

Vineland Ont., October, 25th, 1918.

Bishop Christian B. Zehr,
Wellesley Ont.

Dear Brother in the Lord:- Greeting.

A phone messgae from Brother Manasseh hallman this morning said that Brother Zehr from Wellesley was at his home enquiring concerning the purchasing of the Liberty Bonds under the conditions stipulated by the Government for our people. I did not know which of the brethren was there, but am writing this to the Bishop and you will know who it belongs to. I hope that it may be of some help in understanding our position and our duty to God first and then to the Government.

It seems that the Government recognizes the fact that our people have not subscribed to the previous loans that have been called for. They understand the reason why we have not supported them in the carrying on of the war. Under the present conditions when a large amount of money is called for and the resources are somewhat limited, they are making a special request for our people to loan money to the Government. The conditions are made so that there will not be the objectionable features that existed on former occasions. They make the condition that the money subscribed by those of our faith will be used only for the purchase of foodstuffs in Canada. Of course this food will be used for soldiers and for the horses and mules that are in army service, but it will also be used to feed the sick and wounded, the nurses and the medical men, as well as the prisoners of war, and many hungry and sick parents and children who are released from the power of the enemy in the lands that are being regained. We are in duty bound to feed the hungry and even to give food and water to our enemies. We are also under obligation to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Our money has on it the image and superscription of the King. If the Government asks us to give it, we would not be able to say no. If they ask us to loan it, what excuse can we give, since they do not ask us to give our bodies, but only the money that they have given us to use. If we gave it for the purpose of helping to destroy the lives of men then our hearts would be wrong. If we lend it to the Government because the Government asks us to do so and tells us that it will not be used directly in connection with the war, it looks somewhat like doing non-combatant service, but it is not personal service. We are not helping by the loaning of our money any more than we are helping by the raising of grain or livestock which the Government asks us to do for the need of the world and the country. Our aim is to do well with all that God has entrusted to us. We do our duty with all that it is in our power to do. When these things get beyond our power then others are responsible. The Government asks for the money, and that means that they need it, and when we give it, they become responsible for its use. If they asked for our boys, we would have a right to say no. If they ask for our personal service we could only say no. We have the souls that we are responsible for, and we want them free from all defilement. With the grain and livestock and money there is some difference.

On account of the fact that we have enjoyed freedom from Military Service, the Government comes to us for this favor. There is some hint that there will be a great deal of opposition against our privileges when Parliament meets again. Those who know, think that the best we can do now, in order to have our privileges kept for us is to respond to this appeal from the Government. If we show our good faith in them by coming to their help, when they have made the conditions as good as they can possibly make them they will feel like continuing their favors to us. We should do all that we can do to help our rulers in times of their need. They will then be the more willing to help us in the time of our need.

C. H. Zehr, --2.

You will understand me, brother Zehr, that I do not want to make a compromise and do this for the sake of gaining a favor from the Government. We need not purchase our favors. It would be wrong. It becomes a matter of duty to those who rule over us. If they made it a law, to lend the money or even to give it outright, we would be obliged to give it. They ask us to lend it for a season, and in obedience to their request we lend it, under conditions that are as near to our faith as it is possible for them to make it. The Government has never come to our people and asked for a favor like this at any other time. I feel that all those who can do so should give them the aid that they ask. If there are those who feel that they cannot conscientiously do so, they should refrain from judging those who do take bonds under these special conditions.

As I understand it, the conditions that the money will be used for purchasing foodstuffs or other domestic uses, will be written in the Application for the Bonds. The Bonds will be given on this application and just what wording the Bonds will have I do not know. I hope that some arrangement can be made with the Minister of Finance that all of the bonds held by our people will have the conditions written or printed in them so that those who hold them will know the conditions under which they were purchased.

The Lord has certainly helped us in these past years and under the very trying conditions through which we have passed. May His guiding hand be over us continually. He knows that our hearts are right in these things and that our desires are to be free from any evil thought or motive. In this financial matter, may He give especial wisdom to all of us and open the way that we ought to go and keep us from the path of the unjust.

Asking an interest in your prayers that we may always be faithful and enabled to do His will, I am,

Yours in the love of Christ,

Handwritten signature

Handwritten note:
 The meeting of the meeting of the Executive Committee held at Waterloo last Tuesday, and their matters are referred to the Executive Committee or General Committee for decision. You will likely hear later in regard to these matters. S. H. C.

From Immits Daily Star - Oct 25, 1918

To Limit Exemptions of Mennonite Party.
Cabinet to take up Question at once. Old Order is

too indefinite
 Ottawa Oct 25 - with the return of Western Ministers to Ottawa, the Cabinet Council is taking up the exemption of Mennonites. Although no official announcement of policy has yet been made, it is understood that an order-in-Council is now under consideration which will strictly limit Mennonites entitled to exemption from military service.

The old order-in-council of the 70's under which exemption from military service was granted, was in the nature of an agreement between the Government of the day and certain Mennonite immigrants, and the language was rather indefinite.

The new order-in-council will probably limit exemption to such Mennonites as are descendants of the original immigrant colonies. An official announcement will, however, be made shortly. It is proposed to define exactly who is entitled to be classed as a Mennonite.



Ottawa, October 28, 1918.

Dear Sir,

Victory Loan 1918

Upon my return to the office I find your letter of the 22nd instant. During my trip to the West I stated to the Bishops of the Mennonite communities that, as I understood that their people had conscientious difficulty with respect to subscribing to the Victory Loan of 1918, in order to meet the difficulty the Government would set aside an amount equivalent to their subscriptions to the Loan for relief purposes, such as convalescent homes and hospitals. Those whom I met expressed themselves as quite satisfied with this disposition of their subscriptions. With respect to subscriptions from the Mennonite community of Ontario, I shall be glad to make a similar arrangement. Upon receiving from you a statement as to the entire amount subscribed by your community I shall have set aside in the books of the Department an equivalent sum, to be used for the maintenance of convalescent homes and hospitals under administration by the Dominion Government.

Yours very truly,

Rev. L. J. Burkholder,
Markham, Ontario.

Behind the Gun the Man—Behind the Man the Dollar.



THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA
offers for Public Subscription the

Victory Loan

1918

\$300,000,000. 5½% Gold Bonds

Bearing interest from November 1st, 1918, and offered in two maturities, the choice of which is optional with the subscriber as follows:

5 year Bonds due November 1st, 1923
15 year Bonds due November 1st, 1933

Principal payable without charge at the Office of the Minister of Finance and Receiver General at Ottawa, or at the Office of the Assistant Receiver General at Halifax, St. John, Charlottetown, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Victoria.

Bonds may be registered as to principal or as to principal and interest, at any of the above-mentioned offices.

Interest payable, without charge, half-yearly, May 1st and November 1st, at any branch in Canada of any Chartered Bank.

Principal and Interest payable in Gold

Denominations: \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000

Issue Price: 100 and Accrued Interest,
Income Return 5½% per Annum

Free from taxes—including any income tax—imposed in pursuance of legislation enacted by the Parliament of Canada.

The proceeds of the Loan will be used for war purposes only, including the purchase of grain, foodstuffs, munitions and other supplies, and will be spent wholly in Canada.

Payment to be made as follows:

10% on application;	20% January 6th, 1919;
20% December 6th, 1918;	20% February 6th, 1919;
31.16% March 6th, 1919.	

The last payment of 31.16% covers 30% balance of principal and 1.16% representing accrued interest at 5½% from November 1st to due dates of the respective instalments.

A full half year's interest will be paid on May 1st, 1919, making the cost of the bonds 100 and interest.

Subscriptions may be paid in full at the time of application at 100 without interest; or on any instalment due date thereafter together with accrued interest at the rate of 5½% per annum.

Make Your Dollars Fight the Hun

Victory Loan, 1918, Official Application Form

Authorization This Loan is authorized under Act of the Parliament of Canada, and both principal and interest are a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Amount and Allotment The amount of this issue is \$300,000,000, exclusive of the amount (if any) paid for by the surrender of bonds of previous issues (for particulars see last page of application form attached hereto). The Minister of Finance, however, reserves the right to allot the whole or any part of the amount subscribed in excess of \$300,000,000.

Conversion Privileges Bonds of this issue will, in the event of future issues of like maturity, or longer, made by the Government, during the remaining period of the War, other than issues made abroad, be accepted at 100 and accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscription to such issues.

Initial Payment and Failure to Pay All cheques, drafts, etc., covering instalments are to be made payable to the Credit of the Minister of Finance. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture, and the allotment to cancellation. Subscriptions must be accompanied by a deposit of 10% of the amount subscribed. Official Canvassers will forward subscriptions or any branch in Canada of any Chartered Bank will accept subscriptions and issue receipts.

Payment in full Subscriptions may be paid in full at time of application at 100 without interest; or on any instalment due date thereafter together with accrued interest to time of making payment in full. Under this provision, payment of subscriptions may be made as follows:—

Amount of Instalment Payments
 If paid in full on or before Nov. 16th, 1918, par without interest, or 100%.
 If remaining instalments paid on Dec. 6th, 1918, balance of 90% and interest, (\$90.48 per \$100.)
 If remaining instalments paid on Jan. 6th, 1919, balance of 70% and interest, (\$70.80 per \$100.)
 If remaining instalments paid on Feb. 6th, 1919, balance of 50% and interest, (\$51.04 per \$100.)
 If remaining instalment paid on Mar. 6th, 1919, balance of 30% and interest, (\$31.16 per \$100.)

Denomination and Registration Bearer bonds, with coupons, will be issued in denominations of \$50., \$100., \$500., and \$1,000., and may be registered as to principal. The first coupon attached to these bonds will be due on May 1st, 1919.

Fully registered bonds, the interest on which is paid direct to the owner by Government cheque, will be issued in denominations of \$50., \$100., \$500., \$1,000., \$5,000., \$10,000., \$25,000., \$50,000., \$100,000., or any multiple of \$100,000.

Payment of Interest A full half year's interest at the rate of 5½% per annum will be paid May 1st, 1919.

Form of Bond Subscribers must indicate on their application the form of bond and the denominations required, and the securities so indicated will be delivered by the bank upon payment of the subscription in full.

Delivery of Bonds Bearer bonds of this issue will be available for delivery at the time of application to subscribers desirous of making payment in full. Bonds registered as to principal only, or fully registered as to principal and interest, will be delivered to subscribers making payment in full, as soon as the required registration can be made.

Place of Payment Payment of all instalments must be made at the bank originally named by the subscriber.

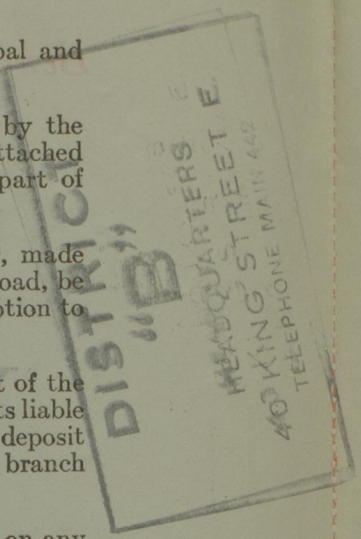
Subscription Receipts Non-negotiable receipts will be furnished to all subscribers who desire to pay by instalments. These receipts will be exchangeable at subscriber's bank for bonds on any instalment date when subscription is paid in full.

Form of bonds Interchangeable Subject to the payment of 25 cents for each new bond issued, holders of fully registered bonds without coupons, will have the right to convert into bonds with coupons, and holders of bonds with coupons will have the right to convert into fully registered bonds without coupons, at any time, on application to the Minister of Finance or any Assistant Receiver General.

Forms of application may be obtained from any Official Canvasser, from any Victory Loan Committee, or member thereof, or from any branch in Canada of any Chartered Bank.

Subscription Lists will close on or before November 16th, 1918.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
 OTTAWA, October 28th, 1918.



I/We hereby agree to purchase Victory Bonds in accordance with the following particulars and make payment therefor as required in the official prospectus.

DISTRICT "B"
HEADQUARTERS
40 KING STREET E.
 TELEPHONE MAIN 442

Name of Applicant
Write plainly full name and state whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss

Address.....
Street and Number

Signature of applicant
Post Office and Province

Amount of Bonds desired { Due 1923—\$.....
 { Due 1933—\$..... Total \$.....

Denomination of Bonds.....
(State whether \$50, \$100, \$500 or \$1,000)

Form of Bonds
(State whether (a) Coupon Bearer Bonds, (b) Coupon Registered Bonds, or, (c) Fully Registered Bonds, with interest payable by cheque)

If Registered Bonds desired, state in whose Name and give Address. If married woman Christian name to be given. (Name in full).....
(Street Address)..... (Post Office and Province).....

Name and Address of Bank at which payment and delivery of securities is to be made. (Name of Bank).....
(Address)..... (Post Office and Province).....

If it is intended to pay in full prior to March 6th, 1919, state date here if possible

If securities of previous loans are to be surrendered in part payment of this subscription the total of such surrendered securities is to be filled in the following space and particulars given on back hereof: \$.....

Official Canvasser (if any) securing Application

Name..... Address.....
 NOTE—No cash is to be paid canvassers. One of the following forms may be used and left attached to application.

Victory Loan 1918

Account No..... **Cheque Form**1918
 Pay to the credit of the Minister of Finance, Ottawa,
 the sum of..... Dollars (\$.....)
 To.....
(Name of Bank)

(Complete Address of Branch Bank)
(Signature)

This form not to be used if applicant has bank account.

Undertaking to Pay Cash1918
Not later than November 16th, 1918.

On November....., 1918, I/We promise to pay to the credit of the Minister of Finance, Ottawa,
 the sum of..... Dollars (\$.....)
 at..... at.....
(Name of Bank) (Complete Address of Branch Bank)
 covering payment on my/our Victory Loan 1918 subscription.

(Street Address of Subscriber)

(Post Office and Province)
(Signature)

Conversion of Previous Loans

Holders of Dominion of Canada Debenture Stock or of Bonds of previous War Loans have the privilege of surrendering their Securities, as detailed below, in part payment of subscriptions to Bonds of this issue as of November 16th, 1918, under the following conditions:—

The prices of Bonds and Debenture Stock on which interest is payable December 1st, 1918, represent in each case the original issue price of the Security less unearned interest from November 16th to December 1st. Cheques for the full six months' interest, due December 1st, 1918, on fully registered Bonds, and for the interest, due December 1st, 1918, on Debenture Stock, will be mailed to all registered holders as of November 15th. Coupons due December 1st are to be detached before the surrender of Coupon Bonds.

Fill in amount to be
surrendered here.

5½% Debenture Stock	due June 1st, 1919, at 100 less unearned interest or \$99.77 per \$100	-	\$.....
5 % Debenture Stock	due Oct. 1st, 1919, at 100 and accrued interest or \$100.63 per \$100	-	\$.....
5½% Debenture Stock	due June 1st, 1920, at 100 less unearned interest or \$99.77 per \$100	-	\$.....
5½% Debenture Stock	due June 1st, 1921, at 100 less unearned interest or \$99.77 per \$100	-	\$.....
5½% Victory Loan Bonds	due Dec. 1st, 1922, at 100 less unearned interest or \$99.77 per \$100	-	\$.....
5 % War Loan Bonds	due Dec. 1st, 1925, at 97½ less unearned interest or \$97.29 per \$100	-	\$.....

(The above will be accepted in part payment for Bonds of either maturity of this issue)

5½% Victory Loan Bonds	due Dec. 1st, 1927, at 100 less unearned interest or \$99.77 per \$100	-	\$.....
5 % War Loan Bonds	due Oct. 1st, 1931, at 97½ and accrued interest or \$98.13 per \$100	-	\$.....

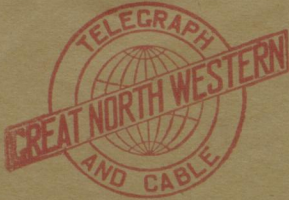
(These will be accepted in part payment for bonds of the 1933 maturity only of this issue.)

Where subscriptions are to be partially paid for by the surrender of securities as above, no payment is required on application. The full amount of securities to be surrendered must be lodged with subscribers' bank on or before November 16th, 1918, and particulars as to further payments will be furnished by the Bank at that time.

Such securities only as are noted in the above will be accepted for conversion purposes.

N.L. 1

NIGHT LETTER



Great North Western Telegraph Company of Canada.

CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All NIGHT LETTERS are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following NIGHT LETTER. This is an unrepeatd NIGHT LETTER and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

Z. A. LASH, President.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

GEO. D. PERRY, General Manager.

N S 635 pm 81 pd 4 exa.

Toronto, Ont., Oct. 28/18.

L.J.Burkholder, Moderator Mennonite Conference of Ontario, Markham, Ont.

I understand the Minister of Finance will be willing to set aside an amount of money equivalent to that subscribed by the Mennonite community for relief purposes, such as convalescent homes and hospitals. I also understand that this is regarded as quite satisfactory from the conscientious standpoint by the Mennonite communities in the Canadian Northwest. If you desire to have any further assurance in this matter please write directly to Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

E.R.Wood, Chairman, Dominion Executive Committee.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR TELEGRAM

Domestic and Foreign Money Orders by Telegraph and Cable

THE GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO.,

CONNECTING WITH THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO., CONSTITUTES THE LARGEST TELEGRAPHIC SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

OVER ONE MILLION MILES OF WIRE IN CANADA AND UNITED STATES.

Over 25,000 Telegraph Offices, including Branch Offices.

Also direct Connection by Telegraph or Telephone with many more remote and smaller stations, making a total list of 60,000 in Canada, United States and Mexico, and this number is rapidly increasing.

SEVEN ATLANTIC CABLES

Connecting North America with all points in Europe and beyond, including Two Cables of the American Telegraph and Cable Company, Four Cables of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, and One Cable of the Direct United States Cable Co.

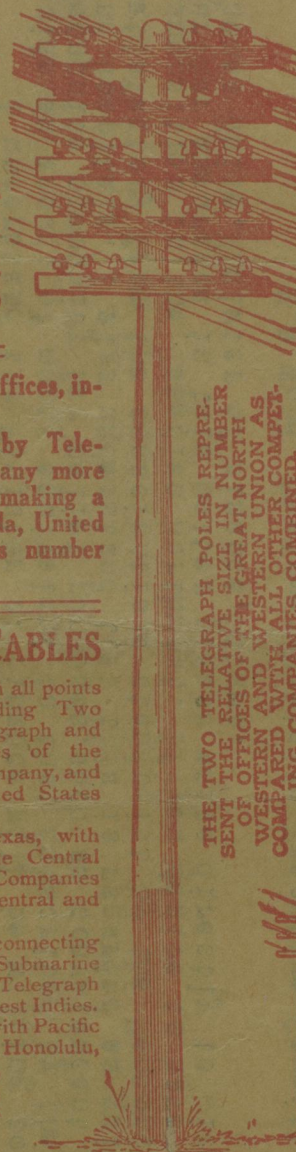
Connects at Galveston, Texas, with the Cables of the Mexican, the Central and South American Telegraph Companies for all points in Mexico and Central and South America.

Cables to Havana, Cuba, connecting at that place with the Cuba Submarine and West India and Panama Telegraph Companies for all points in the West Indies.

Connects at San Francisco with Pacific Cables to the Sandwich Islands, Honolulu, Guam, the Philippines, China, Japan, etc., and at Victoria, B.C., with Pacific Cable to Australia and New Zealand.

Connects at Seattle, Wash., with U.S. Government Lines and Cables to and in Alaska.

Domestic and Foreign Money Orders by Telegraph and Cable



THE TWO TELEGRAPH POLES REPRESENT THE RELATIVE SIZE IN NUMBER OF OFFICES OF THE GREAT NORTH WESTERN AND WESTERN UNION AS COMPARED WITH ALL OTHER COMPETING COMPANIES COMBINED.

GREAT NORTH WESTERN AND WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

ALL COMPETING COMPANIES

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR TELEGRAM

Vinsland Ont., October 28th, 1918.

H. H. Ewert, Principal,
Gretna Man.

Dear Brother:-

Your letter of the 21st Inst. came to hand just at the time that the subject of the ^{Constitution} status and standing of the Russian brethren was pressed upon my mind. It will be a pleasure to me to give you the information asked, as far as in my power to give it, and it will be a further pleasure to continue the correspondence in order to impart and receive information that is needed in order to have a proper understanding of the questions that confront us as a non resistant people of the same common faith.

The Mennonites in Ontario have been held as a distinct people from the Russian Brethren. It was no doubt the purpose of the Government to make ample provision for the Non-resistant people of every faith. There was an effort made on the part of some of the members of the Government in this behalf at the time that the recent Military Service Act was framed. The Act was primarily in the hands of Hon. Arthur Meighan, who represents a constituency in Manitoba. The clause referring to the Order-in Council of Canada, 1873, was, no doubt, inserted on behalf of the large representation of Russian Mennonites in Manitoba and the West. The promise of the Government to these people was to be kept in good faith. Since there was no information at hand regarding the promises made to the Mennonites who had settled in Ontario in the early part of the Century, they were not regarded as being under any special treaty. Yet their interests were taken up by a member of the Government, Mr. W. G. Weichel of North Waterloo, Ontario. Provisions were made for them under the exemption privileges, but that was as much as the Government felt to allow them, - freedom from Combatant service. We appealed a number of cases of this kind, after our boys were called upon to register under the act. and made our plea that the section of the Exemption privileges as stated in the Act, did not describe correctly our faith, and claimed that we were also entitled to the privileges of the Exceptions granted under the Order-in-Council which stated that military exemption was to be granted by law and Order -in-Council to the denomination of Christians called Mennonites.

Our appeal to the Department of Justice, and other appeals to the same Department made at different time by different individuals, received the reply that the Mennonite people were under the Exceptions to the Act and had no duty to perform. The Local and Appeal Tribunals refused to act according to the Decision of the Military Council (under the Department of Justice) and our brethren were thus held for military duty, but only for non-combatant service. Some of these cases were appealed to the Central Appeal Judge. The first decisions came from his department, that the Mennonites in Ontario were not under the Exceptions as described by the Order-in-Council, 1873, and that they were subject to the Act, and exempted only from Combatant service. With this decision some of our brethren were ordered to report for service and were obliged to go to the camps and report for duty. This call included boys from the various branches of the Mennonite Church and the Tunker Brethren. These boys all were obliged to refuse to accept service and also refused to put on the Uniforms. The consequence was that they were imprisoned in the camp, some were tried by court-martial and sentenced to two-year terms at military prisons. We appealed again to the Government for relief from these conditions, making it plain that our people could not accept any form of military service. The Militia Council, of the Military Department, (not a department of the civil Government,) took up the matter and decided that our brethren should not be required to do active service and were granted an indefinite leave of absence, but were still counted as soldiers.

Later appeals that came before the Chief Justice, (the Central Appeal Judge) stated that our people are under the "Exceptions under the Order-in-Council of 1873, and neither the Local, Appeal or Central Appeal Judge have any jurisdiction over these cases, and the cases were dismissed. We are at present having correspondence with representatives of the Government to ascertain whether or not this decision is to apply to all cases of Mennonites and Turners in Ontario. If it does, then all of our brethren who have been called and have been granted "Leave of absence" will be free from the Jurisdiction of the Army. We should say that all of the Sentences of the Courts-martial were quashed and the brethren returned to camp and granted indefinite leave of absence. We hope now that the Chief Justice will sustain his late decisions and make the application to all of the Non-resistant Churches in Ontario. We are waiting to hear from the Department regarding it.

Those of our brethren in the western provinces have been accorded the same privileges as the Russian Brethren, although the District Registrars know that there is a difference in their organizations and Conference relations. All that was required of any of them thus far was that they hold certificates signed by their bishops that they are bona-fide members of the Mennonite Church. You will readily see that this makes the section of the Military Service Act, as applied to the Ontario Mennonites, a purely sectional or Provincial interpretation and not a Dominion Act. This is not according to Constitutional practice. It would not stand if taken up by our people and brought before the Department of Justice for a definition. But we do not feel that it is wise to agitate the question and we are leaving it in the hands of the various departments of the Government to work out, so long as we are being accorded freedom from service under some conditions. We cannot help how the Government looks upon us, so long as we know that we are not personally violating the spirit and life which Our Lord has imparted to us as His children and followers.

There is at present an agitation against the privileges accorded the Non-Resistant People. It seems to be aimed especially against the Mennonites, and makes no distinction as to location or origin. It is evident, however, from the sources of the agitation, that it is particularly against the Mennonites in the West, and that would mean, against our Russian Brethren. Recent reports in our eastern papers show that there is some sentiment rife in Alberta, and in Saskatchewan, on account of the fact that our people are settling in colonies and are continuing the use of the German language. They are also accused of conducting their own schools and perpetuating their language and doctrines by the use of their language. The purpose of the agitators seems to be to create sentiment in public that will support legislation by the Dominion Parliament to take away the privilege of immigration and colonization for people of our faith. Legislation is also threatened to take away the privileges of military exemption which is now enjoyed by our people. These threats have been made by men high up in Governmental rank in the Province of Alberta, and men who have acted for us here, and who are members of the Legislature have warned us of a possible attempt on the part of certain members to introduce legislation of their character in the next session of parliament. We would indeed be sorry for any such steps taken by the Government. It will certainly mean the denial to certain classes of religious liberty, which is one of the fundamental principles of the British constitution.

We believe that the Premier of Canada will stand by the liberties that have been promised our people and also the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, Hon. J. A. Calder of Saskatchewan. His report on the situation regarding the Mennonite colonies in the West was very fair and shows a disposition to look upon the agitation against them as unwarranted.

The late sessions of the Conferences of the Presbyterian Church and the more recent Quadriennial Methodist Conference have shown that their Home Mission workers are raising opposition to the colonizing of our people

in the West. Their principle objection is the language question and the attitude of our faith toward the military question. We cannot help expressing our feelings that this is an expression of religious intolerance and the interference of one religious organization with the rights of another for them to make recommendations to the Government concerning the establishing of laws that would interfere with the settlement privileges and the religious practices of any people of a civilized character. The recommendations concerning such legislation came from the mission boards of the said churches. We have felt that the false impressions that exist in the general body of these conferences and among their adherents should be corrected. The men who compose the legislatures to whom their appeals will be sent should be informed as to actual conditions.

Some time ago, a letter was sent to the Editor of the Rundschau, at Scottdale Pa, and also to John Horsch, of the same place asking for information concerning conditions among our Russian Brethren in the West as to their schools, congregations and other institutions relative to the use of the German language. Among our people of Ontario affinity, there are no private, or separate schools. Among a few congregations the German language is used in the public services. The majority of our congregations use the English almost exclusively. The Amish Brethren still use the German in Church services, but their children are all educated in the Public schools and are familiar with the English language. Some are teaching in the Public schools. Our Church Schools, as you know, are at Goshen Indiana and at Hesston Kans, and are both standard schools, or accredited institutions.

It may be possible for you to give the information, or may I beg your assistance in securing the information asked for on the enclosed sheet. The questions may not be in order, and may not be as distinct as they should be, but the information is asked so as to give or secure as definite information as possible, and answer any inquiries that may be made concerning our Russian Brethren. It is our desire to be posted, if it may become necessary for us to again meet the Government regarding the question of our continued liberties. In fact it seems almost essential that our Non-resistant people be united in some manner in mutually assisting each other in these matters. Through the mercies of the Lord we were able to render assistance in the past years, and we still stand on the same faith and may the brotherly love of those days be perpetuated as well as the faith which we believe was and is still founded upon the Word of God and manifested in the life of our Saviour.

Please find, enclosed, some literature and copies which may be of interest to you.

Trusting that this epistle will not be an imposition upon your time and patience, and thanking you for your brotherly inquiry and interest in us in Ontario, I am,

Yours in faith,

P. S. -Since writing the above, the literature mailed by you has arrived. Many thanks for the same. I had previously received a copy of the "Wichtige Dokumente." It was a great help to us in our work. We have also received notice of the offer of the Minister of Finance and we think that our people will respond to his request. It is significant that the Government comes to our people with a special request to loan them money, under the conditions of their request can the Church refuse to comply? Had it been a command to furnish the money, would the Church have been in a position to refuse? The matter is worthy of consideration and compliance may mean much as to future favors granted by the Government to our people.

S.F.C.

Vineland Ont., October 28th, 1918.

Chr. Gascho,
Baden Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letter regarding the matter of the Loan to the Government, written on the 24th instant came to hand on Saturday. I was glad to hear from you, for I think that you have set me right regarding an inquiry that came from Brother Mammasseh Hallman. He said that a brother, Christain Zehr was at his place to see him about the Loan and he telephoned me and I said that I would write to him and to Brother Zehr. I was then at a loss to know which Chr. Zehr to address and venture to write to the Bishop, Christian B. Zehr, of Wellesly. If I am mistaken, I must write the Bishp Brother and appologize for my mistake.

Brother Hallman was also sent a letter of explanation and I think that the enclosed copy of a report of the Committee to interview the Government will help you to understand about what our views are on this subject. I have also received a letter from the Principal of the Mennonite Collegiate Institute at Gretna Manitoba, which is a school of the Russian Brethren, asking what our position is under the present Military regulations and what we are doing with reference to the Bond Issue. He says that the Government has proposed to them that they take Bonds which will be stamped by the Government stating that they will be used only for relief purposes.

This is the first time in the history of our people that the Government has come directly to our people and asked a loan from them in the manner which they now propose; that is, promising to use the money in a way that will not be objectionable to our people. I think that our people should see that any money loaned to the Government will be only a part of all the funds that are used by the Government for all purposes. What is given for one purpose will release that same amount for other purposes, and even for war purposes, but, if what our people give is pledged by them to be used only for food or for relief, we are guiltless if the money is used for any other purpose. No one is compelled to purchase bonds. The Government asks our people for the loan of their money. The money bears the stamp of the Government and belongs to them. They might compel us to give it and we could not help ourselves. They might tax us and there would be no chance to object. They now ask of us the loan of it, and are we not morally under obligation to give the loan when they make the conditions such that they will not be offensive to our faith? It is the opinion of some that the Government will be called upon later to consider the taking away of our privileges, and that if we now stand by the Government and show our good will in helping them to carry on the work of the Government and relief that they will also pledge themselves to protect our interests.

The special fund that will be given to the Government should be a large one and should be given without interest, since it is to be an expression of our gratitude for what favors we have enjoyed in these past trying years. The contributions have been very good, but it seems that even larger amounts should be given in order to make the gift really worth while and in order to show to the Government that we are not trying to save our boys and our money as well. If each had to give \$50.00 a year to be free it would be gladly given. Can not each give as much because we are free, when we know that it will be used for helping some one who has been in need and is suffering for the very necessities of life? The special gift to the Government should be given and all who feel that they can take bonds should be allowed to do so.

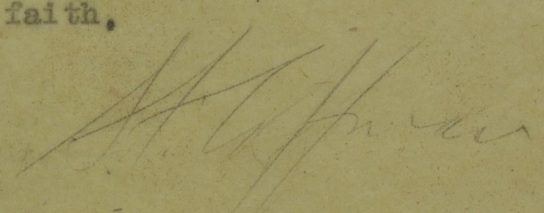
Chr. Gascho, --2.

We do not feel that we should tell people what they should give or to say that they must or must not take Bonds. All who feel that they can do so, if the Government marks the Bonds so that it shows that the money will be used only for food or for relief, should not be looked upon by others as doing wrong. The Committee of the Non-resistant Relief Organization will likely take up this question and let the churches know what their opinion is. Today is the first day of the aBond issue and word will have to be sent out quickly. I do not know whether your Bishops and ministers will hold a council about this matter or not. I think that our Conference will look favorably upon the request of the Government and the conditions which they offer. We do not want to get mixed up with the worldly affairs, but we must in some manner help the country in this time of need. The Government has burdens that it cannot bear and cannot carry on unless it has the support of its citizens. That is why they call upon us to do this special thing for them.

I hope that this matter can be arranged so that it will be satisfactory for all. If there are those who do not think it right to take the interest, the interest could be turned over to relief or charity work. The Bonds will be paid back by the Government in due time and so the money will not be lost. Let us do good to all men, and especially to those of the household of faith.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Brother Simon Roth. He was true to his faith and we trust that he has received his blessing from the Lord to whom he has gone. So far we have been spared from the affliction, but we have only to thank the Lord for this mercy. There is considerable sickness around here, but all seem to be recovering. There is a chastening hand over the nation and may the Lord keep us humble before Him and faithful to His word. Hope that you are still enjoying the blessings of the lord.

Yours in faith,



Scottsdale, Pa., October 29, 1918.

S. F. Coffman

Vineland, Ontario.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

I have your letter of October 25 and have noted its contents.

The Russian Mennonites ~~which~~ settled in western Canada are divided into a number of branches, among them is a branch which is more conservative than any other of the Russian Mennonites; there are none of the same class in the United States. Their leader was John Wiebe, a man of noted ability. He was on a visit in Elkhart some twenty years ago, being at that time an old man. This church insists that the children of the members attend their own parochial schools which however are not of a good grade. The German language alone is taught or used in these schools, yet there may have been a change in recent years. I believe the government does now require English to be taught in all schools. It is true that these people as well as Russian Mennonites in Canada in general live in colonies, the same as they were used to in Russia, and before their settlement in Russia, also in Germany. They are not of German but of Dutch origin. In the Reformation period their forefathers fled from the Netherlands to the country near Danzig and Marienburg in what is now a part Prussia, but was then Poland. They continued the use of the Dutch language till well into the 18th century, at least in worship. Just as they retained their mother tongue in that period for a long time, simply *because* they were conservative and feared with the old language the old principles would depart, so they are now clinging to their German mother tongue, as do also the Old Order Amish Brethren in the United States. The charge that they are for this reason unlegal to the American or Canadian government is absurd. It is clear that the Canadian government are fully informed about them and are convinced that they are useful citizens. A government official is reported to have said that in the present war the western Mennonites are doing as much as the combatants, since practically every one of them is engaged in raising wheat.

The best informed man concerning actual conditions among the Mennonites in western Canada is Principal H. H. Ewert, of the Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Gretna, Manitoba. The aim of this school is to educate Teachers for the Mennonite schools, but (at least until recently) the strictest branch did not permit their prospective teachers to attend

it. Bro Ewert will readily give you any information you may desire. He is a General Conference man. Just recently he wrote an interesting article in reply to those who criticize the government for permitting Mennonites to settle in the land. The article was printed in the Free Press which is published, if I am correctly informed, at Winnipeg. A translation of the article appeared in the Rundschau.

As for the Huterites, they were originally located in the Austrian province of Moravia. From there they fled to Hungary and Transylvania, then to what is now Rumania, then to Russia from whence they all came to America. They settled in Russia before any of the Mennonites came to that country. Their best informed man is Elias Walter of Frankfort, S. D., but more recently of Macleod, Alberta. At present he is back to South Dakota and may stay there over winter. Their men of military age are now all in Canada. They were permitted to leave the United States, since they went before the new law went into effect. Their leading men have been repeatedly at Ottawa and have received full assurance of rel. freedom including freedom from military service of whatever description. The matter was fully considered by the highest authorities of Canada who sent an official to South Dakota to get particulars concerning their colony life, etc. He returned to Ottawa highly pleased with what he had seen and learned. They certainly will continue their community life in Canada. Near Macleod they have already very substantial buildings. One colony is about to settle in Western Manitoba. I can not say on how many places they have bought land. In the states they come under the same military rulings as other nonresistant bodies, but some of their young men in the camps have been more unfortunate than most of the Mennonites in being subjected to great sufferings. It may not be wise to say much about this at the present time, but they are carefully preserving all data regarding this matter. In the first draft they did not get exemption on account of being family heads (they were all married) since the community was supposed to take care of their families. Some of those are now in camps but most of them have been sentenced to long years of imprisonment. By the way, Elias Walter will probably not be able to write in English. Joseph Kleinsasser, Milltown, S. D., has a fair command of the English language. He is one of the men that have stopped here repeatedly on their way to Washington.

We are well, as this leaves us. Walter is waiting for his call to camp. Regards to your family.

Your Bro.

J. Horsch.

P. S. David Hofer, probably the most influential elder among the Hutterites (Alexandria, S. D.) writes they have sold two of their colonies of the corporation of which his own colony is a part. They have, or had, in South Dakota four different corporations consisting of four colonies each. The two other colonies of the said corporation, he says, they intend to sell next spring. In his colony they had a harvest of 40,000 bushels of wheat, but had great difficulty to harvest it, since the working men were nearly all in Canada. Some of the colonies of the other corporations were also sold; I do not know how many.

Their efforts made at Washington failed in practical results, though they were received repeatedly by Secretary Baker, who conversed in German with Bro. Hofer. Bro. Walter complains of a sentiment of enmity that is developing against them in the west; he sent me a newspaper clipping from which this was fully evident, but the government has guaranteed them liberty of conscience.