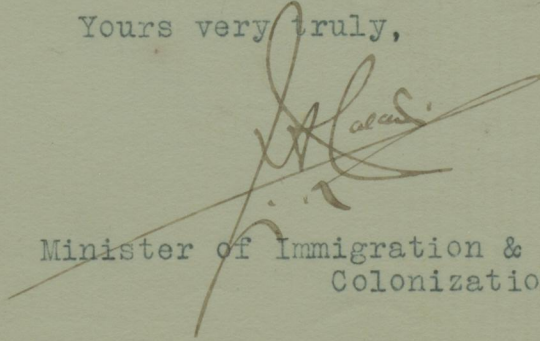
OFFICE OF
THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION
AND COLONIZATION

Ottawa, Ontario,
11th September, 1918.

Dear Sir,-

I have your letter of the 7th instant in reference to a proposed donation by the people you represent for some worthy relief or other purpose, growing out of the conditions existing during these trying times. As the members of the Government have some difficulty in determining the wishes of your committee and as there are so many patriotic and other relief funds requiring assistance, it has been considered best to leave the decision to those responsible for the collection of the fund. The decision reached will, I am sure, be appreciated by any society or organization that may be assisted.

Yours very truly,


Minister of Immigration &
Colonization.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,
Vineland,
Ontario.

Markham. Ont. Sept. 12th 1915

S. T. Coffman

Vineland, Ont.

My dear brother:— Greetings. I am enclosing a copy of letter re bro. John Roakes. His leave of absence was extended, recently, until Sept 9. I was with him at Headquarters this week one day and this is what we obtained. Through some clerical errors his case was neglected. It seems that one must get after the thing desired. I consider the result as good as we can expect.

Excepting bro. Joseph Smith a Wisler man who is awaiting his release at Niagara I think all is clear at Markham.

A letter from bro. Jonas Snider today states that the Waterloo congregation has approved the action of Ex. Com. etc and that they expect to ordain bro. Lewis Weber, if it suits his convenience, on the 27th inst. He intends to be at home before that time.

Bro. Chris. L. Hoover passed away this morning. The funeral is Sunday A.M.

Fraternally,

L. J. Burkholder.

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT? ---1917.

Notice of Disposition of Appeal, to Central Judge.

Serial Number,
713990 AC

Consecutive
Number on Schedule
630 A

Name, Ezra Boshart,
Street and No.--R.R. 1.
City or Town,--- Milverton Ont.

Your are notified that the Appeal to the Central Appeal Judge with respect to the exemption from Military Service of-- Yourself -- has been considered by the Central Appaal Judge, and his decision was that exemption be ---"The subject is in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada, passed in the year 1873, and is not within the application of the Military Service Act 1917.

(Sgd) E. F. Beresford,
Registrar under the Military Service
Act.

At London Ont.

Copy.

Military Service Act 1917.

CENTRAL APPEAL JUDGE.

AC 713990

A 630

Ezra Boshart,
Milverton Ont., R.R. 1.
District, London.

The subject of this application being in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada, passed in the year 1873, is not within the application of the Military Service Act 1917 and neither the Local Tribunal, the Appeal Tribunal nor the Central Appeal Judge has jurisdiction to deal with his application for exemption.

Upon this ground the appeal is dismissed and the Registrar should notify the subject of the application of this disposition of the application and the reasons therefor.

Clerk to the Central Appeal Judge.
Ottawa, September 13, 1918.

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT 1917.

Notice of Disposition of Appeal to Central Appeal Judge.

Serial Number,
706062 AC

Consecutive Number
on Schedule
159 A

Mr. John Roes,
Brunner Ont.

You are notified that the appeal to the Central Appeal Judge with respect to the exemption from Military Service of -- yourself-- has been considered by the Central Appeal Judge and his decision was that Exemption be-- --"The subject is in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada, passed in the year 1873, and is not under the application of the Military Service Act 1917.

(Signed) H. S. Beresford,
Registrar under Military Service Act.
London.

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT 1917.

CENTRAL APPEAL JUDGE.

AC 706062 A 1441
John Roes,
RR#1. Brunner Ontario.
District, London.

The subject of this application being in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada, Passed in the year 1873, is not within the application of the Military Service Act 1917, and neither the Local Tribunal, the Appeal Tribunal, nor the Central Appeal Judge has jurisdiction to deal with his application for exemption.

Upon this ground the Appeal is dismissed and the Registrar should notify the subject of the application of this disposition of the application and the reasons therefor.

(Signed) Clerk to the Central Appeal Judge.
Ottawa, Sept. 13th, 1918.

Vineland Ont., Sept. 13th, 1918.

Members of the Non-Resistant
Relief Organization.

Brethren:- Greeting.

In a letter to the Hon. J. A. Calder, on Sept. 7th, the following request was made. "With respect to the objects of the Non/resistant Relief Organization, which had in view the presentation of a fund to the Government as a memorial for freedom from military service, our Organization awaits the pleasure of the Government in suggesting channels through which and objects, in harmony with the religious principles of the Churches represented, to which the Government may apply the use of the Fund thus presented."

A reply from Mr. Calder, dated 11th September, is as follows:- "I have your letter of the 7th instant in reference to a proposed donation by the people you represent for some worthy relief or other purpose, growing out of the conditions existing during these trying times. As the members of the Government have some difficulty in determining the wishes of your Committee and as there are so many patriotic and other relief funds requiring assistance, it has been considered best to leave the decision to those responsible for the collection of the fund. The decision reached will, I am sure, be appreciated by any society or organization that may be assisted."

It is the purpose of your secretary to again write Mr. Calder asking him to suggest funds that are under the control of the Government, or organization controlled by the Government through which the special fund might be administered. In this way we may be able to get information and work in sympathy with the Government. Also, I think that we had best proceed with the collection of the fund and then see some member of the government about the disposal of it through Government channels. It may be possible that the members of the special Committee do not appreciate the spirit of our people in the dispensing of this money, making use of it in work outside of military objects, and that, if it is possible to clear up this point there will be no difficulty in getting the money used as it is intended, and all will be satisfied.

Hoping that this will meet your approval, and awaiting your further pleasure, and trusting also that others may have been interested in getting information on this point, I am,

Yours in His service Whom we love,

J. F. Coffman
For the Committee.

Vineland Ont., Sept. 14th, 1918.

Norman G. Bauman,
Goshen Ind.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 11th instant received.

We have no further information to give you relative to your securing exemption from military service while in the United States. Last week I had a talk with Mr. Euler, M. P. of Kitchener, regarding the status of our brethren who are in the United States and he said, that if they remained there they would be subject to the draft regulation of the United States unless they had special exemption. Those of our brethren who are citizens of the U. S. and resident in Canada would be subject to the exemption or military regulation of Canada. He could give me no information concerning the Diplomatic Exemption of Canadian citizens which would free them from the Draft Law of the U. S. provided they continued to reside there.

I saw the paper that was sent to Brother J. B. Cressman. It is very indefinite as to the probability of giving exemption from service while in the U. S. Another brother from the Amish church at New Hamburg, is expecting to attend school in Chicago, (Bethany Bible School) and has secured a leave of absence from Canada for eighteen months, from the Registrar at London, Mr. Wismer. It is evident that there are several ways of getting permission to remain in the United States, and a number of ways of treating the cases and much may depend upon the source of the application and the authorities to whom one applies.

I know nothing of the Questionnaire to which you refer. It may be an American Document, and if so may be presented to the Canadian or British official at Washington and decided by him as to whether the applicant has a just cause of remaining in the United States and free from military service. In that case there may be a new phase placed upon the privilege of the Mennonites in Canada under present conditions. I am anxious to know what will be the result of your application, but I fear that it will not be granted. Our present freedom from military service is only a special arrangement with the Militia Department at Ottawa and not a recognition of our faith under the Military Service Act. And since this is the case, it may be possible for any of our brethren to receive Leave to remain in the United States, only after their application to a Registrar or from the Military Officer of the District in which they reside.

Regarding your return to ~~the~~ Canada, in case you should be required to do so, have you registration cards from Canada? Have you any papers showing that you have had previous exemption from military service, or had made application for such exemption in Canada? These papers may help you, and you would likely have no further trouble in returning. Your Church Membership Certificates might be of some assistance, but might not be recognized by the officials at the line. Also, under the regulations that require Canadian citizens to return to Canada for registration or military service, it is not likely that officers will be stationed at the line to take into custody every person so returning. If they are not in the classes already called, or prove that they have not been trying to evade the law, they will likely be allowed to proceed without further molestation. In case you were taken into custody, our arrangements would secure you freedom again.

I am sorry not to be able to give you farther information. I will write to Brother Jonas Snyder to forward you Membership Certificates at once. Brother Jacob Snyders were here to see about their son in Illinois. He will likely return to Canada. Do the thing that seems wisest and most possible. Seek His guidance in all that you do.

Yours in faith,

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

MILVERTON, ONT., Sep 16 1918

J. G. Hoffman

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Bro. - to an extent of our Faith: -

Greeting in
 Jesus name to all who try to obey Him to a
 happy end. We are (thank God) fairly well
 hoping you are all the same.

In regards to us naturalizing for this
 country! We have not done this, as the oath
 of allegiance calls unconditionally for true
 allegiance to Geo. the 5th, ^{and his} ~~we~~ We all claim
~~we~~ we have promised true allegiance to our
 God and Savior who is King of Kings
 and therefore can not promise both, as one
 calls for non-resistance and the other may
 call for many things that would be contrary
 to Christs teachings.

But now the Government, or The Department
 of Justice, Military Service Branch, has
 issued a Notice to United States Citizens
 in Canada to either return to the United
 States or to enlist here in Canada, Or at
 least report here to The Registrar Under
 Military Act. 1917.

Now we ask your kind advise in this
 matter. Could we stay here and have the
 same privilege as we think the Law is here for

Mennonites and Amish Mennonites? As we claim the Mennonites are all excepted from Military service.

I expect you will have seen the Notice Or you no doubt can see it in a Daily paper, or in almost any P. O.

I am 44 years old, Born Feb. 16th, 1874. My Son is 21 years of age and Last fall Claimed exemption on account of religion And I claimed exemption for him on account of religion, ~~and~~ and because I needed him.

Then he received exemption on account of being an American Citizen. Will he now have to report again?

Kindly look into this Matter and Let us know very soon so we will ~~at~~ know what we should do.

Let us know as much about it as you can right off, or, so we will received your letter no later than coming Sat.

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

Respectfully Yours,

J. R. Ebersol.

P.S. We also have a Bro. in Faith her from Ind. who married here 9 or 10 years ago and is working for us. They have 7 children. He is aged 33 years.

Then there is another Bro. who formerly came from Pa. then about 8 or 9 years in Kas. and about 4 or 5 weeks ago came to Ill. Ga. or some western Prov. and is now here about 2 weeks and has given his certificate as member and wants to be a Bro. here, and is a Bro. here now.

How will it be for these Bros.

RR# 2 Pickering Sept 16 1915

A J Coffman
 Riveland

Dear Brother, Greeting in the
 name of the Lord.

Your favor of 13th to hand
 found noted. Regarding donation
 A few difficult matters have
 presented themselves to me
 Confidentially I would say
 the donations which I received
 from the Amish brethren
 is far short of my estimation
 of requirements for a congregation
 if we cannot realize a handsome
^{amount} we had better not proceed.
 I believe if there was some
 means of impressing the people
 of the importance of this step they
 might wake up to the occasion
 a small donation to my mind
 will do much more harm than
 good. Our branch in Waterloo
 have organized a committee
 to gather fund for the

Mercantile sailors, widows and orphans, I consider this a channel which would suit our purpose as well as any thing which has presented itself as there has been no provision made by the Government - for this branch of relief.

I suppose our brethren thought we were somewhat slow and they became anxious to do something. I am however trying to persuade them to have the money all pass through the same channel though not necessarily for the same cause. I am inclined to think we should have some way of coming together to discuss the whole question.

Hoping the Lord may be with us and ^{our} our humble efforts
Yours truly

Thomas Reesor

Petersburg Sept 18/18
1312 #2

Dear Bro in faith -

Some time ago Bro. M. Hallman requested me to forward the notice I had received from London plus my church certificate and another statement ^{re-stating} what I had sent previously regarding our attitude toward militarism. I did so and the letter, ^{answer} you will find enclosed. I was requested to ask you if it would become necessary to go over West in person, and receive a certificate signed by our Western brethren, or if we

could send our certificates over,
being signed by our ministers,
and they rewrite them and then
signing their names. The notice
which I received I sent along back
with the letter and they kept it
there. It does not say a word
about getting Leave of Absence
or about a farmer but dwells
largely on certificates. Would
you kindly return answer by
return mail as soon as
convenient

Yours in the Master

Ezra Baer

Vineland Ont., September 18th, 1918.

J. R. Ebersole,
Milverton, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 16th instant received and noted. In reply, I would say that I have seen the proclamation concerning the registration for military service of all citizens of the United States of military age who are resident in the Dominion of Canada. It is necessary that all such citizens shall recognize the authority of the country to which they belong, and especially such that are christians and desire to fulfill their duty to those who rule over them. The Question of citizenship is one that we must give some attention and I have come to the conclusion for myself that we as christians should be the most loyal citizens, in those things which concern righteousness, and also in refraining from the things that are detrimental to the welfare of our fellow-men. We should live so that we may receive the praise of the rulers for well-doing. It is possible for us to give allegiance to the rulers of our land, and we are expected to do so whether it be a King or a President who rules over us. In this case the President asks for all of the United States citizens to Register for military service even though they reside in Canada. All such citizens will comply as far as they are able to do so. In your case, you prefer not to do so on account of your family and business and your preference for living under the Canadian Government. The U. S. government give the citizens the privilege of registering under the Canadian Government, and that is what many will do. It then becomes a Question as to whether one will be loyal to one country or another. I do not think that because the Giving of Allegiance to a country looks like giving to the country our life that we should take it to mean all of that. In no case does the country hold dominion over our souls. The true allegiance require means only such obligations as rest upon any citizen of the land. The Government grants religious liberty and freedom of worship as a man thinks in his own heart and the true allegiance means only such duties as are required of all citizens. I have looked into the question since and feel that I could conscientiously give allegiance to the King, the same as I am required to do as a citizen of the United States and I was born there and am obliged to give allegiance whether I choose to do so or not. We give our highest allegiance to Christ and our our allegiance of citizens of this world to the Rulers over us.

Now, as to the duty in regard to Registering. It will only be necessary for you and your son to do nothing regarding registering until the sixty days after the 30th of July 1918 have expired. Then your obligation to return to the United States will have expired. You will then have automatically have come under the jurisdiction of the Military Service Act of Canada, and will be required to register with the Registrar of the Province or District according to the requirements of the regulations and you will receive the same privileges as do all citizens of Canada, and, as members of the Amish Mennonite Church you will receive the same treatment and privileges as our other brethren have received. I asked particularly about this matter and have been informed that such privileges will be given to our brethren who are resident here but are citizens of the United States. Such brethren must register within ten days after the 29th of September.

The brother who is working for you will be required to do the same as yourself and son. Do nothing until the sixty days have passed, then register under the Canadian Government within ten days after Sept. 29th. ~~will be regarding the brother who has come from the States to register for then~~ ~~he was in Canada before the 30th of July 1918~~ ~~then~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~Canada~~ ~~before~~ ~~the~~ ~~30th~~ ~~of~~ ~~July~~ ~~1918~~

and was not subject to any of the drafts there.

J.R.E./2.

he will be free to register here and secure the privileges of our Canadian brethren. But any brother who comes into Canada after this date will have only thirty days in which to register with the United States or to return to the United States. After the thirty days have expired such persons will be required to register under the Canadian Government within ten after the thirty days have passed.

As far as I can understand all of those concerning whom you have asked will be under the same conditions with yourself and need only wait until after the 29th of September and then register under the Canadian Government act. Your son had applied for exemption and was recognized as an American citizen. He will be required to register again as an American Citizen and as all other American Citizens.

Under the provisions of the previous of the draft law those persons who failed to report for service while resident in Canada were obliged to return to the States or lose their citizenship, and became citizens of the country where they resided. I do not know the particulars of the present regulations, but, I would not be at all surprised if that is not the case.

I hope that you will have no further trouble in this matter. We have taken these questions up with the authorities and they seem to think that there will be no trouble with regard to the exemptions of our brethren who are American citizens.

Yours in faith and service,

S. J. Coffman

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CANADA
MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR UNDER
THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917,
SOUTHAM BLOCK

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Sept. 18, 1918

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO

Bishop L. J. Burkholde
Markham, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

I was furnished some time ago with a
certificate of membership in your church on behalf
of Joseph Percy Dike, Ser. No. 333946 MC, Aldersyde, Alta.
It does not however give the date of admission; kindly
let me have this at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly

Chas. Fenwick
Chief Public Representative.

Per

E. E. Bailey

EEEB/S

Vineland Ont

Sept 18th 1918

Rev S L Coffman

Dear Brother
We The Tinker Brethren of
Canada are sending you
an offering of $153.\overset{25}{100}$ as
A slight token of our
appreciation for your
untiring efforts in helping
us to secure the liberty
of our young Brethren
from the Military Authority

Elvin E Winger is sending
\$25.00 with it

Yours Truly

Wellington Duxbury

Hagersville, P.O. R.R. No. 1.

Ont

Gormley Sep 18th 1918
S. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont

Dear Bro — Greeting —

I am in receipt of your communication of the 13th inst and contents fully noted. I may say in reply that everything is moving along nicely. We held our Canadian conference last week. And our people will proceed at once to raise the memorial fund. With the understanding of course that it be expended in keeping with our faith. I am urging immediate action to head of the next Victory Bonds.

yours as ever

DWA

Elmira, Ont., Sept. 18/18.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Friend:

Greetings.

Some time has elapsed since I last corresponded with you but I am keeping in touch with affairs through the diligence of brother Reesor. He has forwarded to me copies of your communications with the authorities at Ottawa and I note that the donation proposition is still under consideration.

The attitude of the people of our branch of the Church in this section need not be described as you will recall the situation as it presented itself at the first meeting of the organization at Kitchener. The Mercantile Marine Sailors' Fund has been brought to our attention and there is every indication that the matter will be taken up and a liberal fund raised.

The Sailors' Fund is being regarded as perhaps the most suitable cause that has, as yet, presented itself to the non-resistant classes as the funds raised are to be for the support of the widows and children of non-combatant sailors who are employed in the transfer of merchandise and not as a fighting unit. We are also reminded that the government does not support these widows and children as it does in the case of soldiers.

At the suggestion of Brother Reesor I am making every effort to have this donation made to the committee to be passed from there on to the place stipulated by the donators, as it is of the utmost importance that we work together as much as possible. The fore-sight with which the committee was blessed enables us to raise funds in any manner we think proper and to make the donation to any specified cause. The people can donate generously and with a free conscience and the funds thus raised could be handed to the committee along with those of the other non-resistant classes with the assurance that they will reach ^{the} destination for which they are intended.

I would be pleased to have your advice in this matter and would gladly consider any suggestions offered.

Yours very truly,

N. M. Bearinger

Vineland Ont. September 19th 1918.

Ezra Baer,
Petersburg Ont.
R.R.#2.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 18th instant received and noted. It seems to be the case that you have handed to the Registrar at London a certificate to the effect that you were a member of the congregation at Guernsey Sask, and your certificate was likely signed by Brother Hallman. I am not sure that I have the conditions correct, but it seems to me that is the reason that the Registrar cited you to the privileges of the Mennonites in the West. It certainly was very kind of him to suggest a way so that you can be immune to military service.

In correspondence with some of the Western brethren I have learned that none of the Certificates granting complete exemption from military service have been countersigned by the Registrars in the West since they were awaiting a decision from Ottawa as to the standing of those Mennonites who were not Russian originally. I have not yet learned of the decision concerning how the Mennonites of Canada were to be disposed of in the Western Provinces. I would be glad if they would be placed in the same class as the Russians, because, to my mind, that is the only classification possible when we take into consideration the nature of our faith and the conditions under which the Russian Brethren received their total exemptions.

According to the direction of the London Registrar, it will only be necessary for you to write to Brother Rosenberger and ask him to fill out and sign a membership certificate for you, if you are still a member of the congregation at that place. You will then forward that certificate to London and prove that you hold membership with a Western Mennonite Congregation and secure your total exemption. You should ask brother Rosenberger to send you a duplicate certificate. - one to send to London and one to keep with you. This is all that I can make out of the letter from London, and if you still hold membership in the West that will be the proper course for you to pursue.

If you are a member of the congregation at Mannheim or Shantz's it would be better for you to inform the Registrar concerning the matter and if you have been called to report for service, ask that the Leave of Absence as arranged for Mennonites be granted you, or, apply to the Officer Commanding District #1 in person and ask for your Leave of Absence as a member of the Mennonite Church.

I hope that this will help to clear up your position. It is rather a peculiar one, and I would be glad to learn how you get along with it. May the Lord lead you by His wisdom and enable you to do the right thing.

Yours in faith,

A. J. Coffman

Vineland Ont., Sept. 19th 1918.

Wellington Duxbury,
Hagersville Ont.,
R.R.#1.

Dear Brother Duxbury:- Greeting to you and yours in the name of the Lord.

It is in perfect order for myself and family to offer you and the brotherhood of the the Tunker Church our heartiest thanks in the name of our Master, for the remembrance of us with the generous offering which you have forwarded to us. It is beyond our merit for the work that was done and we feel unworthy of such an expression of gratitude since we were only partially instrumental in securing the favors of the Government which have resulted equally to so many of us. And it is beyond our power to express to you the feeling of gladness that we have been able to help some of those who were in distress and have the assurance that there are a few more warm and earnest souls that are remembering us before the throne of God and making intercession for us that the Lord may give us greater spiritual blessings. These blessing we crave beyond the earthly gifts.

Since the Lord has placed these evidences of the love of the brethren in our hands we feel to ask His counsel in making the proper use of them and to answer the prayers that have been joined with these consecrated means. May His name be praised with the use of all that belongs to His children. We desire to assure you that we pray that the Lord may abundantly increase His blessings upon those who have in this manner shared with us in the work of ministering relief to the suffering parents and friends who were in distress regarding the faith and faithfulness to the Lord of their sons. May those sons be spared to the parents and to the Church. May they be a power in His hands to enlighten and save others from the powers of sin and from the kingdom of darkness. As there has been a bestowal of the fruits of their labors upon us as a gift, we also pray the the Lord will abundantly bless the work of the hands of the dear brethren and give them an abundance of the earth's fruits so that there may be a continuance of such liberality that will result in much greater spiritual profit and praise to the name of the Lord.

The Lord has been very gracious to us. During the last few months we have had some great trials in our home which have been the occasion of revealing the hand of the Lord to help us. My wife had a very serious attack of Gal Sone trouble. She was in a very critical condition. We are sure that only the power of the Lord has saved and recovered her to us. She is not strong at resent, but is gaining in strength and the mercies of the Lord are keeping and blessing her with increased strength day by day. We have had occasion to praise Him in a new manner for such grace bestowed. Brother, we need to praise Him at all times. His blessings have been coming to us from every direction. Heaven has given us a rich portion. Earth has yielded her fruits and our brethren have been showering their love upon us. Oh, that we might have humble and consecrated hearts to receive the blessings and return them in real service and thanksgiving to God.

The amount of the Cheque was \$153.25. I am writing brother Winger also. We shall be glad to have you call on us again at any time that you may find it convenient to do so. We appreciate you friendship and christian sympathy and fellowship. With kindest regards to the family and prayer for your blessing from the Lord, I am,

Humbly and gratefully,

Yoursn in the faith of Christ,

Vineland Ont. Sept. 19th 1918.

Elvin E. Winger,
Hagersville Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the name of Him who has redeemed us by His own blood and has made us His Kings and Priests to minister spiritual sacrifices unto God. This is indeed a noble service and a holy life. It is a grand thing to know we are set apart for such a service. How can one mix into such a service the life that is defiled with sin and the lusts and pleasures of men!

A letter recently received from Brother Wellington Duxbury enclosed a gift from the brethren of the Tunker Church which was a token of the appreciation of the slight services rendered in behalf of the young brethren of the Church, along with the general contribution was a substantial contribution from yourself. Dear Brother, We feel that it almost an imposition upon you to accept such a gift. We feel that we are adding to the misfortunes of those who are suffering and whom we rejoiced to lend a little assistance. We are so thankful to the Lord that our united prayers and the earnest efforts and labors of a number of brethren were so bountifully rewarded by the Lord in securing the relief that was granted to us by a beneficent Government. It surely has been a wonderful experience and the hand of the Lord was so clearly recognized in it all. We have to thank Him for all that has been accomplished, and He has in a special way led in it all and has given grace so that we might continue in the work.

We desire to thank you especially for the large sympathy which you have manifested in the cause and pray that your gift may prove a blessing in securing relief and bringing joy to many others as the cause of the Lord may require the use of it. We know that you have already received a blessing from the Lord which has amply rewarded you for your service and labor and pains required to make the gift, but the Lord always rewards abundantly. The fruits of such service continue to yield increase in years to come, and may you continue together rich harvests from the sowing of this fruit of love for the Master for His servants and for His cause.

We cannot thank you in any other way than to give this expression of our appreciation of your love to us and pray that this love may always continue, and pray too that you may be much used of the Lord in the testimony of His truth and that your life may be made free from every entanglement to be used for the Master in an acceptable and well pleasing service. The Lord has greatly blessed us in the past, and we believe that he has blessed all those who have had to do with this important work and we still look to him for continued grace and direction. We should not neglecting looking to Him to help us in every trying hour and should always watch and pray, for we are always subject to the trials that may come unexpectedly. The Lord is alone our helper.

Again thanking you for your kindness and for the prayers that ascend in our behalf, and, praying a full measure of grace in your behalf, I am,

Yours in faith and christian love,

Vineland Ont. Sept. 19th, 1918.

D. W. Heise, Sec.
Gormley Ont.

Dear brother:- Greeting.

Your letter to hand with the pamphlet inclosed. Thanks for the same. I would be glad to have a number of copies if they are available, since my co y has a few blemishes in the printing which make some lines partially illegible. Am glad that they are produced and hope that a proper use may be made of them. The title should have included the names of the Tunker and Quaker Societies. It would have been more in harmony with the work of the Non-Resistant Relief Work and effort to secure the privileges which have been accorded our people during the past history of Canada.

Brother Christian Sider called at my home on his way home from the Conference and reported a good and profitable conference. I trust that the work of our Organization will now continue and that the results may be far beyond our expectations on account of the work of the Spirit manifested in the hearts of the Lord's children in their liberality toward the sufferers of which there are so many in the world at present.

Yours in faith,