

Vineland Ont. June 4, 1918.

Mr. W. G. Welchel,
Waterloo Ont.

Dear Sir:

Through the member of our committee, Mr. Thos. Reesor, I learned, last Saturday, of the decision of the Government in regard to the exemption allowed the members of the Mennonite, Anish and Tunker Churches and their adherents. As a Committee we desire to thank you for your kind and timely and much appreciated assistance. We shall also thank the Government, upon our first opportunity for the consideration and liberties that have been accorded us on account of our faith.

To-day, I have written to the Hon. Mr. Scott, asking him what steps the Government has taken regarding the donation which our people expect to give to the Government on account of the religious liberty that we have had and are now enjoying. This matter was placed in the hands of a Committee of which Hon. Mr. Calder was the head and Mr. Scott was present at the time of our meeting him. As soon as we learn the Government's wishes regarding the fund we shall proceed with the collections.

In his letter to me, Mr. Reesor stated that all exemptions must go thru the hands of Mr. Welchel. As the Secretary of our Committee I have been sending out instructions to our members through the Bishops and ministers of our congregations. Any instructions which you may have for us will be transmitted to our people if you so desire. I am enclosing a copy of the circular sent out to-day. I have also called a copy to Mr. Scott.

Several members of the Tunker Church are still detained at the Exhibition camp in Toronto, and in the camp at Niagara. One of the latter, Ernest Swalm, was tried by court martial last Friday and another, Charles Wright is kept under close guard, while still another, Earl M. Sider is imprisoned with William Carlton. Elmer Steckley and John H. Heise are imprisoned or detained in the camp in Toronto.

Some of the Anish brethren were imprisoned in London. Two by the name of Brenneman and two by the name of Roth. They may be released by this time as they were called several weeks ago.

Do you desire the names of all who are called under the Obedience in Council? Some are sending in these names to me. Will it be necessary to send the list of names of those who are eighteen to the District Registrar? I received a letter from the Toronto office asking for such names from my congregation. Any assistance we may be able to render in order to carry into effect the provisions of the Government will be gladly rendered.

Yours truly and most gratefully,

S. F. Coffman,
For the Committees.

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918

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

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copies of circular letter which we have sent out to our ministers, under the instruction of the delegation which met Mr. Weichel at Waterloo on last Saturday.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter to the Minister of Justice from the present member of North Waterloo, who had been approached by some of the residents of his City, and asked for information as to the possibility of securing total exemption under the present Orders. It seems that he had an interview with the Government and stumped up his opinion as per the copy.

It seems that Mr. Weichel is to represent those who claim exemption at the present time. Will all claims be sent to him? Some of the Tanker boys are still detained under guard at Niagara and in Toronto. Word was received that a few more of the Anish boys were called to London, and some of our boys from Baden are called to report in London on June 18.

Since the Government has decided our status, we are anxious to know what steps we shall take in the matter of donating the fund to the Government. Have you any information for us on this point? I believe that yourself and the Honorable Mr. Calder had charge of this matter. We are ready to collect the funds from our members as soon as we learn of the provisions that the Government is making for us.

We wish to thank you for the deep interest you have taken on our behalf and for the success that attended your efforts in securing our exemption and religious liberty for which we have prayed.

Yours most gratefully,

S: F. Goffman,
For the Committees.

To Bishops and Ministers of the
of the Mennonite and Tunker Churches.

Vineland Ont. June 4, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Thanks be to God for remembering us with His
abounding mercy, having heard our prayers and prevailed for us. Through
His grace the Government has granted us our petition, and official notice
has been forwarded to Mr. W. G. Weichel, Waterloo Ont., who acts as the
Government's representative in this matter, that the Mennonite Anish and
Tunker ^{Churches} have been considered and their status decided. Members will be
granted exemption upon certificates signed by Bishops or ministers whose
names have been sent to the Government and to the Officers Commanding in
the military Districts where our people reside. Exemption will also be
granted to ^{adherents} of these Churches, who were regular attendants of the Church but
not actual members on the 6th July, 1917, but who have since that date
united with the Church.

In order to secure exemption when called for service, the person
called should send to the Officer Commanding in his district a certificate
of membership signed by the Bishop or minister authorized, and also report
the matter to Mr. W. G. Weichel, Waterloo Ont.

The following certificate should be made out and signed by the minister
or bishop for those who were adherents and not members on the 6th July,
1917.

Date, -----191

To the best of my knowledge I certify that -----
was, before the 6th July, 1917, a regular attendant of the ----- Mennonite,
Church, and to the best of my knowledge and belief had the intention
before that date of joining the Church and has actually joined since and
taken the obligation as a ----- Mennonite/-----.

Signed, ----- Bishop.

Address, -----

Signed, ----- Minister.

Address, -----

Every member should have with him constantly a membership certificate.
Brethren who are near the military age should also carry a birth certifi-
cate. Ministers should have certificates of ordination signed by the
Bishop or Secretary of Conference. All should comply with the law regard-
ing these proofs of exemption.

We have informed the Government that we have advised our brethren who
become nineteen years of age that they need not register, but should pre-
sent their certificates as evidence of their exemption and the Government
has replied that this will be satisfactory.

Ministers are advised to use special caution regarding adherents,
since the Government desires to grant this favor only to those cases that
are genuine.

Let us render unto God the offerings of pure and contrite hearts, and
pray for our rulers that God may give them especial grace under these try-
ing conditions.

Information regarding the relief work will be forwarded soon.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman,

For the Committee.

C O P Y

MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

149 College Street,
Toronto Ont., July 29th, 1918.

To:-

Mr. E.M.Klink,
Glennmount, Muskoka Ont.

Status under M.S.A.1917
Mennonites, Tunkers and Amish.

Your letter of the 18th instant addressed to Colonel H. C. Bickford has been forwarded to this department for action.

It is noted in your letter that you are, apparently, in category "B" and as you have not been ordered to report, no action is necessary. Should you be ordered by the Registrar to report, it will be necessary for you to do so and provide yourself with a certificate from a Bishop of the Mennonite Church to the effect, that you were on or prior to the 12th October, 1917, a member in good faith of the Mennonite Church and conscientiously object to the undertaking of combatant service.

Isaac B. Bribacher, who signed your certificate of admission to the Church, is not one who is authorized to sign your certificate when you claim leave of absence. This will be required to be signed by one of the following Bishops:

	Bishop	Jonas Snyder	Waterloo Ont.
	"	Abraam Gingrich	Elmira Ont.
	"	Manasseh Hallman	Petersburg Ont.
Acting	"	L. J. Burkholder	Markham Ont.
	"	S. F. Coffman,	Vineland Ont.

RCW/LB.

(Signed) R. C. Wideger,
Lieut. Colonel
for A.A.G., M.D.No.2.

Vinaland Ont., Sept. 13th, 1918.

Members of the Non-Resistant
Relief Organization.

Brethren:- Greeting.

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

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

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

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

Yours in His service Whom we love,

J. J. Coffman
For the Committee.

L. J. Barkholder,
D. W. Heise,
Thomas Reesor,
Samuel Goudie,
Christian Gascho,

Vineland Ont., August 26th, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

Please find, enclosed, copy of the list of names of ministers and Bishops and those authorized to sign Certificates of Membership in our various organizations. These were requested by Mr. Scott and Mr. Weichal, in order to have matters adjusted at Ottawa.

Recently there came to me two communications from the West, from Brethren Alva Bowman of Guernsey, Sask., and bro. N. B. Steuffer of Aldersyde Alta., stating that the status of the Brethren in the West has not yet been fully decided. There is yet a matter of distinction between those of our faith and the Russian Brethren. There is a question of the relation of the congregations there with the congregations in Ontario. There seems to be a disposition on the part of the Registrars there to know what final disposition will be made of the case of the Mennonites in Ontario. It will be necessary for us to be prepared to state our case definitely and for the brethren in the West to take the identical ground that we have taken. I am sending them the statement of our faith and the decision of the General Conference as the opinion of the Church concerning our attitude on the question of warfare. Some of the Registrars are asking for information concerning the number of Mennonites in Canada, and also the location of the Governing Head of the Church.

I would offer the suggestion that each of the Moderators of the Ontario Conferences or those an authority in the Ontario District, take up the matter of deciding on a united plan of action or central authority with the Western Districts, so that there will be agreement between the East and West, and no confusion in presenting these matters before the Authorities. And all should stand together on the common ground of faith and practice of non-resistance.

Yours in faith,

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

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First List.

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

Second List.

Bishop Freeman Rittenhouse,	Dunnville Ont. R.R.#4.
Bishop Ezra L. Martin,	St. Jacobs, Ont. R.R.#1.
John Bowman,	Elmira Ont.
Urias Martin,	Waterloo Ont.
Amos Gingerich,	Elmira Ont.
Israel Weber,	St. Jacobs Ont.
Christian Gayman,	Unionville Ont.
Levi Grove,	Claremont Ont. R.R.#3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Thomas Reesor,	Pickering Ont., R.R.#2.
Isaac Rittenhouse,	South Cayuga Ont.
John Sherk,	Dunville Ont. R.R.#9.

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

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

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

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Bishop Charles Baker,	Batteux, Ont.
Bishop Fred Hahn,	Kindersley Sask.
Bishop John Reichert,	Fordwich Ont.
Bishop John Sider,	Marshville, Ont.
Bishop Peter M. Steckley,	Bathesda Ont.
Bishop Bert Sherk,	Stevensville Ont.

List Of Elders and Ministers of the
Mennonite Brethren In Christ Church
Authorized-to-Sign-Membership Certificates.
- ----00----

Presiding Elder, Samuel Goudis, Stouffville Ont.

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

Ministers,

M. Bricker, Markham Ont.

J. Bolwell, Edgeley Ont.

W. Brown, Kitchener, Ont.

I. Brubacher, Elmwood Ont.

P. Cober, Maryboro Ont.

S. Cressman, Breslau Ont.

R. Eltherington, Lion's Head Ont.

H. R. Frey, Sunnidale Ont.

A. T. Gooding, Stayner Ont.

J. N. Kitching, Toronto Ont. 181 Brunswick Ave.

Elmer Meyer, Aylmer West Ont.

N. H. Schwalm, New Dundee Ont.

E. Sievenpiper, Stouffville Ont.

C. I. Sinden, Dundalk Ont.

D. J. Storms, Hespeler Ont.

- A.G. Warder, Collingwood Ont.

W. Yates, Long Bay Ont.

F. J. Lehman, Vineland Ont.

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 .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT 1917.

Notice of Disposition of Appeal to Central Appeal Judge.

Serial Number,
706062 AG

Consecutive Number
159 A

Mr. John Rees,
Brammer 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 is that Exemption be ----- The subject is in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada passed in the year 1873 and is not under the application of the Military Service Act, 1917.

(Signed) H. S. Beresford,
Registrar under M. S. A.
London.

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917.

Central Appeal Judge.

AG 706062- A 1441.

John Rees,
RR 1 Brammer Ontario.
District, London.

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

(Signed) Clerk to the Central Appeal Judge

Ottawa, Sept. 13th, 1918.

Gormley, Feb, 26 th, 1919

Beloved Brother.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, you are hereby advised that Resolution (B) Minutes of last Executive Meeting, has failed by virtue of the absence of Sir Robert Borden from Canada at present, which absence may continue for some time to come. And in view of the urgent need of "food, clothing, and other necessities" on the part of the thousands of war sufferers. The Chairman, Bro L. J. Burkholder and myself have concluded that immediate independent action, (as per Resolution C of last meeting) should be taken. Especially from the further fact that inquiry has been made, by personal interviews, as well as somewhat extensive correspondence as to the objects and purposes of the various institutions, and Organizations to whom appropriations were made by the Executive at its last meeting as per Resolution (A) and so far as we are able to judge, after having gone over the matter carefully, it does not seem to be any good reason why the funds of the organization should not be turned over at once so they may be of immediate service to those for whom they were contributed by our people. I might state further that all of these organizations are working along lines which are absolutely free from militarism, or political influence, and we believe conform to the principles for which we stand. We therefore appeal to you as a member of the Executive as to whether you would be in favor of having the Treasurer issue his Cheques for the amounts designated in the Minutes of our last meeting, and turn them over to the proper officials of the various Institutions, and Organizations without any further formality on our part. In the event of the decision of the members of the Executive being unanimous, this course will be taken without further delay. If desired, the Secretaries of these organizations might be advised to acknowledge the amounts both to the Treasurer of this organization, and also to Prime Minister of Canada, or the acting Prime Minister, as thought best.

Kindly let me have your decision at once as to the matter implied in this communication.

"The poor ye have always with you, and when ye will, ye may do them good".

Yours for Service.

D. W. Heise Secy.

Wineland Ont., March 1, 1919.

Brethren of the Committee to the
Government.

Christian Easch

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

You will find enclosed a copy of a statement concerning the position of our non-resistant people during their history in Europe as well as in America. It seemed well to prepare this statement in order to give to those members of Parliament who have been interested in our cause a brief historical review of our people. We have aimed to show the attitude of the Government toward our faith, and what our people have suffered in the past; also to show the toleration of our faith ^{that} has been recognized as just even in the most intolerant ages of religious privileges.

Having had some conversation with those members of the Government who have represented us, we have received the advice that it is best ^{not to} ~~that I~~ agitate these matters more than is necessary, since there is no definite programme before the Government as to the dealing with the question of our franchise or of revoking the privileges of exemption. If any of these questions come before the Government we will be notified so that we will be given a hearing.

It is certain that we are not so much concerned regarding the franchise as we are concerning the continuance of our freedom from military service. Let us pray that we may be able to live true to our faith. It is certain that we will be true to the powers that rule over us whether we will be given a voice in such matters or not.

Yours in faith,

J. Hoffman

STATEMENT CONCERNING MENNONITES IN CANADA.

1. The faith of the Non-Resistant people, while in existence for many years previous, was printed in the form of a Confession as early as 1527, among the Mennonites in Holland and Flanders.
2. The Mennonites in Holland endured persecutions as religious reformers with other independent religious bodies until the time of general religious liberties granted in 1571-1583. Military exemption was especially granted them in Holland in 1626, and continued under various modified conditions from that date.
3. The Mennonites and Amish in Switzerland suffered extreme persecution owing to the reformed nature of their faith, and were subjected to especial hardships on account of their non-resistant belief and practice, being under the sentence of banishment, their property confiscated, being sold as gally slaves, and denied any privileges of citizenship. Under a special appeal from the States General of Holland the authorities of Switzerland relented in part toward these people, and about the middle of the eighteenth Century granted them toleration.
4. 4. Moravia afforded a temporary asylum and relief from the persecutions of the non-resistant people from Switzerland and Western Europe, but also became intolerant of that one article of their faith which did not permit them to take up arms during those turbulent times among the nations.
5. The Treaty of Westphalia, 1648, by which religious liberty was to have been guaranteed, did not stop the persecution of the non-resistant people.
6. Alsace, Lorraine, and the districts of the Rhine were the homes of many of the non-resistant people. They afforded some degree of relief from persecution at times. During the eighteenth century and earlier these people were persecuted particularly on account of their belief that bearing arms was unscriptural. Their property was confiscated, they were taxed, their worship was restricted, and they were banished. Holland and America afforded them an asylum during these years.
7. As early as 1710 Prussia invited these persecuted people to settle in that country, with religious liberty. In 1773 freedom from military service, the right to educate their own children, the right to own property and to engage in business was especially granted them. With the change of conditions and of rulers these privileges were annulled and persecutions followed and migration into Russia resulted.
8. The Non-Resistant people of Prussia and of Western Europe were invited to settle in the South of Russia by Catharine in 1766, with the promise of greater freedom from military service. These privileges were continued to them until withdrawn by Alexander II, 1870-74. He limited their service to hospital, railway and forestry duties, which, in spirit, were distasteful to their interpretation of the non-resistant faith which they believed forbid all alliance with military duties. This denial of their privileges resulted in their migration to Canada and United States.
9. The Non-resistant people of Holland and the Rhine provinces were visited by William Penn and his agents and invited to settle in his American colony. The Mennonites, Amish and Tunkers accepted his invitation. The first of these colonists arrived in Pennsylvania in 1683. They were granted complete exemption from military service, permitted to hold land, conduct their own schools, hold religious services and given the rights of citizenship.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE NON-RESISTANT PEOPLE.-2.

10. In the united States, during the War of the Revolution and the War of the Rebellion, the Mennonites, Amish and Tunkers held steadfastly to their faith and bore the penalties, which, in some cases, were laid upon them, and were grateful for the tolerance which the Government was pleased to afford them when their faith and practice was understood.
11. The first Mennonite settlement in Canada was made in 1786 in Lincoln County Ontario. The first settlement in Waterloo County was begun in 1800. The settlement in York County was made in 1803. Along with these people came the Amish and Tunkers at different dates.
12. The privileges of the faith of the Quakers, Mennonites and Tunkers have been legally recognized by the Government of Canada since the year 1808, excepting by an act of 1846 which was repealed in 1849. The payment of a special exemption tax was obligatory until the year 1855. Since the latter date total exemption from military service has been continuously granted until 1917, a time of war.
13. The Russian Mennonites came into Canada in 1873. Under a special Order-in-Council granting military exemption, special school privileges and full citizenship. Thier military exemption was based on the existing statutes regarding exemption for conscientious reasons.
14. 14. The Mennonites of America have always been supporters of the Public Schools in the United States and in Canada. They have a few advanced schools and colleges which are supported solely by the Church, and they are located in the United States. The Russian Mennonites have among them their private schools. They have no "Separate Schools" among them. Many of the Congregations of the Russian Mennonites support and attend the Public Schools. Many of their private schools are conducted according to the Government Standards.
15. The Russian Mennonites have two advanced schools in the West, in which all of the Standard branches are taught in the English language, preparatory to fitting teachers for their private schools and to maintain them according to Government standards. Some of the congregations oppose the teaching of English purely from religious motives, since their religious literature is entirely in the German language.
16. While some of the Ontario congregations maintain their worship in the German language it is due to the fact that their religious education and literature is in that language. They have no schools in which they give instructions in that language.
17. The people in Canada who are of the non-resistant faith have responded to appeals for the relief of suffering. They are contributing their support to the relief of suffering and reconstruction in the devastated districts of Europe and Asia, and will continue this support. They are highly appreciative of the past and present attitude of the Government of Canada toward them, and are loyal to the land that has been generous to every phase of the Christian faith.

Non/Mennonite Archives of Ontario
Committee to Interview the Government.

Chr. Gascho

Vineland Ont., March 19th, 1919.

Brethren:-

After sending to certain members of the Government a copy of the Statement Concerning the Non-Resistant People in America, an acknowledgement was received from the Honourable Arthur Meighen, Acting Minister of Justice, and from Honourable F. S. Scott.

A letter received from Bro. E. M. Bearinger, Elmira, states that he has had a recent interview with Mr. Weichel, of Waterloo, and that Mr. Weichel and Mr. Scott have had a long talk over the matter of our presenting the Memorial Donation to the Government. Their opinion is, that the return of the Premier, Sir Robert Borden being at some indefinite date, and the present conditions regarding legislation that might effect our status are somewhat in the focus of public opinion, and legislation imminent, our Organization should proceed with the distribution of the funds according to the resolution of the Committee at their recent meeting, and a statement prepared by them regarding the disposition of the funds which will be handed to the members of the Government responsible who shall acknowledge the same. In this manner the Government would recognize the gift of our people and the object for which it was given. Mr. Weichel has consented to hand the Statement to the Government at the most opportune time.

This suggestion from both Mr. Weichel, and Hon. Mr. Scott is in accord with their suggestions previously given to your secretary, in view of the absence of the Premier.

It is said that the new Franchise Bill is in course of preparation and that our Committee should have their report in the hands of the members interested so that our claims could be substantiated. We should make it clear that we are not giving this fund to the suffering ones on account of courting the favor of the Government. What we do is out of gratitude for what we have received, as well as out of sympathy for the suffering, and this spirit has been the characteristic of our people in the past. But if there are those who enquire of us, we should be ready to give to them the evidence of our works.

It will be the duty of the Executive Committee to take whatever action they deem advisable under the present circumstances.

Yours in faith,

A. Hoffman

To The Various Branches Of The Mennonite, and Tunker Churches in Canada

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these"

The Non-Resistant Relief Organization was formed in the Month of January, 1918, having for its object the raising of a MEMORIAL FUND, to present to the Government of Canada in recognition of our religious liberty, and for the purpose of relief work made necessary by the present war conditions. The fund is to be used by the Government in whatever way may be found necessary while at the same time using it in harmony with the faith and practice of the religious bodies constituting this organization.

The objects of the organization have considerably delayed on account of uncertainties which obtained relative to the legal status of the churches represented in this movement, under the Military Service Act of 1917, and the Order in Council of April 20th, 1918.

After considerable enquiry and effort these uncertainties have in a large measure been cleared up, and with gratitude to our God, and grateful appreciation to the Government of Canada, we rejoice to be able to say, that we, as a Non-resistant people, shall be permitted the continuance of the privilege of honoring God, and His Gospel principles, and our personal convictions, by being relieved of the duty of taking up arms, and engaging in military service.

While many of our people have been sharing in the works of charity and relief of suffering, giving generously of their labor and means, as far as consistent with their peace-loving principles, the movement in connection with this organization is a special effort, and affords a favorable opportunity to do more work along the same lines, and to share more fully in the privations and burdens of our fellow citizens, and to support the charitable work of the Government.

The Government of Canada has been earnestly solicited to devise for us some plan by which such a donation could be expended for the benefit of the worthy poor, either at home or abroad who are in actual need of relief (preferably widows and orphans) and who are not pledged to support, as war dependants.

In view of the foregoing facts, this letter comes as an earnest appeal to every member of the churches forming this organization. for a generous financial contribution, in the name of Him whose word says, "But to communicate, and to do good forget not, for with such sacrifice the Lord is well pleased". We should show in a very practical manner, that while we as a people are averse to the bearing of arms, or engaging in carnal warfare in any form, we nevertheless are not a selfish, and unsympathetic people in the matter of our duty towards suffering humanity, fulfilling such duties in harmony with the principles which we profess and by which we live.

We therefore bespeak for all of our people, a large heartedness, and a liberal response to this most worthy cause.

The methods of raising this fund will be left to the choice of each individual congregation, or district, but care should be taken that any method chosen is in full keeping with the principles and practices of those churches, and that it may be done in as private a manner as possible.

Formulated by—D. W. Heise, S. F. Coffman

Approved by—S. Goudie

Executive Committee—I. J. Burkholder, S. Goudie, D. W. Heise, Thos. Reesor, C. Gašho.

P. S.—All contributions should be forwarded to Eld. Thomas Reesor, Treasurer, R. R. No. 2., Pickering, Ont.

Gormley, Mar, 24 th, 1919.

Dear Brother.

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Non-resistant Relief Organization will, D. V. be held in the Wideman Church on Tuesday the Eighth day of April, at 9.30 A. M. One of the main issues coming before the members of the organization at this meeting is the question of the continuance, or the ~~##~~ discontinuance of the organization and its work for any definite, or indfinite time.

If the former is decided upon, than in that event the election of members, and officers for its continuance will ensue. Also the receiving of the report of the Treasurer, and any other matter of business that may properly be brought before the meeting. It is very desireable that a full attendahce of the members be present at this meeting.

Yours In The Faith.

D. W. Heise.

Secy.

Bish. J. R. Menhoffer, Archives of Ontario

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, Secretary

Eld. S. G. Engle, Treas.

Bish. J. N. Hoover

Eld. J. L. Heisey, Asst. Sec.

Eld. J. M. Sheets

Eld. D. W. Heise

Matt. 28. 19-20

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.
Amen.

Matt. 9. 37-38

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Foreign Mission Board of The Brethren in Christ Church



Gormley Mar, 2 nd, 1920. 191

Eld Christian Gasho.

Baden, Ont.

Excelent Brother.

Your letter of the 27 th Feb is before me, and I note the practical sympathy, and liberality expressed in that which your people have again manifested towards the needs of destitute and suffering.

It might be well if I could have from you the chanel through which you have passed your contributions, this is only necessary for our "records", for future referenca.

I an glad to learn that your family are all better again, as this leaves us all well for which we feel truly grateful.

It is with sadness of heart however that I have to announce the death of my youngest Brother, whose funeral I expect to attend this afternoon. He took double Phau-umonia on thursday last, and passed peacefully away on Sunday. We humbly bow to HIM who doeth all things well.

Yours In Him..

D. W. Heise

Gornley, Apr 3 rd, 1920.

Dear Brother.

I beg to advise you that the Annual Meeting of the Non-resistant Relief Organization, will D. V. be hold at No 53 Cameron Street in the City of Kitchener Ont, on Tuesday April 13 th, at the hour of 10-30 A. M.

As a member of the organization it is important that you make a special effort to be present at this meeting, which no doubt will be an important one as all the meetings of the past have been, especially when it is remembered that new acquaintances have been formed, blessed fellowship has obtained, and the work of the organization we believe has, been wonderfully blessed of the Lord to whom we give all the glory.

There are reasons why this meeting should convene promptly at 10-30.

Important issues will come before this meeting for consideration, Officers for the ensuing year will be elected etc, hence we bespeak a full attendance.

Let us pray for Divine guidance at this gathering.

Yours In The Masters Service.

D. W. Heise

Secy.

Markham, Ont. June 10. 1920.

The Non-Resistant Relief Organization,

Meetings to the Executive Committee:-

At the regular sessions of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario which was held in Kitchener last week the fact that a branch of the Russian Mennonites in the Western Provinces have difficulty on the school question, was given some consideration. After brief discussion the matter was referred to the Relief Organization for further action, if such a step be wise.

In substance the situation is as follows - In 1873 when our Russian brethren came to Canada the Federal ^{Government} promised them, among other things, the privileges of conducting their own schools. Now the Provincial Governments, which control school matters, insist that the children shall attend the public schools. A branch of the Russian Mennonites refuse to attend public schools and consider that the Governments are breaking faith with them. They also consider that they are persecuted for their faith and think to leave Canada in search for religious liberty.

Since the Ontario Mennonites were able to help these people when they came from Russia do you think that it would be wise to offer them our counsels at the present time? Since they are very conservative how might they be approached? Kindly give your views on this question with frankness. May I have an early reply.

Your brother,

L.J. Burkholder.

COPY.

Gretna Manitoba, April 15th, 1922.

Dear Brother Coffman,-

I suppose that Brother Friesen has written you that the Vice-President of the C.P. R. has made the magnanimous Offer to transport our Russian brethren to Canada without immediate payment but on a guarantee by our churches, that the money would be forthcoming after some years. After I got home I had all our churches invited to a meeting to receive my report and to take action on the question of guarantee. We had a largely attended meeting and passed several resolutions, a report of which you will find in the next "Mitarbeiter" which I shall send you. One resolution requires immediate action. It is to this effect that we organize a Board of Immigration, consisting of seven members, two of which shall be elected by the brethren in Ontario. I pleaded for two committees, - one in the West and one in Ontario, - who should cooperate, but not necessarily form one deliberative body. To me this seemed too cumbersome, but I was outvoted. The time has come when we must act, and act quickly and decisively. So

I would suggest that until you have a meeting for selecting such members that you and Brother Goudie consider yourselves charged with such duties and help to decide on some measures. As matters are very pressing

I shall not wait until our Board is properly organized, but will carry on some preliminary correspondence with the C.P.R. and the Government.

Before the C.P.R. sends out a ship they might want to know about the prospects for our guarantee. Our churches will hold meetings to determine their share of the guarantee. I would suggest that your churches do the same thing. You will perhaps remember the plan to have the Russian brethren give joint notes, so that they would have to pay the share of any defaulting members. The possibility of having to pay anything on these guarantees seems to me to be very remote indeed.

Our churches have also approved of the plan to send clothing along for the emigrants. We will have to see where we might get them. Do you know of any large clothing factory with whom we might place such a large order? We think that \$10.00 should be sufficient to clothe an adult person. For a ship load of 1500 persons this would mean an outlay of \$15000.00. It seems to me that the very first thing to do now is to have collections in our churches for this purpose.

Please let me know your opinion on these suggestions and inform me of any action your churches may be taking in this matter.

Yours in Christ,

(Signed) H. H. Ewert.

NON-RESISTANT RELIEF ORGANIZATION.

Vineland Ontario, March 16, 1923.

Brethren:- Greeting in the name of the Lord.

Some matters of importance having been brought to the attention of members of this organization, the Chairman, Brother S. Goudie, has instructed the Secretary to issue this circular letter informing you that the annual meeting of the Non-resistant Relief Organization will be held at the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church, in Mount Joy, Markham Ontario, on Thursday, March 29, beginning at 9.30, P. M. Your presence is desired.

Some of the matters for consideration will be the assistance of the immigration project to bring our suffering brethren from Russia, and also the giving of aid to help refugees of the same faith who have succeeded in leaving Russia, but need aid in coming to America.

Yours in faith,

S. F. Coffman, Sec. Treas.

S. Goudie Stouffville,
L. J. Burkholder, Markham.
S. F. Coffman.
L. B. Heise, Gormley.
D. W. Heise, Gormley.
S. Cressman, Kitchener, 50 Pandora Ave.
Thos. Reesor, Pickering.
Chr. Gascho, Baden.
J. R. Bender, Tavistock.
Chr. Shultz, Milverton.

Vineland Ont., December 14, 1923

To Our Ministers,
Brethren:- Greeting in Jesus Name.

At our last session of Conference action was taken appointing a member as one of the directors of the Mennonite Colonization Association of North America, which organization exists for the purpose of aiding our brethren in Russia, who are under oppressive circumstances and to afford them relief, both by maintaining those in distress and assisting those who may or are able, to leave Russia and come to Canada, the Canadian Government having granted permission to them to come into this country.

This large project entails the gathering and forwarding of funds for these special objects. The organization is of the nature of a stock company and the funds invested will be interest bearing, since it is the purpose of the brethren in Russia to repay all the moneys used in aiding them to come to Canada, to settle upon lands and establish new homes.

In former years our fore-fathers gave such assistance to former brethren who left Russia and came to this country for conscientious reasons. The favor was appreciated by them and no one suffered loss on account of the christian and generous support given to those brethren.

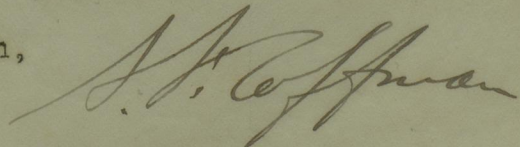
The ministers of each congregation are asked to take up this matter with the congregation, appoint one or more brethren to solicit the brotherhood and secure share holders in this association, remembering that while the act of aiding these brethren is in itself a christian duty, the money will be safeguarded both by the christian pledge of of the Russian brethren and by tangible assets in lands and chattels held for the use of the Russian brethren. The prospectus, a copy of which each share-holder will receive, gives full explanations as to the business and plans of the Association.

Regarding the stock book, the agent shall make three copies of each receipt given, using the carbon sheets. The white sheet, bearing the seal of the signer, must be sent to the company's office at Rosthern, Saskatchewan; the yellow sheet is kept by the signer as a receipt for the money paid until he receives the stock certificate from Rosthern; The green sheet remains in the book as a record of the transaction for the agent. Only the white sheet bears the seal.

While this is a business matter and involves the expenditure of large sums of money, we should not forget that both human lives and souls are in jeopardy in the present home of our Russian brethren. There has not ^{been} and there cannot be any relief for them unless help comes from outside of their own communities in Russia. Present efforts in Russia, such as plowing and sowing, are but temporary relief afforded until some steps can be taken to remove all from that country. The political condition is unfavorable and uncertain. Social regulations by the Government are intolerable, and the religious restrictions mean disaster to the faith and the effort of parents to bring up their children in the faith which they hold dear.

The help which we may afford for the time being is an opportunity which the Lord has given to aid His children in that land. Let those who help and those who are able to help feel that they are the stewards of the Lord using His goods and doing His work, and may each one realize that a faithful steward will not lose his reward.

Yours in faith,



*Will write you later
about the stock books.*

A SHORT AND SINCERE

D E C L A R A T I O N ,

TO OUR HONORABLE ASSEMBLY, AND ALL OTHERS IN HIGH OR LOW STATION OF ADMINISTRATION, AND TO ALL FRIENDS AND INHABITANTS OF THIS COUNTRY, TO WHOSE SIGHT THIS MAY COME, BE THEY ENGLISH OR GERMANS,

In the first place we acknowledge us indebted to the most high God, who created Heaven and Earth, the only good Being, to thank Him for all His great Goodness and manifold Mercies and Love through our Savior Jesus Christ, who is come to save the souls of men having all power in Heaven and on Earth.

Further we find ourselves indebted to be thankful to our late worthy Assembly, for their giving so good an Advice in these troublesome Times to all Ranks of People in Pennsylvania, particularly in allowing those, who, by the Doctrine of our Savior Jesus Christ, are persuaded in their Consciences, to love their Enemies and not to resist Evil, to enjoy the Liberty of their Conscience, for which, as also for all the good things we enjoyed under their care, we heartily thank that worthy Body of Assembly, and all high and low in Office, who have advised to such a peaceful Measure, Hoping and confiding that they, and all others, entrusted with Power in this hitherto blessed Province, may be moved by the same Spirit of Grace which animated the first Founder of this Province, our late worthy Proprietor, William Penn, to grant Liberty of Conscience to all its Inhabitants, that they may in the great and memorable Day of Judgement be put on the right Hand of the just Judge, who judgeth without respect of Persons, and hear of Him these blessed words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you;" &c. "What ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto me," among which number \i.e. the least of Christ's brethren/, we, by His grace, hope to be ranked; and every Lenity and Favor shown to such tender conscienced, although weak followers of this our blessed Savior, will not be forgotten by Him in that great day.

The Advice to those who do not find Freedom of Conscience to take up Arms, that they ought to be helpful to those who are in Need and distressed Circumstances, we receive with cheerfulness towards all Men of what Station they may be- It being our Principle to feed the Hungry and give the Thirsty Drink;- we have dedicated ourselves to serve all Men in everything that can be helpful to the Preservation of Men's Lives, but we find no freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in any Thing by which Men's Lives are destroyed or hurt.- We beg the Patience of all those who believe we err in this Point.

We are always ready, according to Christ's command to Peter, to pay the Tribute, that we may offend no Man, and so we are willing to pay Taxes, "and to render unto Caesar those things that are Caesar's, and to God those things that are God's," although we think ourselves very weak to give God his due Honor, He being a Spirit and Life, and we only Dust and Ashes.

We are also willing to be subject to the higher Powers, and to give in the manner Paul directs us; - "for he beareth the sword not in vain, for he is the Minister of God, a Revenger to execute Wrath upon him that doeth Evil".

This Testimony we lay down before our worthy Assembly, and all other Persons in Government, letting them know, that we are thankful, as above mentioned, and that we are not at Liberty in Conscience to take up arms to conquer our Enemies, but rather to pray to God, who has Power in Heaven and on Earth, for US and THEM.

We also crave the Patience of all the Inhabitants of this Country, - what ^{they} think to see clearer in the Doctrine of the blessed Jesus Christ, we will leave to them and God, finding ourselves very poor; for faith is to proceed out of the Word of God, which is Life and Spirit, and a Power of God, and our Conscience is to be instructed by the same, therefore we beg for Patience.

Our small gift which we have given, we gave to those who have Power over us, that we may not offend them, as Christ taught us by the Tribute Penny.

We heartily pray that God would govern all Hearts of our Rulers, be they high or low, to meditate those good things which will pertain to OUR and THEIR happiness.

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The above Declaration, written by Benjamin Hershey, Minister of the Mennonist Church, and signed by a number of Elders and Teachers of the Society of Mennonists, and some of the German Baptists, presented to the Honourable House of Assembly on the 7th. day of November, 1775, was most graciously received.