

Vinelsnd Ont., Oct. 1st, 1918.

Ezra Baer,  
Petersburg Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 27th Sept. received and noted. I was under the impression that you had been in the West and had been a member of the Congregation at Guernsey. It seems that you have not been a member there and that your membership rests with the Congregation of which Brother Hallman is Bishop. This being the case it would be impossible for a Bishop in the West to give you a certificate of membership. It would be irregular and out of order. Those who are living in the Western provinces and who are under the jurisdiction of the congregations there are given privileges of exemption that are not given to us in Ontario. It is a ruling of the Department in Ottawa and based upon the idea that the Mennonites who settled in the West are under the Exception to the Military Service Act. Up to the present time they have not made a difference in the American and Canadian and Russian Mennonites in the West. There may be some ruling in regard to them in the future, but what it will be we are not in a position to know. There is also some indication there may be a different interpretation of the Act as applying to the Mennonites in Ontario. We have a document that shows that at least one member of the branches in Ontario has been given a statement from the Central Appeal Judge stating that he is under the Exception to the Act and that the Appeal Courts and even the Central Appeal judge has no power to act in regard to his case and that he is under the Exceptions of the Act and not at all under the jurisdiction of its conditions.

All that you will require is a letter from your Bishop stating that you are a member in good standing in the Church at Mannheim, and that you have been a member for a number of years and have been brought up under the Mennonite faith. I hope that you will have no further trouble.

Vineland Ont., Oct. 1st, 1918.

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Elmira, Ont., Oct. 1st, 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Friend:

Greetings.

We are at present engaged in making preparations to donate to the Sailor's Fund and meetings are being called to discuss the matter and take up collections.

There is some discussion as to the channels through which the money is to pass, in order to reach the object of the donation. The general inclination seems to be to forward it through the banks.

In order to have the funds of the non-resistant classes come together the advisability of forwarding the money to the treasurer of your committee is being urged upon. Would you kindly let me know whether we have the assurance that the money forwarded by the committee to the government will be used for the different purposes as stipulated by the several branches of the church making the donations. This seems to be a very important factor in the eyes of some of our people and I would be pleased to receive favourable information regarding it.

There is every indication that a fairly large sum will be raised and I think that it would be only proper to have it forwarded to the committee as it would serve as a token of unity in the different branches of the church as far as the non-resistant faith is concerned.

An early answer will be appreciated as it is necessary that a definite explanation be made to some of the people as to the way their donation will be handled.

Yours very truly,

*A. M. Bearinger*

Vineland Ont. October 2nd, 1918.

Nicholas Nafziger,  
 Brumder Ont.

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

Your letter with the enclosed copies of the letter from the Central Appeal Judge and the one from the Registrar at London was received and read with interest.

The decision of the Central Appeal Judge is in this case very different than that given in other and similar cases. There is a decided change in His opinion regarding the status of the Mennonites in Ontario under the Military Service Act. I also note that his decision was made as late as the 13th of September. Thus then is one of the latest decisions or the report on this case has been greatly delayed. On the record that I have of the cases in your district, I find that there were four of your boys that had appealed their cases to the Central Appeal Judge; John Roes, Samuel Roes, Aaron Nafziger and Peter Boshart. Have the three other brethren who appealed had a report on their cases, and if so, what was the decision of the Central Judge? I hope that the Central Judge has at last seen fit to place our Non-Resistant People in the class where they rightly belong. The conditions under which we are required to appeal for exemption are altogether out of order as to the proper reasons for our claiming exemptions. The conditions do not at all describe our faith and therefore should not apply to us. When any of our brethren seeks exemption under the conditions named he subscribes to something which is not true concerning our churches. We hold that all kinds of military service is forbidden our members. And the only classification that can be found for us is under the exceptions to the Act, in the Order-in-Council, which states that "The denomination of Christians called Mennonites, is by law and order in council exempted from military service."

As far as I have learned, there has been no change in the general situation. There have been a few reports in the papers with reference to the Mennonites in the West, but, I think that those reports refer to the Russian Brethren. Our brethren have been receiving the same privileges as the Russian brethren in the Western Provinces as yet. There may be some changes later on, but none have been made yet.

The new Regulations regarding the citizens of the United States are now in effect, and all that our brethren need to do, who are citizens of the United States, is to register under the Canadian Government the same as our Canadian people do and they will receive the same privileges as have our brethren, in regard to exemption. I do not anticipate any trouble along that line, since we can easily prove to our Government here that our Mennonite People have not been required to do any military service in the United States, but have been kept in detention camps. Some have been abused but they have refrained from doing service, even the combatant service prescribed by the President.

Let us pray that we may be kept from the power of evil and continue to pray for our rulers, that we may be permitted to lead a quiet and a peaceable life in all godliness. Thank you for your information. May the Lord give you especial grace in your duties for His children.

Yours in faith,

Vineland Ont., Oct. 2nd, 1918

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

Dear Sir:-

Please find enclosed a copy of letters from the District Registrar at London to a member of the Amish Mennonite Church at Brunner Ontario, which branch of the Church is represented in our Organization. Also find copy of recent letter to the members of the Relief Organization.

I am especially interested to know whether the Central Appeal Judge has changed his opinion as regards the Status of the Mennonite people and other Religious Organizations formerly exempted from Military Service under the Statutes of Canada, and which Statutes were cited in the recommendations to the Governor General when requesting the special Order-in-Council, and part of which was included in the said Order-in-Council, (1873). This is the only such decision given to the appeals sent to the Central Judge by any of our people. The recent date of the decision lends some grounds for believing that the decisions now are conforming to the previous opinion rendered by the Military Service Council that all Mennonites belong to the classes excepted from the operation of the Act.

Our people are extremely grateful for the consideration they have received from the authorities, and for the favors that have been accorded them through the personal efforts of yourself and others who have rendered them assistance: but it is almost more than we anticipated that the Central Judge has changed his opinion regarding the Status of our people, while we still believe that such a decision would be just, respecting the faith of the actual Non-Resistant religious bodies in Canada.

There has been no immigration movement of our people into Canada during the war period. Some families have come in, and there have been inquiries concerning conditions here. The movements in the West are of the Russian brethren who have been enduring almost intolerable persecutions in certain districts in the Western States. Mr. Calder's opinion concerning the conditions among the Mennonites there is very considerate. There are but few American Mennonites (Citizens' resident in Canada, of military age, and the majority of them have been resident here previous to the beginning of the war, and will register under the Military Service Act as requested.

I would be pleased to have any information that might be given in regard to the recent decision of the Chief Justice. Thanking you for the many favors received, I am,

Yours truly,

Members of the Non-Resistant  
Relief Organization.

Vineland Ont. October 3rd, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Enclosed you will find copies of letters from the District Registrar at London to one of the Amish Brethren who had appealed to the Central Judge for total exemption. The letters portray a different attitude toward the brethren in Ontario, but I am not able to say whether this will be the attitude which will be maintained toward our Non-resistant people. This disposition of this appeal agrees with the sentiments expressed by the Military Service Council at the beginning of the exemption proceedings last Fall. A letter to the Department of Justice may secure the desired information. But I will refer the matter first to Mr. Scott.

The following answer to a letter to Mr. Calder relative to the nature of the Charity work or Organizations under the control of the Government will give some information. It seems that there are no Organizations directly under the control of the Government. It may be best to find some channel through which to present the proposed donation to the Government and allow the Government to allot the necessary amounts to the various organization that will be in a position to make use of it in the way that it is intended.

Copy.

Ottawa , 24th September, 1918.

Dear Sir,-

In Mr. Calder's absence I beg to acknowledge of your further letter of the 19th instant with respect to the proposed donation to the Government by the people of Non-Resistant Faith. In reply I beg to say that 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 contributions offered.

Yours very truly,

S.F. Coffman,  
Vineland Ont.

(Signed) J. E. Featherstone,  
Associate Private Secretary.

No letter was sent out relative to the Regulations of the new Draft Treaty. It is evident that all American Citizens, of the age subject to military service, must register under the military service Act in Canada after the 29th of September. Ten days time is allowed for Registering. A list of Questions will be sent to each one registering, and exemption will be decided upon the answers to the Questions. They will have the same privileges as the Canadians.

Canadians in the United States, (those of our faith,) should first receive their exemptions from the Canadian Government, and could then return to the United States if they so desired.

A few News Items recently appearing in the papers call for some attention, but seem to refer to the immigration of Russian Mennonites into Western Canada from the United States. There has been no extensive immigration of our people into the West from the States. Our people do not conduct separate schools, and always adopt Canadian customs and services are conducted in the English language in all of our respective congregations in the West. We have had no adverse report from any of the Government representatives. We should be active in fulfilling our promises to the Government and take advantage of present opportunities.

Yours in faith, and prayer for God's protection,

C O P Y .

Subscriptions of Mennonites to Victory Loan to be used to buy  
Foodstuffs Exclusively.  
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Statement issued by Victory Loan Headquarters-- Applies to all People  
whose religious principles are against subscribing for  
war purposes.

The Perth County Headquarters of the Victory Loan has  
issued the following statement to the Mennonites of Perth County:

Citizens

It will be of much interest to the Mennonites of Perth  
County who did not, on religious grounds, subscribe to the last Victory  
Loan to know that this year it has been arranged with the Minister of  
Finance that any subscriptions which are received from these citizens  
of Canada whose religious principles are against subscribing to a loan  
for war purposes, that such subscriptions will be ear-marked and employed  
for the purchase of foodstuffs exclusively.

For this reason it is expected that these citizens of  
Perth County will subscribe very liberally to the forthcoming loan.

---Clipping from a Stratfor Daily Paper.

Vineland Ont., October 5th, 1918.

J. M. Bearinger,  
Elmira Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 1st Instant received and noted.

In reply I can only say that, as far as we have learned there are no special organization or funds under the direct management or control of the Government. Any funds that we might contribute to the Government would be used by them through channels that already exist for carrying on the kind of work which our people desire to assist.

We have the assurance of the officers of our Organization that all money that is contributed for special purposes or in aid of certain funds will be strictly kept account of and will be placed as directed by the contributors for the special objects of their choice. There will, no doubt, be several objects for which our people will contribute, but it will all be given as one contribution to the Government as a memorial of our gratitude for the favor of relief from military service that has been granted our people in the years past and under present conditions.

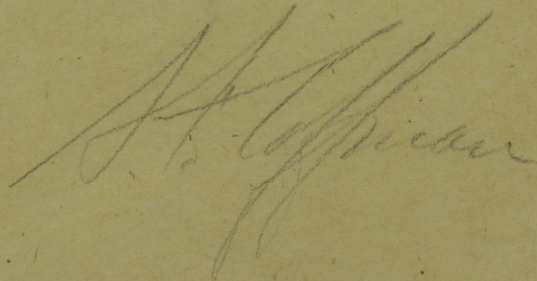
I believe that our Treasurer is dealing with the Bank of Nova Scotia in Markham. A letter to him might get the information as to how the contributions may be sent to him. It will undoubtedly be the case that in making the transfer of the account to the Government the Bank will be the medium of the transfer.

It has been suggested that, in case there would be any hitch in the transaction directly with the Government that the funds would be placed in the hands of existing Organization that could be in a position to use the funds exactly as desired by the donors. I am not fearing that there will be any difficulties whatsoever in the proper use of the money of our brethren who desire to have it used in an honest manner. If it is given in that spirit, it must be used in that spirit also.

We should certainly thank the Lord that we have been spared from any serious hardship thus far. We also need to thank Him that we have been blessed in a manner in which it is possible for us to help the many who are having such great distress and suffering. This world is in such trouble as it has never before experienced and we should be more than willing, even be anxious to give the help that will in a measure bring relief to the suffering and the innocent ones in this world calamity.

May the Lord bless your efforts together.

Yours in faith,





COPY.

Ottawa, Oct. 5th, 1918.

C. Lesslie Wilson Esq.

Registrar under the Military Service Act,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 1st instant asking for a copy of a decision of the Central Appeal Judge that Ontario Mennonites were not entitled to exemption from combatant service unless they were members of the Mennonite Church before a certain date.

I think you must be referring to the decision in Re Marshall (Christadelphian). In the case of the Ontario Mennonites the Central Appeal Judge decided that they were not within the scope of Exception 7, but were to be treated in exactly the same way as other conscientious objectors under Section 11(1) (f), as an organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada on the 6th July 1917.

The decision in Re Marshall as to the conditions on which exemption can be claimed under Section 11, therefore, applies to the Ontario Mennonites. The Judge referred to the different cases that would arise, where membership was prior to the beginning of the war, where it dated from a period subsequent to the authoritative announcement of the Government of the policy of compulsory service, and also where the beginning of membership was subsequent to the war but prior to the announcement of compulsory military service.

I enclose a copy of the decision in Re Marshall for your information.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) J. Lorn McDougall.

Clerk to the Central Appeal Judge.

COPY

MILITARY SERVICE ACT

Re: MARSHALL, Frank Joseph  
No. 829371

This is an appeal from a local Tribunal direct, a certificate having been granted by the Minister of Justice, and leave to appeal given by the Central Appeal Judge.

The applicant claims exemption as a member of the Christadelphian Church of Canada, under Section 11, subsection (1) (f) of the Military Service Act 1917

In these cases, where exemption is claimed under the enactment mentioned, two conditions are essential:-

1. That the applicant should himself in his own conscience, and as part of his own religious creed, believe it is sinful to engage in military combatant service, at the behest or command of the State:
2. That he is, in good faith, a member of an organized religious denomination, well recognized as such in Canada on seventh July, 1917, having tenets and articles of faith, and that such service is prohibited by such tenets or articles of faith.

~~xxxxxxxserviceaxisprohibitedbyxxxxxtenetsxxxxxarticlesxxxxfaith.~~  
 The proper conclusion from the evidence before me is, that the Christadelphian Church of Canada is an "organized religious denomination, existing and well organized in Canada" and was so on the sixth day of July 1917; and that its tenets and articles of faith then in force forbid the undertaking of combatant service, and, in fact, of any military service, and indeed of participation in civil official activities, even to the extent of requiring its members to refrain from exercising the franchise, or resorting to the Courts for the collection of debts.

The real question in this Appeal relates to bona fide membership. the onus is on the applicant to show bona fide membership: that is to say, he must prove, to the satisfaction of the Tribunal, that his membership was brought about solely with a view to religious ends.

Where the commencement of the Applicant's membership was anterior to the beginning of the War, there should be, generally speaking, little difficulty on this head. Even in such a case, however, the applicant's circumstances and conduct might necessitate some investigation. The Tribunals for example would approach with scepticism the claim of a conscientious objector, who had enriched himself by the profits of an industry brought into existence to facilitate the prosecution of the war.

Where the beginning of membership dates from a period subsequent to the authoritative announcement by the Government of the policy of compulsory service, the rule is necessary for the protection of the public interest, that the applicant must satisfy the Tribunal, beyond a doubt, that he is not using his membership as a way of escape from the obligations of military service; and, in every case, where the beginning of membership was subsequent to the war, even although anterior to the adoption of the policy of compulsory service, the Tribunals must weight the circumstances with great care.

The Central Appeal Judge accidentally learned a short time ago that certain members of the Christadelphian denomination and notably the gentleman acting as Representative in prosecuting appeals before the Central Appeal Judge, had been, for two years or more, large contractors for the manufacture of munitions; and indeed among them are the largest contractors with the Imperial Munitions Board for the manufacture of gages and parts of fuses and especially for exploder rings.

Although the claim for exemption on behalf of persons who are members in good standing of the Christadelphian Church of Canada has been pressed on the

Central Appeal Judge, on the ground that the principle above mentioned is part of the dogmatic constitution of the Church - viz. that participation in war, whether as combatant or non-combatant, is sinful; and although the persons interested have, through their representative, been informed of the view above indicated of the Central Appeal Judge, touching the effect of the participation in such services as the manufacture of Munitions, as bearing upon the important question of the personal bona fides of the applicants for exemption - notwithstanding these facts, the Central Appeal Judge was not informed by the representative of the applicants of the facts concerning, or indeed of the existence of, the contracts referred to; and as already mentioned only accidentally became aware of those facts.

In these circumstances, the Central Appeal Judge considers that, while the decisions of the Local and Appeal Tribunals appear, in these cases to have proceeded on an erroneous view as to the doctrines and tenets of the Christadelphian Church; and on that ground, in ordinary cases, the applicants would be entitled to recourse by way of appeal; he is nevertheless forced to the conclusion that the question of personal bona fides cannot be properly dealt with by him, but must be tried or reported upon by a Judge or judicial officer having an opportunity of seeing and examining the applicant personally in each case.

Under the authority of the Regulations passed pursuant to the Military Service Act, the Central Appeal Judge has decided to appoint a Referee with authority to enquire into and report upon the circumstances in which the applicant(s) connection with the Christadelphian Church came about; as well as the question of the bona fides of the applicant's profession of non-resistant tenets.

Churing Ont.  
Oct. 7 '18.

Dear Bro;

Well this finds us  
at home. Our Diplomatic  
Exemptions were refused.  
It is always after a person  
has learned the lesson that  
one can see where he should  
have done differently. I believe  
if we would have been  
wise enough we might have  
gotten our exemption. At any  
rate we are glad we have  
a home to go to & also a  
country which has so  
nobly respected our belief  
& allowed us to go free.

We do not know as yet what our status will be, but I fear no serious trouble. If ever anything turns up that we do not know how to do we will trust your good nature to inform us or help us out. We are planning to go to Kitchener soon to get our case settled. Here at Elmira they do not know anything what we are to do. We will go to Eiler & ask for information. If we would have known we might have been able to get everything straightened out at London when we came home. We did not have any serious difficulty to come across, even tho' we were questioned quite close, our papers were of the right kind to help us out.

I wish I could have a personal talk with you just now. I do not want to complain in the least & we are taking it as cheerful as we can, but you know it is not an easy thing to meet to have one's plan so overthrown, at least it seems so to us. We can never

tell how much good will  
come out of it. One thing sure  
we will not sit around  
& think about our disappoint-  
ments but we will work and  
make the very best of it, so  
that it will answer far  
above what we might have  
gotten at Goshen. It will  
mean hard work & a strong  
determination to do that.

Pray for us that we may  
not turn aside from our  
purpose, but that it might  
only be made stronger.

Yours in His service

N. B. Bauman.

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.

Foreign Mission Board of The Brethren in Christ Church



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 Oct, 7 th, 1918

Eld S. F. Coffman.

Vineland. Ont.

Dear Bro Coffman.

I am in receipt of your rescent correspondance. and contents noted.

Those decisions of the central Appeal Judge certainly look gratifying, if only they can be relied upon, in the mean time while everything is quiet, we shall not worry, nor be afraid but trust in Him who has thus far undertaken for us.

With refference to the memorial fund, our people are undertaking the solici-tation now, and we will have the report by the first of Nov, and perhaps by that time some channel may open to us.

I expect our EXECUTIVE will meet in a short time, and something may develop which may give us an outlet for funds. If so I shall inform you.

I see the Canadian Parliament is likely to meet some time in Dec, If so I believe we dp well to be on the allert.

Very Sincerely yours.

*D. W. Heise*

# Siegesanleihe 1918.

## VICTORY LOAN 1918

### An die Mennoniten Canadas

Die Regierung Canadas sieht sich genötigt, wieder vor ihr Volk zu treten und um eine Anleihe zur Bestreitung der Unkosten, die ihr durch den gegenwärtigen Krieg erwachsen, nachzusehen. Sie ist sich dessen wohl bewußt, daß den Mennoniten ihr Gewissen nicht erlaubt, den Krieg weder durch persönliche Dienste noch durch Geld zu unterstützen, und legt ihnen auch keine Nötigung nahe, dies zu tun. Sie hält sich aber auch dessen überzeugt, daß die Mennoniten unserm Lande gern in anderer Weise Opfer bringen möchten und gerne bereit sind die durch den Krieg entstandene Not lindern zu helfen. Damit sie dazu Gelegenheit bekommen, sind Einrichtungen getroffen worden, nach welchen sie sich an der bevorstehenden Geldanleihe beteiligen können, ohne mit ihrem Gewissen in Konflikt zu kommen. Der Finanzminister, Sir Thos. White, ist so entgegenkommend gewesen und hat den Ältesten der mennonitischen Gemeinden folgende Versicherung gegeben:

„An die Bischöfe der mennonitischen Gemeinschaft.

Winnipeg, den 8. Oktober 1918.

„Man hat mir mitgeteilt, daß die Mennoniten trotz ihrer Treue zu Canada und seiner Regierung letztes Jahr wegen ihrer religiösen Ueberzeugung in Verlegenheit gerieten, als sie sich an der Siegesanleihe beteiligen sollten und doch ihr Gewissen schonen wollten, und daß es ihre Absicht ist, dieses Jahr der Regierung und dem Lande soweit es nur ihre Vermögensverhältnisse erlauben, zu Hilfe zu kommen, wenn das Geld, welches sie für die Anleihe von 1918 zeichnen nur für solche Zwecke wie Pflege der Kranken und die Unterhaltung von Häusern und Hospitälern für Genesende verwendet wird. Um ihre Schwierigkeiten in dieser Beziehung zu beheben, werde ich mit Bergnügen Anordnungen treffen, daß eine Summe von der Höhe des Betrages aller Bonds der Anleihe von 1918, welche von den Mennoniten genommen sein werden, in dieser Weise verwendet werden soll.

„Ich hoffe zuversichtlich, daß die Regierung auf Ihre kräftige Mitwirkung und Unterstützung und auf die Zeichnung aller verfügbaren Gelder ihrer Leute rechnen darf.“

„Ihr ergebener

(gez.) Thos. White, Finanzminister.

Es ist in Uebereinstimmung mit diesem Versprechen ein Plan ausgearbeitet worden, nach welchem die Mennoniten auf ihren Applikationen für die Bonds bemerken können, daß sie ihr Geld zur Vinderung der Not (on Relief Account) leihen.

Beim Bekanntwerden dieses Entgegenkommens der Regierung haben sich gleich Stimmen freudigen Zusagens aus den Kreisen der Mennoniten vernehmen lassen, und in engeren und weiteren Kreisen hat man sich gesagt: „Ja, das können wir tun, und das werden wir tun.“ Man bringt sich da in Erinnerung die Mithilfe, welche die Regierung bei der Einwanderung vor 44 Jahren durch das Darlehen von \$80,000.00 leistete. Man bringt sich zum Bewußtsein die Treue, welche die Regierung im Halten ihres Versprechens in Bezug auf die Befreiung der Mennoniten vom Militärdienst beweist. Man fühlt, daß man durch die Befreiung vom Militärdienst einen großen Vorteil den anderen Bürgern des Landes gegenüber genießt, die ihre Söhne auf die Schlachtfelder schicken und ohne deren Mithilfe auf den Farmen oder in den Geschäften sind. Ihr gerechter Sinn sagt ihnen, daß sie für all dieses dem Lande viel schuldig sind und daselbe in seiner bedrängten Lage kräftig unterstützen sollten.

Canada erwartet nun zuversichtlich, daß solche Geminnung und solche Rundgebung einzelner der Ausdruck der Gefühle und der Absichten der Gesamtheit des mennonitischen Volkes sein wird, und daß die Zeichnungen für die Regierungsanleihe den Erwartungen entsprechen werden, die man in Bezug auf die Opferwilligkeit der Mennoniten hegt.

Die Regierung spricht jetzt das Volk an um eine Anleihe von 500 Millionen Dollar. Die Bonds werden in der Höhe von \$50, \$100 und \$1000 ausgegeben. Sie laufen 5 oder 15 Jahre und tragen 5½ Prozent Zinsen halbjährlich fällig. Sie sind steuerfrei und können zu jeder Zeit für bares Geld verkauft werden. Sie bilden also eine gute Kapitalsanlage und es ist kein Grund vorhanden, warum man nicht seine ganzen Ersparnisse in denselben anlegen sollte.



MINISTER OF FINANCE.

CANADA.

At Winnipeg, October 8, 1918.

To the Bishops of the Mennonite Church,

I am advised that notwithstanding the loyalty of the Mennonites to Canada and its Government, they found difficulty last year on account of their religious belief in subscribing to the Victory Loan and at the same time satisfying their consciences; and that it is their intention to contribute to the extent of their financial resources in helping the Government and the country this year provided that the money subscribed by them towards the 1918 Loan can be used entirely for relief purposes, such as care of the sick and the maintenance of convalescent homes or hospitals. To meet your difficulty in this regard I shall have pleasure in arranging that a sum equivalent to the total amount of bonds of the 1918 Loan subscribed for by the Mennonites shall be used in this way.

I sincerely trust that the Government may count on your hearty co-operation and support and the subscription of all available investment funds of your people.

Yours faithfully,

T. WHITE

Minister of Finance.



# House of Commons

OTTAWA October 9th, 1918.

Rev. S. F. Coffman,

Vineland, Ont.

Dear Mr. Coffman:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant regarding the position of your people. I have no information as to any change in the attitude of the Central Appeal Judge.

I will communicate with the Department of Justice at Ottawa and see what information I can get for you.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*F. Scott*

Milverton, Ont. Oct. 10th, 1918.

S.F. Coffman  
Vineland, Ont.

Dear Friend:--

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.

I thank you for your kind and prompt answer regarding registration of U.S. Citizens in Canada. Joel Zook, Our Bro. who recently came from U.S. has registered several weeks ago, inside of the 10 days after 30 days after coming from U.S. which we understood was the proper time for him.

Bro. John C. Gingerich, My SON and Myself registered about 4th inst. and have recieved questionnaires and forms to report for service, or claim exemption. But Bro. Zook recieved no answer at all yet.

I was yesterday speaking to Nicholas Nafziger who told me he sent you a copy of decision of appeal of John Roes from Central Appeal Judge which shows that we are not in the Act and that the Local Tribunals, the Appeal Tribunals, nor the Central Appeal Judge has jurisdiction to deal with any application for exemption from us. We ~~are~~ both think when we are out of the Military Act that we should not be required to ans. questionnaires or to report for service or claim exemption, and thought it wise to ask the Register at London to not dmand this from us, and I have written to the Register about it, and I will herewith send you copy of my letter to him. Peter Boshart told me that his 2 sons also recieved same decision from Central Appeal Judge. (Thank God for all good gifts).

Now we have 20 days from 4th, inst. to send our questionnaires and claim for exemption and ask you to kindly do for us what you can and let us know soon as possibly convenient what you think best for us to do.

I hope I have made no mistake in so writing to the Registrar.

Now regards to donating money to the Government for war-sufferers, I saw some of the printed papers sent to our Ministers and was asked what I thought of it. That paper does not state whether the Government promised to use it for nothing pertaining to war, or perhaps we do not exactly understand it fully; Will you kindly give me your opinion of it and let me know what the Government promised to do with any donation they would recieve. Kindly also send me copy of those papers you sent to the Ministers, and if the Government has *promised* to use it according to our Faith, I will try to get our people interested to give.

Please ans. as soon as conveniently possible, and remember us in prayer as I hope to do for all needfull, but in great weakness.

Respectfully Yours,  
J.R.Ebersol,

(Copy) (Triplicate)

Milverton, Ont. Oct. 10, 1918.

H. F. Beresford & W. B. S. Craig,  
Deputy Registers,  
London, Ont.

Dear Sirs:--

I, John R. Ebersol, Deputy for our Ministers of Old Amish Mennonites, beg to thank you for your prompt and kind answer of 5th. inst; I am also in receipt of Questionnaires and forms to report for service, or claim exemption.

I beg to refer you to Order in Council of August 13th, 1873, which provides by Law an entire exemption from any Military Service to the denomination of Christians called Mennonites.

And, to Tribunal Circulars #11 sent from 130 Sparks St. Ottawa, 5th Nov. 1917, where it says that these people are excepted altogether from the operations of the Act, and consequently are not required to claim exemption.

And, according to decision of Central Appeal Judge, in the case of John Roes, R.R.#1, Brunner, Ont., (AM 706062--A 1441) and of others, we are all in the class referred to in the above Order in Council, and not within the applications of the Military Service Act 1917, and that neither the Local Tribunal, the Appeal Tribunal, nor the Central Appeal Judge has jurisdiction to deal with any applications for exemption from us, or concerning us.

And, now that we have registered and are entitled to same right and privilege as other similar British Subjects of Mennonites, and you have our Certificates of Membership as OLD AMISH Mennonites claiming exemption from Military service, is it not possible for you to despatch to us Receipts certifying that we have properly registered as far as necessary for Mennonites?

And the fact of us, as stated above, being out of the Military Service Act, where has the Law of Canada or any Military Service Officers any right or authority to demand from us Questionnaires or to demand from us to report for service, or claim exemption?

I beg you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Church to kindly answer this definitely very soon, and if possible, despatch to us Receipts certifying that we have properly registered as Old Amish Mennonites.

I especially ask you for said receipts for John G. Gingerich of Poole, Ont., Joel Zook of R.R.# , Milverton, Ont., Aaron Ebersol of Mill St., Milverton, Ont. and for my-self John R. Ebersol of Mill St. Milverton, Ont.

signed John R. Ebersol  
Deputy for our Ministers of

Old Amish Mennonites.

P. S. Kindly advise us how much and what we must do regarding these matters. J.R.E.

Vineland Ont., October 12th, 1918.

JJohn R. Ebersole,  
Milverton Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greetings.

Your letter with the enclosure, of the date, Oct. 11, was duly received. I was glad to note the contents of the letter to the Registrars in London Ont., You have cited the proper authorities with regard to the Exceptions of the Mennonites to the operation of the Military Service Act. The fact is there is no other place in which to classify our people except under the Exceptions made by Order in Council. Other conditions do not describe our people and the grounds of our claims for exemption.

There is one other case which might be cited, and that is the decision of the Military Service Council which was made soon after the Military Service Act came into force. I had had no further information of other cases pending or decided by the Central Judge. The recent decision in the case of Brother John Roes has been referred to The Hon. Mr. F. S. Scott and he has made inquiry at the Department of Justice in Ottawa and will report as to the present status of the Mennonites under the Act. It is evident that there have been some changes made in the interpretation of the Act as applying to Mennonites in the last few months.

With reference to the Registration of yourself and brethren you have complied with the conditions as far as Registration is concerned. The next step in the process is the filling out of the Questionnaires. The Exemptions are decided by the answers to those Questionnaires. In the case of Mennonites or others of the entirely non-resistant faith, the fact that they give their reasons for applying for total exemption as belonging to a church whose articles of faith are such that they cannot engage in any form of military service and that the Chief Justice has ruled that such persons are among the Exceptions should decide the Registrars as to their being under the Exceptions and their Registration certificates should so classify them. It will be necessary for them to be identified in some such manner in order to free them from any molestation by military authorities in the future. I hope that you will have no further difficulty. In case I receive word from Mr Scott I will report what he has to say.

Yours in faith,

*J. J. Ebersole*

R #2 Pickering Oct 14 1915

S. G. Coffman  
Wineland

Dear Brother Greeting

I have been advised by Bro  
D W Heise that we as committee  
to interview Government should  
meet to discuss important  
subjects which now present  
themselves for a solution

I have an appointment at Elmira  
for Tuesday P. M. <sup>22d Oct</sup> if all is well  
I was in Waterloo on Saturday  
on a matter of one of our boys  
having received notice to report for  
service at Hamilton on Nov  
Mr Weiskel has however received  
notice from Ottawa that the  
Militia order of May 31st 1915 is still  
in force, so our boys are all right  
we trust, I spoke to Mr Weiskel  
about Donation and other matters  
and got a great deal of information  
so I am under the impression  
that he is the man we should  
decide to choose to represent us

in our endeavor to bring the matter before the Government - in a suitable way, as he really represents the Union Government in Waterloo district - he has done more for us than any other man we should now endeavor to show our confidence in him by choosing him to represent our case, however this is an open question. It appears there were representatives chosen by the sailors widows and orphans aid people to bring their case before our people which appealed to them, they have decided to contribute liberally to that cause as they think it is free from any military matter it - was presented to them as such, I think I have been successful to persuade them to pass the money through the hands of our committee as Mr. Kischel strongly advises them to do so, these and other matters require decision by us, so possibly it would be wise to meet at Waterloo

or Kitchener if we can steer clear  
 of Spanish flu, which is very prevalent  
 there, Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> would suit  
 me if it would go Mr Heise  
 informs me he can go at a few  
 days notice, I have a dying sister  
 here with us but I do not see  
 that she can possibly last for  
 more than a day or so, should  
 it occur different - I will  
 let you know, Inclosed find  
 Mr Heises letter which will  
 explain itself.

I suppose you should notify  
 Mr Heichel, <sup>of meeting</sup> if you agree with  
 me on that subject,

any other place of meeting would  
 suit me but - I am convinced  
 we can get more information  
 there from different committees  
 who appear to be after the  
 contributions of the Mennonites

May God bless our efforts is my  
 prayer

Yours truly  
 Thomas Reesor



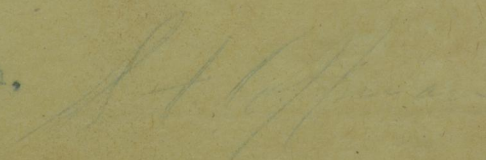
Vineland Ont. October 16th, 1918.

Peter Boshart,  
Milverton, Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting. Some time ago I had a letter from Bro. J. R. Ebersole stating that two of your sons had received notice from the Central Appeal Judge that they were not under the Military Service Act and that the Tribunals and appeal Courts had no Jurisdiction over them as they were members of the Mennonite Church. I would be pleased to have a copy of the notice which they received.

Have you arranged for the time of the Bible Conference? It would be a favor to me to know about the time, as I have to arrange some other appointments that depend on the time that I have promised to be with you. The Lord is surely trying the hearts of these times of war and pestilence. May we look to Him to have mercy on His people and on all whose hearts are turned to Him in faith and love.

Yours in faith,





# THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

(AFFILIATED WITH THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE)

## ONTARIO DIVISION

PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS: 34 KING ST. WEST, TORONTO

October 17, 1918.

Patrons:

Their Excellencies the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

Col. the Hon. Sir John Hendrie, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Hon. Sir P. E. LeBlanc, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.

Hon. Sir J. A. M. Aikins, K.B., Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

Hon. J. McC. Grant, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Robert G. Brett, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

Hon. Sir Frank Barnard, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Hon. Sir Richard S. Lake, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

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Vice-President

Sir John Aird, K.B.

Field Secretary

Lt.-Col. Cecil G. Williams.

Secretary-Treasurer

Henry W. King

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

Dear Sir:-

At the request of Mr. N.M. Bearinger of Elmira I am writing you this special letter on behalf of our recent appeal for funds in connection with the Sailors' Week Campaign.

The objects are set forth in the enclosed circular, but I may say in this letter that fundamentally our appeal is on behalf of the non-combatant Merchant Sailor, who has braved such hardships and dangers that have often removed the bread winner from the home and left the wife and children destitute. These men are peaceful traders engaged in the work of carrying our commerce and food stuffs from one part of the world to another. They are not recognized by any Government, and consequently do not receive the usual pensions and attention. They must be taken care of by voluntary subscriptions, hence our very urgent appeal.

We would be glad to have you take this matter up in a handsome way, so that we may in turn make known to the country the splendid contribution and spirit shown by the Mennonites.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary-Treasurer.

HWK/H

FACTS REGARDING THE  
MERCHANT SAILOR.

Until very recently his wage was pitiably small, about £3 per month. It is now £12 per month.

He has poor food and worse quarters.

He buys his own clothing.

He has no insurance or pension.

He has no Patriotic Fund to help him or his dependents.

He has no paid leave or amusement.

He has no comforts sent him as are sent to the soldiers and the naval bluejacket.

He has no food boxes sent to him if a prisoner.

He works continuously, four hours on, four hours off, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

He cannot tie up comfortably at night.

Four thousand of his pals are prisoners of war.  
He gets no decorations and no triumphal home-coming.

He wears no gold lace  
He has carried on his back from Canada to the front \$1,800,000,000 worth of munitions, more than enough to off set the entire national debt of this Dominion.

He has carried over literally billions of dollars worth of meat, wheat and other products from this country.

He has delivered safely without loss of a single life our Canadian Army of approximately 500,000 men.

He has carried over eighty per cent, of the American troops.

He has transported over fifteen million fighting men from port to port, their food, their munitions and their horses.

Through him have been fed the inhabitants of the British Isles, of France and largely of Italy and the other Allies.

He is performing a greater national service than the Navy or the Army, because neither could exist without him.

Three hundred thousand of these men are now serving in this national service, volunteers all - no conscripts.

Fifteen thousand have been murdered by U-boats or by mines.

Over forty thousand of their dependents are left to struggle for themselves.

The various Sailors' Orphanages, Homes, Institutes and Benevolent Societies caring for the sailor have had their revenues almost entirely obliterated whilst the demands upon their resources are ever increasing.

R.R. 1, Milverton Oct. 20, 1918

Bro. S. J. Coffman

Dear Bro.

Greeting in Jesus worthy name.

Received your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

I was surprised of the Notice of disposition of Appeal to Central Appeal Judge, it is the best we have received yet, thank the Lord.

Enclosed a find copy.

About bible conference I don't know what to say, I certainly would like to have it and lots of the brethren & sisters but some think its not <sup>the</sup> right time of the year so I think we have to leave it for this time, perhaps next summer, some time in June may the Lord bless us to this end

Remember us before the throne of grace

Yours in faith

Peter Boshart

Copy

Military Service Act, 1917  
 Notice of disposition of appeal to Central Appeal Judge

Serial No.  
 713 990 ac

consecutive No.  
 on schedule  
 630 a

Name Mr. Ezra Boshart  
 Street & No. R. R. 1.  
 City or Town Milverton 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 granted. 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. J. Buesford,  
 Registrar Under the Military Service Act

At London Ont