

Vineland Ont. Sept. 19th 1918.

Thomas Reesor:-  
Pickering Ont. R.R. #2<sup>3</sup>

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the Master's name.

Your letter of the 16th instant to hand. I was pleased to learn of the steps that are being taken by the brethren in North Waterloo. I trust that their efforts will result in doing a practical work for the sufferers who are neglected so much in the general provisions made for relief. The funds that are being collected for the relief of the merchant marine branch of the Government's work are no doubt accumulating, but the soldier sailors or naval branch seems to be receiving the greater attention of the public. I think that a fund collected solely for the relief of the widows and orphans of the citizen sailors will be appreciated and will be rightly appropriated. There is no doubt but that the same fund would appeal to many other people if it were brought to their attention. Under the conditions that were suggested by Mr. Calder, it might be well for the Committee to get together and work out the problem of what causes might be supported by our non-resistance bodies and send out a list of such causes and allow the people to donate to any or all as they choose to do.

I have learned through a letter received from Brother Heise that their brethren are expecting to get to work at once in the collection of the funds and desire to have it well under way before the next war loan is inaugurated. Our congregations are now planning their collections and we are planning for large contributions. It is only right that we should take a large interest in the relief work. Our people have not been overburdened with these causes in every district. Quite a number have given to the patriotic and other funds, but it has not been the case generally. Others have given individually to the war relief work. This is a special opportunity to help in a large effort, and show appreciation also for what the Government has done for us.

It may be that the Amish brethren have not yet taken up an organized canvas of their congregations. Have you received any information from brother Gascho regarding this matter. He might give some information and also give some advice as to how the work might be done among the Amish Congregations. I hope that we may be able to work together in one spirit in this matter, while the methods and the causes may be quite varied. You and the rest of the Committee in that section might be able to get together and make some plans for further work. Will be glad to hear further regarding the plans and prospects.

Yours in faith,

Vineland Ont., September 19th, 1918.

Honourable J. A. Calder,  
Minister of Immigration & Colonization,  
House of Parliament,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Sir:-

Your letter of the 11th September received and noted.

Since it is the purpose of our Committee to present the Memorial Fund to the Government in recognition of the favors granted in the past years to the people of Non-Resistant Faith, we would consider it a favor to learn what Charitable Funds or Organizations are under the control or direction of the Government. This information would be valuable to our Committee in giving information and assistance in the carrying out of its plans.

Thanking you in anticipation of this favor, I am,

Yours truly,

For the Committee,  
Non-Resistant Relief Organization.

Vineland Ont. Sept. 20th, 1918.

Director of the Military Service Branch,  
Department of Justice,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

Kindly forward to me, if possible, a copy  
of the Canada Gazette( Extra), containing the  
United States Military Service Convention Regulations  
approved by the Governor- in- Council on 20th August,  
1918.

Yours truly,

Vineland Ont., Sept, 20th, 1918.

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

Dear Sir:-

Everything is working satisfactorily at the present time. There have been only a few cases that have needed attention recently, but all have secured the favor that we have asked for.

The new regulations regarding the residence in Canada of Citizens of the United States has occasioned some inquiry. We have taken it for granted that any of such persons who are members of any of the Churches represented by our Committee, if they remain in Canada until the expiration of the sixty days allowed for return, will apply or register in Canada under the Military Service Act in Canada under the conditions of the Military Service Act, and receive the same consideration as those of our members who are citizens. There are such members in Canada who have been resident here a number of years and who had no thought of evading military service when coming into Canada.

A few of our young men have been attending our Church College in Indiana and in Kansas. They are anxious to continue their studies. What steps could be taken to secure them an exemption or leave of absence from Canada to continue their studies? A number of them have applied to the Local or District Tribunals, last year, asking for Exemption and have secured the usual "Exemption from Combatant service." They are ready to return to Canada if they are not sure of their position under the U. S. Draft Law.

Thanking you in anticipation of your favor, I am,

Yours truly,

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Thanking you in anticipation of your favor, I am,

Yours truly,

Goshen College  
Goshen Ind  
Sept. 20, 18.

Dear Bro. Coffman:

Greeting: I received  
your letter about a week ago.  
I am just as hopeful of getting  
our diplomatic exemption as  
you are doubtful. Of course  
I naturally would think that  
way & you may have good  
reasons for thinking the  
way you do.

I had a letter from Ottawa  
this morning in answer to  
a few questions I asked &  
according to his answers to  
my questions we need not

be alarmed at all, with reference to our getting out of the country after Sept. 28. In fact if our exemptions are not granted we will be required to do so & that will be no difficulty whatever in getting home. He further stated that our application for Diplomatic Exemption with the Canadian authorities is an effective protection against being drafted in the United States. He could give no information as to the outcome of our questionnaire whatever, so we are anxiously waiting for a reply as to it. In the meantime however we can safely plan for our school work & if the coming news should not be so favorable we will then do the best we can by coming home, & if it should be successful we have many reasons to be thankful. We will however have many reasons to be thankful even if it should be the opposite from what we would like it or think it would be best.

We received those church certificates & thank you for being so kind in helping us.

We are having very cold & wet weather. Irvin & I are working hard unloading coal. We worked quite hard these last four weeks since summer school closed to pay off our debts & have enough money to come home. We surely are doing well. By Sat. evening each of us will have earned a little over \$100 in the past month or practically only 4 weeks.

Again I thank you for your past letters, & may we find our comfort in Him who will never disappoint us.

Your brother in faith  
H. S. Bauman





## House of Commons

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Galt, Sept. 21st, 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Mr. Coffman:-

I have your letter of the 20th inst. and in reply would say that I do not see that there should be any objection to a Canadian returning to Canada and if we were a Mennonite he could secure exemption here in exactly the same way as the rest of your people. If they remain in the U.S. they must apply for exemption to the Director of the Military Service Branch, Department of Justice, Ottawa, Ont. within 30 days from the date that they become liable for service in the U.S. The grounds under which they claim exemption must be one or more of the grounds of exemption and exception set out under the Military Service Act. In case of refusal of exemption they can then elect for service in Canada. Their position would then be that they would be liable to be called when their class was called here. If their class were not called they could continue to live in the U.S. If on the other hand they did not follow this procedure they would be liable to the American draft. The difficulty that I see in connection with your people under this arrangement is that the treatment that they would receive from the Department of Justice would be different from that received from the Military authorities and my own judgment would be that where it were possible for <sup>them</sup> us to return to Canada that they would do so and secure exemption here in which case they could return to the U.S. if they so desired. I am giving you this as my own opinion. This is the situation as it appears to me. Trusting I have made myself clear,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*F. Scott*



OFFICE OF  
THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION  
AND COLONIZATION

P.

Ottawa,

24th September, 1918.

Dear Sir,-

In Mr. Calder's absence I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 19th instant with respect to a proposed donation by the people of Non-Resistent Faith. In reply I beg to say there are no charitable funds or organizations under the control or direction of the Government, but as pointed out in Mr. Calder's letter of the 11th instant, I am quite confident that any of the several Societies and organizations carrying on philanthropic work will very much appreciate any contribution offered.

Yours very truly,

*J. C. Featherston*

Associate Private Secretary.

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

Brunner Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dear Bro in the Lord, Greeting  
in Jesus name.

You will please find enclosed  
two sheets which I have copied  
verbatim which one of our young  
brethren has received. You will  
notice one is from Ottawa and  
the other from London,

Which I think is very good news.  
To my knowledge it is the first  
of its kind received around here  
Kindly let me know what you  
think about it, as ever your  
well wishing Bro in the Lord

Fraternally Yours  
Nicholas Watziger  
Brunner

Out

Military Service Act - 1917  
Central Appeal Judge  
P.C. 706062 - A 1441

John Roes  
R.R. 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.

Clerk to the Central Appeal  
Ottawa Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1917 Judge

Military Service Act 1917

Notice of disposition of appeal to Central  
Appeal Judge.

Serial No  
706062 AC

Conservative No  
187 A

M<sup>r</sup> 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 the 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.

H F Bureford  
Registrar and M.S.A.  
London

H. F. BERESFORD

W. E. WISMER,  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

ROYAL BANK BUILDING

AT LONDON, ONTARIO, September 25, 1918

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED ON LETTERS  
SENT TO ABOVE ADDRESS

IN YOUR ANSWER REFER TO

H.F.Beresford

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

Dear Sir:-

Answering your letter of the 24th inst., will say that all I want, as prove that you are a member of the Western Mennonites, is a Certificate signed by an Ordained Minister of the Mennonite Faith, in one of the four Western Provinces, certifying that you belong to that denomination.

Eastern Mennonites, according to the Ruling of the Central Appeal Judge, do not constitute an Exception to the Act and will be exempt only from combatant service.

It will not be necessary for you to go in person to secure the above Certificate.

Yours very truly,

*H. F. Beresford*  
Deputy Registrar, M.D.No.1.

B/P

Vineland Ont., Sept. 26th, 1198.

George A. Mann,  
Ridgeville Ont. R.R.

Dear Brother and Family:- Greeting.

Since arriving home I have received the copy of the Regulations concerning the status of American citizens under the arrangement between the United States and Canada. It is practically what I told you when with you. You will not be required to register under the Military Service Act until after September 29th. After that date you will send the information called for in the paper that you have there and Register your letter, addressed to Mr. C. Lesslie Wilson, Ontario Registrar, Toronto Ont.

After you have sent your name, Etc., you will likely receive a Questionnaire, in which will be a list of questions for you to fill out and which will be used by the authorities as information upon which to decide your exemption from military service. You will not be required to go before a tribunal for this. You will not be called for service until men in Canada of your class are called. It appears now that two other classes will be called before the married men are called at all.

When you receive your questionnaire, you can get Mr. Pettifer to help you to fill it out. Do not forget to state in your first letter that you are a member of the Mennonite Church. In your questionnaire you will likely be required to state your conscientious objections if you are a member of a Church whose creed forbids combatant service, and in that case state that your Church forbids all forms of military service.

Hope you are all well. We are as usual. Have no further word from Dave. They will likely come about Saturday morning.

Yours ,

copy

Markham, Ont., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> 1918

E. C. C. Bailey  
Calgary, Alta.

Dear Sir - In reply to your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. re. Church certificate for Joseph Percy Dike would say as follows -

This is to certify that Joseph Percy Dike was baptized and received into the Mennonite Church at Markham, Ont. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 1911, Bishop N. B. Stauffer, Aldersyde Alta will be able to certify as to his present relation to the Church.

Yours truly,

L. J. Burkholder Acting bishop.



Vineland Ont., Sept. 26th, 1918.

N. M. Bearinger,  
Elmira Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter received and noted. I had a letter from Brother Thomas Reesor some time ago relative to the objects of the contributions of the Brethren in North Waterloo. I think that the cause is a worthy one and one that will appeal to our people in general and will also satisfy the public and the Government. It is certain that such an object is a responsibility of the general public. We are very much dependent upon the work which is done by those "That go down into the deep in ships." This work is not military, since they must go whether in times of peace or war. Their families are deprived of their support while they are engaged in a work that is essential to the welfare of all people. Since no other provisions are made for the support of those who are left after the head of the family is gone the efforts of the kindly disposed public will do much to relieve actual privations, hardships and suffering.

The only advice that I could think of giving is, that the contributions should be large enough that it will be a worthy token of how much our people appreciate the privilege of helping the sufferers and also how much we appreciate the privilege of being free from the obligation of taking any part in the carrying on of the military operations of the nation. The Government has allowed each family to keep their sons of military age at home. This has been a great favor and has added to each such family the opportunity of gaining that much more financial value and increased the power of production or saved the extra expense of getting other help. The value is not easily calculated. But all who are blessed in this way should show the appreciation by giving largely to whatever cause appeals to them.

I have made an estimate, that, if the Government had required each boy who was called and given exemption to pay \$50.00 a year for each year that the war has been going on, (that is, the boys of the Mennonite, Amish and Tunker Churches,) these churches would be able to raise not less than \$100,000.00. And under those conditions, the brotherhood would have paid if gladly in order to be free from military service. Since we are not bound by the law to pay this amount how much less should we give of our own free will. The former law required all able-bodied men between the ages of 21 and 60 years to pay annually from fifteen to twenty-five dollars a year to be free from military service. This amount used to be paid by our brethren freely and they were thankful for the privilege of being allowed to pay the amount rather than do the military training. How much less should each brother give now as a token of his pleasure in being free to worship as he feels he should and is not compelled either to serve in the army or to pay the amount of money. I am not in a position to say how much could be raised if each brother between 21 and 60 would pay the amount of \$25.00 dollars. It may not be wise to make an estimate, and I know that it would be wrong to tell what each one should pay, but we ought to have some suggestion to make so that people would be able to know upon what basis they should think of making this donation to the Government. It should be such a donation as would show the Government that we thank them for what has been done in our favor and also show that we are willing to use our means in a way that will help the suffering and that we are not desiring to stay out of the war so that we may be able to save our money and increase our personal wealth. We should remember also that what we give we are giving to the Lord, and we should give liberally to him.

(over)

It is likely the purpose of the brethren there to turn their funds over to the Treasurer of the Non-resistant Relief Organization. All the funds should go through the hands of the Treasurer so that it can be kept account of and there will be some one responsible to know that it has been used in the way that it was intended. It will be far better to have one person to deal with than to have so many. It will be less liable to cause confusion both with the people who are contributing and the persons to whom the contributions are made.

Thank you for your information and trust that the Lord will direct you in all your efforts to work to His praise.

Another thing to be careful about is to keep your funds for the use of the Merchant Marine alone and do not get tangled up with the work of the Navy League. The latter is for military operation; the former for commercial use only.

Yours in faith,

The only advice that I could think of giving is that the contributions should be large enough that it will be a worthy token of how much our people appreciate the privilege of helping the soldiers and also how much we appreciate the privilege of being free from the obligation of taking any part in the carrying on of the military operations of the nation. The government has allowed each family to keep their sons of military age at home. This has been a great favor and has added to each and every family the opportunity of retaining their members financially and interest in the power of production or saved the extra expense of getting other help. The value is not easily estimated, but all who are blessed in this way should show the appreciation by giving liberally to whatever cause appeals to them.

I have made an estimate, that if the government had required each boy who was called and given exemption to pay \$50.00 a year for each year that the war has been going on (that is, the boys of the Mennonites, United and Luther Churches), these churches would be able to raise not less than \$100,000.00. And under those conditions, the brotherhood would have paid it gladly in order to be free from military service. Since we are not bound by the law to pay this amount how much less should we give of our own free will. The former law required all able-bodied men between the ages of 21 and 30 to pay annually from fifteen to twenty-five dollars a year to be free from military service. This amount used to be paid by our brethren freely and they were thankful for the privilege of being allowed to pay the amount rather than to be liable for the military training. How much less should each brother give now as a token of his pleasure in being free to worship as he feels he should and is not compelled either to serve in the army or to pay the amount of money. I am not in a position to say how much could be raised if each brother between 21 and 30 would pay the amount of \$25.00 dollars. It may not be wise to make an estimate, and I know that it would be wrong to tell what each one should pay, but we ought to have some suggestion to make so that people would be able to know upon what basis they should think of making this donation to the government. It should be such a donation as would show the government that we thank them for what has been done in our favor and also show that we are willing to pay our money in a way that will help the suffering and that we are not hesitating to stay out of the war so that we may be able to save our money and preserve our personal wealth. We should remember also that what we give is going to the Lord, and we should give liberally to Him.

Petersburg Sept 27/18  
RR#2

Dear Bro. Greeting.

Rec'd your letter to date and contents noted. I showed the letter you wrote to Bish. M. Hallman, and, regarding the plan of sending a certificate over and having it signed by a Western Minister, he thought he couldn't do that conscientiously, or, if he were in their place to fill them out for us. But, he requested me to ask you what your opinion was of it. He also thought that, I, being a member of the Lakechar congregation would still be an Eastern Mennonite not entitled to total Exemption.

I wrote them to H. F. Beresford and told him I was here at Lakechar's Congregation. Mannheim. and I asked him whether it would be necessary for me to go over in person and secure my membership over there. The answer you will find enclosed.

Would you kindly, by return mail, state whether it would be advisable, in his place, to send them over and have them signed over there.

Yours in the Faith.

Ezra Baer.