

Elmira, Ont., Mar. 16th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Greetings.

Possibly you are wondering what has become of me or perhaps of the papers which you sent me some time ago as I believe that I have not even acknowledged the receipt of them.

I have made one copy of these papers for my own use and am returning the original. Regarding expenses, if the local clergy can be induced to accept a copy of these laws then it is only natural that we should assist in bearing the expenses. If, however, they would rather have nothing to do with it, I shall be glad to do my share personally in assisting to bear the expenses as the papers are worth a great deal to me.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would forward a bill of what you consider our share of the above mentioned expenses so that I would have an idea to work upon.

There are many anxious inquiries concerning the progress of the Relief Organization and it seems strange to me that the Government has not replied to the letter of the committee appointed.

I have been working rather late to complete the copy of these papers and must therefore be brief with my letter.

Trusting that all is well with you and yours and may the guidance of our Saviour be our daily blessing, I remain,

Yours very truly,

N. M. Bearinger.

P. S./- Best wishes to you and the family.

from Annie & Noah.

You will remember it
was decided that each Denom-
ination outline their method,
and have it added to the in-
closed appeal. get sufficient cop-
ies printed for their use and
sent account to Treas.

D W H

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 21, 1918.

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

6-H-7

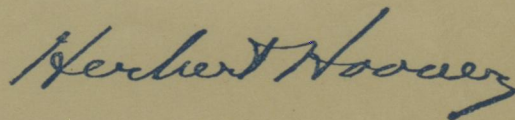
To the Churches of all Denominations and
Synagogues of the United States:

The whole great problem of winning the War, rests largely on the loyalty and sacrifice of the American people in the matter of food. It is not only a Government responsibility, but also the responsibility of each individual. Every pound of food saved by each American citizen is a pound given to the support of our Army and the Allies. Every pound wasted or eaten unnecessarily is a pound withheld from them. It is a direct personal obligation on the part of each of us to someone in Europe whom we are bound to help.

Appreciating fully the inspirational power of the churches in the United States, we feel that it is important that closer relations between the churches and the Food Administration be established, and to that end there is enclosed herewith a bulletin entitled "Suggestions for enlisting the Active Support of Religious Organizations in Food Production and Conservation."

May we ask that your Church assist in this plan and bring home to your membership that individual feeling of responsibility which is so necessary for success?

Faithfully yours,



United States Food Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1918.

My Dear and Reverend Sir:

The Food Administration is bringing to your attention the vital importance of increased production and conservation of food during 1918. In order that the production of food may be increased it is necessary that the farmers be supplied with additional labor, so that they may not be hampered in the planting and harvesting of their crops. The Department of Labor, in order to furnish them a supply of labor ordinarily not available, has organized the United States Boys' Working Reserve for the purpose of mobilizing for agricultural service the strong and adaptable young men of the Nation between the ages of 16 and 21, especially the high-school boys. The organization is already operating in 46 States with a Federal State Director in active charge in each State. We need your cooperation in this nation-wide enrollment to meet the national crisis.

You can materially assist us, first, by bringing to the attention of your church members the great need of the boys who are already on the farms remaining there where their knowledge of agriculture can be of more service to their country than their employment in other pursuits; second, by encouraging city boys who are physically fit to work on farms during their vacation period as a patriotic duty; third, by assuring the parents that Federal State Directors have been urged to use every effort to safeguard the physical and moral welfare of the boys by seeking the cooperation of churches and all constructive agencies in the inspection and supervision of farms and the arrangement of leisure-time activities for the boys; fourth, by offering your services to the Federal State Director or the County Director in your community for this important undertaking.

President Wilson has recently said: "I sincerely hope that the young men of the country, of 16 years of age and over, not now permanently employed, and especially the boys in our high schools, will enter heartily into this work and join the Boys' Working Reserve in order that they may have the privilege, for such I believe it to be, of spending their spare time in productive enterprise which will certainly aid the Nation to win the war by increasing the means of providing for the forces at the front and for the maintenance of those whose services are so much needed at home."

The churches have already rendered such notable service in this war emergency that we are confident that we can rely on you to take an active part in this great national movement to mobilize and safeguard the boys for work on the farms.

Faithfully, yours,

W. B. WILSON,
Secretary of Labor.

WILLIAM E. HALL,
National Director,
U. S. Boys' Working Reserve.

N-R.R.O.
Com. to Gov't.
L.J. Burkholder,
S. Gудie,
Thos. Reesor,
C. Gascho,
D.W. Heise,

Vineland Ont., Apr. 3, 1918.

Brethren:-

Please note, herewith, the report of the Committee which waited on the Government on the 27th of March.

Our Committee, Thos. Reesor, David W. Heise and S.F. Coffman, met with F.S. Scott, M.P. for South waterloo, and arranged for a meeting of the Cabinet Committee at the temporary House of Parliament, at 11.30 a.m. But the appointment was later changed to 2.45 p.m. The Committee of the Cabinet was to have included the Hon. J.A. Caulder, M.P., Saskatchewan, Minister of Immigration and Colonization; Hon. Arthur Meighan, M.P., Manitoba, Secretary of the Interior; Col. Newburn, Minister of Militia, and Hon. N.W. Rowell, President of the Council. This being the last day of the session of Parliament previous to the Easter Holiday, the members were exceptionally busy and we met with Hon. J.A. Caulder and the Hon. S.F. Scott only.

The members of the Government gave your Committee a very attentive hearing and are very much interested in the purposes of our Organization. We presented our petition, a copy of which is inclosed, requesting them to advise a method of procedure and a proper application of the funds to be donated, and we also stated the conditions which at present seem to interfere with the carrying out of our purposes. We presented to the Government a statement, under the second inclosed copy, showing how there appear to be conflicting issues between our non-resistant faith and the provisions of the Military Service Act, we requesting that we desire some statement or action on the part of the Government which may clear up our standing with the Government regarding the Military Service Act.

The members of the Government whom we met have promised to take up these matters with their fellow-members and with the proper officials at the earliest possible moment after the Easter Recess and forward to your Committee a report thereupon. They were glad for our explanation of our situation and felt to give us the fullest assurance that our interests would not be disregarded and our complete exemption from military service would be allowed.

Asking that you may continue to pray for your Committee and their work, and for the Government and their efforts to deal righteously with all of its citizens, we are

Yours in the service of the Master,

S. F. Coffman, Sec.
for the Committee.

R.O.

to Gov't.

THE CONFLICTING POINTS BETWEEN THE FAITH OF THE NON-RESISTANT
CHURCHES AND THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

1. If any service whatsoever is required of Non-Resistant believers, who are members of such organized Churches, it nullifies the pledges of religious liberty on the first actual occasion that privileges of exemption could have been effective.
2. In following the advice of the Government in response to the first call, under the Military Service Act our young men were obliged to register under Clause 8 of the Exemptions, inserting the name of the "Tunker," or "Mennonite", or "Aish Mennonite" Church, thus describing the "tenets of faith" as opposed to "combatant" service. This incorrectly expresses our faith; but no provisions were made under the Exemptions Regulations for correctly stating our faith and the grounds of our claims as opposed to all forms of Military Service, whether "combatant" or non-combatant." Hence the Local and District Tribunals could not do otherwise than follow the directions of the Act and exempt from combatant service only, and our brethren not totally exempted are subject to Military Service.
3. Our Brethren have not been uniformly dealt with by the various Exemption Tribunals. Some have been exempted as farmers, some as necessary at home, others until certain classes or categories are called and others exempted from combatant service. Some few in the East and a number in the West are Exempted as Mennonites. The Military Service Council and other heads of Government Departments have almost uniformly declared that the Mennonites and Tunkers are exempted from Military Service Act and "have no duty to perform the sunder." Our appeals to the various Tribunals, using the decision of the Military Service Council, have not met with any success in securing the release from Military Service of any of our young men, and they are still held, contrary to their faith, as soldiers on leave of absence without pay, and are under the Military Authority of the Country.
4. Our people have esteemed the interpretation of the "Exceptions to the Act", that those coming under the Order in Council of Aug. 13th, 1873, included all Quakers, Tunkers and Mennonites whose liberties under the statutes of Canada had been continued to them for many years, and whose liberties were cited to the Mennonites who proposed immigrating to Canada in order to confirm their confidence in the continuance of their faith in this land. We could not believe that the Canadian Government had annulled in any degree those religious liberties and immunities which our fore-fathers enjoyed.

The Committee.

M.-R.-R.O.

Copy, to Gov't.

A REQUEST OF A COMMITTEE OF THE NON-RESISTANT RELIEF ORGANIZATION
to

A COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET

Regarding a Donation from Non-Resistant Churches to be made to
the Government for Charitable Purposes.

Honourable Sirs:-

As representatives of the Non-Resistant religious body known as Mennonites and Tunker, whose principles of faith regarding total abstinence from war in any form has been recognized and provided for by our Government in times past by Legislation and Orders in Council which freed them from all obligations to military service, and for which recognition and provisions our people have felt to express their gratitude by giving to the Government a sum of money in the nature of a Memorial which shall be used for charitable purposes during these times of need occasioned by the exceptional hardships brought about by the present war, we are pleased to meet you at your bidding and to confer as to the proper channels through which to donate this fund and as to its proper use to accord with the faith of our people, giving them the opportunity of heartily expressing their esteem of their Government.

Permit us to state that our people have been sharing in the works of charity and relief of suffering by giving generously of their labors and means as far as consistent with their peace-loving principles. This movement on their part, - "the Non-Resistant Relief Movement", - is a special effort to do more work along the same lines and to share more fully in the privations of their fellow citizens and in the support of the charitable work of the Government. Your assistance in devising some means by which this donation may be made to the Government is earnestly solicited. We also desire that our people may have the assurance that this fund can be used for the relief of those who are worthy poor and who are in actual need of relief, either at home or abroad, \preferably the relief of widows and orphans/, who have no support as war dependants, or who may not be included in the classes pledged the support of the Government.

It would give us great pleasure to have confirmed to our people the assurance that the total exemption of those of our faith from all military service is still the purpose of our Government. While such pledges have been to us given to us from some of the departments of the Government, others have not seen fit to so interpret the provisions of the Military Service Act, and many of our young men who registered under the said Act and claimed exemptions on religious grounds have not had uniform decisions of their claims and many are still held for non-combatant classes. Our Relief Organization had been formed with all confidence of the Government's purpose to carry out its policy of religious liberty and its pledges to our people. We regret that since our organization we have not met with the same encouragement. What the Government may do in making clear to the minds of our members that our privileges are continued and guarded will meet with grateful and hearty response and, we trust, the devout thanks to God for the beneficence of the Government, and ardent prayers for His sustaining power during these times of trouble. Your petitioners who shall ever pray,

Vineland Ont.

Apr. 3, 1918

Thos. Reesor

Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother: Writing.

Am enclosing a number of copies of Blank forms to get reports concerning exemptions, to give information to the Government Committee. Have sent to Bro. Frena Rutenbaur, but do not know the addresses of ministers in the North Waterloo District. You will know to whom to send and how many. If more are needed please let me know or send me the address and I will mail them direct from here.

Yours in faith

S. F. Coffman.

COPY.

Vineland Ont., April 9th 1918.

Mr. Justice Duff,
Central Appeal Judge,
Department of Justice,
Ottawa.

your Honour:-

Respecting the appeal of Joseph Cressman, New Hamburg Ont., Serial Number 726380 AC, Consecutive Number, 690A, which is an appeal from the decision of the Appeal Tribunal at Kitchener, Ont, and to be presented to the Central Court April 12th, permit a few facts.

Since addressing your Honour on December 7th, 1917, and forwarding correspondence which was filed for reference in case of appeals of Mennonites coming before your Court, this is the first case that has been brought to our attention as having been allowed the privilege of appeal to the Central Tribunal. We are grateful for this consideration.

Our position as Mennonites, Amish Mennonites and Tunkers respecting our Tenets of Faith and attitude toward military service has not been described by the Exemption Clause of the Military Service Act under which our members were obliged to claim exemption, since we hold and have held for centuries that all forms of military service are inconsistent with our Christian profession.

We have been informed by Local an Appeal Tribunal's that the Exceptions to the Act referred to those Russian Brethren who were granted exemption by Order in Council August 13th, 1878. We were pleased that the Military Service Council expressed the opinion that Mennonites are excluded from the operation of the Act and have no duty to perform thereunder. The Tenets of Faith of the Russian Mennonites and their reasons for asking exemption from military service is the only adequate description of our faith and ground for our claims, since we hold the same principles and the Mennonites the same articles of faith, and it appears to us to be the only proper classification for us under the Military Service Act.

We believe that it was not the purpose of the Government in framing the Military Service Act to prescribe what should be the articles of faith of any Church, and not their purpose to limit in any sense the privileges of well established and recognized religions to which we dutifully accept any limitations which may not interfere with our sense of duty to our Saviour, but we pray that these most sacred principles of peace and good will, as exemplified by Christ, may be recognized as lawful and permitted us by the clemency of our Government.

We are, most humbly and faithfully,
Your servants who pray,

The Committee,
Signed, S.F. Coffman, Secretary.

Assistant Relief Organization,
Committee to Government.

Vineland Ont., April 10th, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter to the Chief Justice regarding the exemption of one of our boys. This letter is self explanatory. I have also sent copies of it to the Committee that made the appeal to the Government in the Fall of last year. A copy of this same letter is being sent to The Hon. J. A. Caulder and to Mr. F. S. Scott, who met with us in Ottawa.

This is the first opportunity that any of our boys have had to have their appeal come before the Central Tribunal and we pray to God that we may have favor at this time.

The blank forms with request for the records of those who are applying for exemption are beginning to come in and it seems that in the majority of cases the exemptions have been for other than the reasons for which they appealed for exemption. The question of religious belief has not been taken into consideration by the Local and District Tribunals generally. We should make an effort to bring this matter to the attention of the Government.

As soon as the report comes from Ottawa regarding this Appeal we will forward a report to you, and may also hear from one of the Government Committee in the mean time.

Yours in faith,

J. J. [Signature]

Your letter received. Thanks

Kitchener April 16th 1918

Mr Thomas Reeser

Dear Sir

You will find enclosed Money order for \$10 ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ which was collected by the Church in Kitchener to be sent to you toward the expense of the delegation to Ottawa. Please acknowledge by receipt

yours truly
Jacob B. Shantz
136 Queen st W.

N-R. R. O.

Vineland Ont., April 12, 1918.

Thomas Reesor, Treas.
Pickering Ont. R.R.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

A letter from Brother Burkholder states that the travelling expenses and other expenses of the Committee to Ottawa has been arranged for to be paid by the Treasurer. Since my expenses have not been met by any other fund I will accordingly apply to good will of our brethren as represented by our Treasurer. If it were possible to meet current obligations without applying to this fund I would gladly do so. But we feel free in a sense to make use of the funds supplied by the good will of the brethren feeling that it is done out of love and for the sake of bearing one-anothers burdens.

Car fare and Railroad expenses,	\$18.20
Stenographer copies, Ottawa	1.00
Meals,	.45
Total,	<u>\$19.65</u>
Printing and making blank forms, 125,	2.50
" Circulars 125	1.00
Postage, \estimate/	1.00
	<u>\$\$\$24.15</u>

*Received Payment
S. F. Coffman*

I have not been in the habit of charging for postage since that goes along with so much other Church and Conference work, but this special list of mail I thought ought to be placed in the account.

Some of the blank forms are being returned. Only in a few cases have the Tribunals exempted the men as Mennonites. Their faith has not been recognized. There has been no report from Ottawa. May the Lord direct our affairs and may His blessing be with you in your labors for Him.

Yours in His service,

S. F. Coffman

Kitchener Ont: April 15 1918

Mr Thomas Resor

Pickering Ont.

Dear Sir & Bro.

Enclosed find order for
the amount of Five Dollars
for expenses in connection
with our organization meeting
at Kitchener and delegates
to Ottawa. This money was
collected at Breslau and
Conestoga. I sincerely trust
that our efforts will not be
in vain. Sincerely yours.

Rev. S. Cressman

15 Clarence St

Kitchener

Ont

Aylmer, West
Ont
April 15/18

Rev. Thos Reesor
Pickering Ont

Dear Bro.: Enclosed please
find 2⁰⁰ toward the
Expenses of the Non-Res-
istant Relief Organization
from the M. B. C. Mission

Aylmer Ont

yours truly

E. Meyer.

Pastor

Stayer Apr 16/18

Rev. Thos. Reesor.

Pickering. Ont.

Dear Bro. In response to
the request of the
Non-Resistant Relief Org-
recently formed we
herewith enclose from the
Stayer New Mennonite
mission field the
sum of \$2.40.

Yours truly -

Rev. A. T. Gooding
pastor

Stayer
Ont -

Hesper, Ont.,

April 18th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

My Dear Bro. in Christ;—

As requested by our Presiding Elder Bro. S. Goudie, we took up an offering last Sunday in behalf of "The Non-Resistant Relief Organization" which amounted to Four and one-half dollars.

Please find enclosed a money order for the same. I trust God maybe able to bless your undertaking. This amount is from

2.

the Hespeler Church of the
Mennonite Brethren in Christ.

Your brother,

D. J. Storms, Pastor.

Summidaie Apr 19/18

Rev. Thos. Keeser

Pickering Ont

Dear Sir.

Enclosed you will please
find the sum of \$4.90 as an
offering from the M. B. C. church
Summidaie field for the Non-
Resistant Relief Organization.

Yours in sympathy with
the organization.

Rev. H. R. Frey

Stagner
R. R. No. 3. Ont

C-R. R. O.
Com. to Govt.

Vineland Ont., April 20, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

In reply to letters sent to members of Parliament concerning the Communication to Chief Justice Duff, I herewith copy replies

Ottawa 17th April - 1918

Dear Sir:-

I begoto acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th Instant, transmitting copy of a communication you addressed to Chief Justice Duff, Central Appeal Judge.

Shortly after my interview with you here, I prepared a memorandum and had the same transmitted to the Prime Minister with a view to having a decision reached respecting the matters you placed before me. Owing, however, to pressure of other important and urgent work, the Government has not as yet been able to deal with the questions you raised. Within the course of the past ten days the Prime Minister's attention has been centered on some exceedingly important problems, and in addition the work of sessions has been such as to prevent him from giving attention to numerous problems awaiting consideration. I am sure at the very earliest opportunity he will give his consideration to the memorandum I placed before him.

Yours very truly,

Signed, J.A. Calder,
Minister of Immigration and Colonization.

S.F.Coffman,
Vineland Ont.

Ottawa April 18th, 1918.

Mr. S.F.Coffman,
Vineland Ont.,
Dear Mr. Coffman,

I received your letter of the 10th instant today. The delay in my writing is caused by my being out of the city.

I am getting in touch with Mr. Justice Duff in an endeavor to find out just where your people stand in connection with the Military Service Act as interpreted by him.

I note that you have sent a copy of the Petition to the Hon. J. A. Calder. I will make it a point to see Mr. Calder at the first opportunity.

I am,

Yours sincerely
Signed, F. S. Scott.

The above letter speak for themselves. The matter under consideration will receive the attention of the Government as soon as it is possible for them to give attention to it. Regarding the new Orders about to be issued there is the same consideration given, but the Name Mennonite is stated in the Order. I believe that we should insist of claiming the exclusion as belonging to all Mennonites.

Yours in faith,

Edg. Bay Out
Up 23/9/18.

To Rev. J. Reesor.

Dear bro.

Enclosed please find
Money Order for \$12⁰⁰ from
The appointments of The
5th of Vaughan and East
Guilimbury, for The
fund mentioned in The
circular sent me by
Elder S. Goudie some
time ago. These are
rather weak appointments,
hence The small amount.

Your bro in Christ

Edw. J. Dolwell.

E. J.

Wespeker, Ont., April 23rd, 1919.

Mr. Thos. Reesor,
R. R. No. 2,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Sir and Bro. ; -

Please find enclosed, a money order of
Ten Dollars for the Memorial Fund
from our people here, the Mennonite Brethren
in Christ Church.

Your brother,
S. J. Storms.
Pastor.

O.B.

Please acknowledge the same
S.J.S.

Petersburg Apr 26/19

Mr. Thomas Reiser
Pickering

Dear Friend inclosed find
draft for \$490.00 which is
our donation to the Memorial
Fund. This amount was
given by the Mennonite Brethren
in Christ on the Bethel Circuit,
near New Dundee in Waterloo Co.

Yours Truly

E. K. Bock

Petersburg

R.R. I

Ont.

(Privy Council)
Canada.

T. B. RIVER

Ottawa, April 27th, 1918.

Dear Mr. Byer :-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd of April, addressed to the Honorable Mr. Rowell, and would like to enclose herewith copy of my letter to the Military Service Council, together with copy of their reply. Possibly I did not make it clear to you that Mennonites "not in good standing" would have to take their chance under the Military Service Act the same as anybody else.

Yours very truly

J. B. Allan

Assistant Private Secretary.

To
J. L. Byer, Esq
Markham, Ont.

(Copy).

Ottawa, April 23rd, 1918.

Dear Sirs :-

You will remember a telephone conversation with the Writer of this letter, a few days ago, regarding the position of Mennonites under the Military Service Act.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter just received from Mr. J. L. Byer of Markham, Ont., in reference to this matter.

I informed Mr. Byer, after our conversation, that Mennonites "in good standing" came within the schedule of the Military Service Act and are excepted, but that unrecognized adherents "not in good standing" would be just in the position of conscientious objectors, and exempt from combatant service only.

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory. I wonder if you would mind acting upon it, if you consider it wise, and advise me so that I may write to Mr. Byer direct.

Yours very truly

Secretary of the
Military Service Council
Ottawa.

Assistant Private Secretary.

(Copy).

Ottawa, April 24th, 1918.

J. B. Allen

Assistant Private Secretary to

The Hon. the President of the Privy Council,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir :-

In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, enclosing a copy of a letter received from Mr. J. L. Byer of Markham, Ont. I fear that the last part of the second paragraph of your letter is not quite correct in stating the actual position.

Let me repeat my interpretation with reference to Mennonites under the Military Service Act: Under paragraph 7 of the schedule of exceptions, undoubtedly Mennonites are excepted from the Act and have no duty to perform in connection therewith. I take this to mean that a Mennonite, if arrested for non-compliance with the Act, would be immediately released by the Police Magistrate on proving to the Magistrate's satisfaction that he was, in fact, a Mennonite.

The question of what would be required in proof is for the Magistrate, but I should imagine that he would require to know that the man making the claim was a Mennonite in good standing. If the person charged were not a Mennonite in good standing, could he come under the Exception at all? If the answer to this is in the negative, he would be compelled to obey the law, and if his religious scruples did not permit him to bear arms it would be open to him to claim exemption on conscientious grounds. Whether the claim would be sustained by the Courts set up under the Military Service Act for the disposition of claims for exemption, is another matter.

As requested, I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Leslie Wilson, the Ontario Registrar, for his information.

(Sga.) H. A. Machin
Director

Military Service Branch

Dineland April 29th /18.

Rev. Thos. Reesor
Pickering Ont.

Dear Bro: Greeting's in Jesus
Enclosed please find our
contribution from the M. B. C.
Church @ Dineland for the
"Nonresistant Relief Organization"
which amounts to ~~to~~ Five Dollars
enclosed find the same.

Through unavoidable
circumstances & conditions
I have been hindered with
this contribution, please
pardon for the delay we trust
you have not been put to any
inconvenience through the delay.

Your Bro
F. J. Lehman
Box 164.

M.S.A.

To the Brethren of the
Exemption Committee to Ottawa,
and M-R Relief Committee.

Vineland Ont., April 30, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

Another letter explaining what has been done regarding our Exemption claims. A notice came to me that a member of the Mennonite faith, -non-resistant-, at North Bay had received notice to report for service at the Exhibition grounds in May. Feeling that this was a step which showed possible conduct of officials, I at once wired to Hon. J.A. Calder, Ottawa, as follows:- "Some of our boys receiving notices to report. Is this in keeping with instructions under new Act? What advice for them?" The following is his reply by mail, - Ottawa, April 27, ----- " I am taking the matter therein referred to up with the Minister of Militia and will ask him to deal with same."

Herewith I will give the chief points of the replies to the letters of April 22d, of which you have had 4 copies, to Mr. J. A. Calder and Mr. F.S. Scott.

" I have just received a ruling from the Central Appeal Judge, regarding appeals for exemption from military service of members of the Mennonite Church. He states that members other than the Mennonites effected by the Order in Council who have claimed exemption from combatant service, where the membership is bona fide, have been granted exemption by the Central Appeal Judge, although the number has been quite small. I see that his last Order in Council calling out all the young men from 18 to 23 has been interpreted as exempting Mennonites from combatant service only, and that they are still liable for non-combatant service. It is unfortunate that in the Military Service Act you were not exempted in full the same as the Russian Mennonites. I am discussing this question at every opportunity with those in authority, and will let you know of my change in the situation."

Dated, Apr. 26. Yours very sincerely, Signed, F.S. Scott.

Ottawa, Apr. 28th-1918.

"I have already taken the matter referred to up with the Minister of Militia, who will deal directly with you. You may expect to hear from the Militia authorities shortly in reply to the questions which you raise as to the exemptions of your young men from military service. - Yours truly, - Signed J.A. Calder.

We have now to hear from the Prime Minister as to the Relief Fund, and our exemptions in connection with it. We have to hear from the Chief Justice on one of the exemptions claims sent to him, and from the Minister of Militia regarding the new Act. We should understand that under the New Act, the Mennonites excepted are exactly the same as under the former Act. Mr. Scott understands that our position is identical with that of the Russian Mennonites, and therefore we are entitled to the same exemptions and should have been allowed such exemption.

Your Secretary is now preparing a statement of the variety of exemptions received under the Tribunals and will place the statement before the members of the Government with whom we have corresponded asking them to secure some uniform action or decision which will cover all of them. Meanwhile let all encourage our brethren to continue their appeals. Yours in faith

S. F. Coffey

Elmwood May 1st 1918

Dear Bro

I am sending you money
that Bro. S. Boudie told us
to collect

Elmwood	\$ 4.00
Hanover	2.50
Port Elgin	1.25
	<u>\$ 7.75</u>

Hope this is satisfactory
to you

Eld. D. Brubacher

Elmwood
Ont

Box 684, Collingwood, May 6/18.
Rev. Thos. Reesor,
R. R. No. 2, Pickering, Ont.

Dear Bro. - enclosed find
the sum of ~~Five~~ ^{Six} Dollars and
75¢ (\$6.00) in Postal Notes - to
help defray expenses of "The
Non-resistant Relief Organiz-
ation".

I send this in response to
an appeal from our P. E. -
S. Goudie, of Stouffville, Ont.

You will please acknowledge
receipt of same.

"The same Lord over all, is
rich unto all that call upon
Him." Amen.

Yours rejoicing in Jesus -

Eld. A. G. Warder.

H. A. GILROY, PRES.

J. J. JARVIS VICE-PRES.

ROBT. R. CLARK, SEC.

F. J. MCMAHON, TREAS.

ALVINSTON

MOORETOWN.

ALVINSTON.

PETROLIA.

The Lambton County Co-Operative Association

Anson Groh, Agr., Petrolia,

Petrolia May 8th 1918

Mr Thos Reesor
 Treas, Non Res, Relief Fund
 Pickering Ont

Dear Bro. -

Your check, sent to my Preston address has been forwarded to me here. As there is no letter of explanation, and is the first \$10⁰⁰ received by me for the Non Resistant Relief Fund, and not having any definite instructions regarding this Fund, I will have the matter taken up at our annual Meeting of the Finance Board, when we meet at the end of this month. If you have any definite purpose or suggestions to offer regarding this fund I would be pleased to hear from you.

Thanking you for the initial check of \$10⁰⁰
 I am yours Truly
 Anson Groh

see Treas Ont. Bd, Men Finance

Elmira, Ont., May 8th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother In Faith:

Greetings.

First of all I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the way in which you are keeping me informed on the subject that seems to be upper most in all our minds. When I explain to the members of our church the source of the information obtained the majority of them realize that it was a mistake that they had not appointed ^{a delegate} at our meeting in Kitchener and that it is through the kind-heartedness of more distant brethren that we are being kept informed in the doings that transpire in connection with the grave situation before us.

You are well aware of the fact that one local tribunal had refused to acknowledge the appeals of Mennonites based on certificates as adherents. As a result many of our young men did not show their certificates before this tribunal and were exempt as farmers only. Some of these young men are now called up for service.

In view of this fact and because the time for action is limited, I took the liberty to explain the situation to the Deputy Registrar at London and to the Central Appeal Judge at Ottawa and inquired whether the bearers of such certificates would, upon presentation to the authorities at London, receive the same consideration as will be accorded to the enrolled members, whatever the nature of such consideration might be.

A reply from London states that they are unable to give me the information desired and referred me to the G.O.C.M.D. #1. I fear that I cannot get a reply from this officer in time to act upon it but it might be worth the effort. The letter also reminded me of the fact that the conscientious objector was exempt only from combatant service and that he is liable to service in the Construction and Forestry Battalions behind the lines.

The question that is occupying the minds of many at present is as to what limits the Mennonite may go in reporting before he transgresses upon the non-resistant faith of our forefathers. There are some different opinions expressed and your opinion would be very much appreciated. I think it would be well for us to have a definite understanding concerning this point so that the foundation of our faith in this respect may be represented to the authorities in a manner that will be recognized and will bear out the principles of our non-resistant faith.

Dear brother, it does a man good to see the spirit of harmony that gradually draws the brethren together in this coming trouble which affects the rich and the poor. Let us pray for strength and patience to bear the sufferings that we have earned ten-fold and let us remain steady in our faith even unto death.

N. M. Bearinger.

May 13/18.

A few words to your father might be of interest. You will receive your documents from Mr. Weiskel as arranged. I had a busy time of it to-day. I had hardly crawled out of my car when I returned until I was delayed with all kinds of questions from people who expected me to be in London. I refused to make any public statement and hiked for the office. David Cressman was here for dinner and several others after dinner and we had a rather prolonged and interesting session. The subjects under discussion were the advisability of immediate preparations for baptism, the procuring of birth certificates and the appointing of a member on your committee. Those present were anxious to proceed at once with the three subjects. ^{Rev.} Abr. Singrick and Ephraim Weber called here to-night to discuss the matter in all earnestness. I telephoned to the man who took young Bearinger to London. He said that the young man passed A. 2. but received his two weeks exemption. I did not ascertain whether he is in uniform. I am very tired as the house and office have been crowded all day. I just received a letter from Rev. Coffman. I hope you will inform him of our proceedings.

Yours in Faith
Noah.

M. S. A. and Order in Council, 1917, 1918.
To Committee of Mennonites and Amish and
Committee of N-R. R. Organization.

Vineland Ont., May 20, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

Please note the following copy of a letter received from the Hon. F. S. Scott, M.P. This was written after Mr. Weichel and Mr. Scott had been interviewed regarding the securing of exemptions for adherents of our Churches. Mr. Weichel agreed to accompany Mr. Scott to Ottawa for the purpose of interviewing the Government concerning these questions.

Ottawa, May 17th 1918,

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

Dear Mr. Coffman:

Mr Weichel and myself have been endeavoring yesterday and today to have matters arranged so that your people will be exempted from the operations of the Order in Council recently passed, calling to the colors the young men from 18-28. In this, we think, we have been successful. We had an interview yesterday with the Militia Council. The Minister of Militia was present and after discussing the whole situation thoroughly, it was arranged that we should secure the names of Bishops or someone in authority who could issue certificates of membership in your Church. The Officer Commanding the Military District will then be authorized to accept these certificates and allow the men off on leave.

"Kindly therefore forward to me as quickly as possible the names of those to whom the Government could refer."

It does not appear desirable, at the present time, to have this information made public. We do not want it to get into the papers. We endeavored further to have this apply to the adherents of the members of your Church, but up to the present time we have not been able to arrange this, and I must confess that it seems doubtful at the present moment that we will be able to do so. If the Government were to do this, it would be extending privileges beyond that contained in the original Military Service Act, as the Military Service Act granted exemption only to those who were members, in good standing of your Church."

"We have pointed out that the young men of your faith do not enter the Church at an early age, as a rule not until they have married. The answer is that to open the question of adherents at all, would lay the door open to fraud."

"We will keep you informed if there is any further change in the situation. Mr. Weichel returns home tonight and will immediately get in touch with your people in his own district."

Yours very sincerely,

Signed, F. S. Scott.

FSS/MMS.

The following is my reply to the letter of Mr. Scott.

Vineland Ont. May 20th 1918.

Hon. F. S. Scott, M. P.
House of Commons,
Ottawa Ont.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 11th May, received and noted with pleasure. We wish to thank you for the interest you have taken on behalf of our people and for the successful arrangement with the Government regarding the exemption of members of our Churches from the recent Order in Council calling

M.S.A. and O. in C. - May 20--2.

into service men from 19 to 23. On a separate sheet I am complying with your request for the names of Bishops and Ministers who will be responsible to sign certificates of membership for any of our young men.

Since the recent advice to the District Registrars that Mennonites are considered as excepted from the M.S.A. we have instructed our young men who were previously called and whose claims had been canceled by the Order in Council, that they should present their Church certificates when called and secure their exemptions. We are pleased to state that their claims have thus far been honored. We have also instructed the young men, who are members, ~~of-er~~ that under the Exceptions accorded us, they need not register under the Order in Council. But, in case they are approached as defaulters under the Act, that they should present their Membership Certificates as evidence that they have the right to claim exemption from service. We have been careful to grant certificates only to those who are actual members in good standing. We have instructed them to keep their Church Certificates constantly in their possession as evidence to any who might approach them for reasons for not being in service. If this is not in accord with your arrangements, please let me know, so that we will be able to comply with the same. We had hoped that full recognition would be accorded as under the Exceptions for Mennonites.

As to the Question of adherents, we desire that all that can possibly be done to grant relief would be in order, since our young people are strongly persuaded concerning the principles of our faith although not members of the Church. Could they not be assigned for non-combatant service in Canada, if not exempted.

Has anything been done for the relief of our Tunker brethren? Some of them are already imprisoned for refusing to accept military service.

Thanking you for past favors, I am,

Most gratefully,"

Signed, S.F. Coffman,

For the Committee.

The following list of names was sent, of persons who would sign certificates of Membership.

Mennonites, - Bishops, Jonas Snider, Abram Gingerich, Manasseh Haliman, S.F. Coffman; Acting Bishop, L.J. Burkholder; Appointed by Committee, John Gascho, Zurich.

Bishops, Freeman Rittenhouse, Ezra L. Martin, and Minister, Thos. Reesor
Anish Mennonite, Bishops, Daniel H. Steinman, Christian Zehr, Daniel S. Jutsi, Nicholas Nafziger, John J. Kuepfer, Joseph W. Kuepfer, Jacob Lichty.

Mennonite Brethren in Christ, - Elders Samuel Gandle, C.N. Good. Ministers appointed by Conference to sign certificates, - M. Bricker, J. Solwell, W. Brown, I. Brubacher, P. Cober, S. Cressman, R. Eitherington, H.R. Frey, A.T. Gooding, J.W. Kitching. Emer Moyer, N.H. Schwalm, E. Seivenpiper, C.I. Sinden, D.J. Storms, A.G. Warder, W. Yates, F.J. Lehman.

I ~~also~~ also appended the names of the "Tunker Brethren, so that they might be known, in case the Government grants the hoped for exemption, - Elders, Asa Bearss, John Sider, D.W. Heise; Ministers, Fred Elliott, John A. High, Simon Cober.

The addresses were given also, and the suggestion that the list might be changed or added to as occasion might require, and suggesting that authentic lists from Conference reports might be filed with the Government for reference. I have sent the list of our conference and would suggest that other Conference do so as far as possible.

Trusting that these steps will meet your approval and that this report will be used and not publicly advertised, I am, *S.F. Coffman*

M. S. A. and Order in Council, 1917. 1918.

Vineland Ont., May 23, 1916.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

May God be praised for daily mercies, and may we prove worthy.

A letter from Ho. F. S. Scott, of the 17th Inst, states in part, "Mr. Weichel and myself have endeavored yesterday and today to have matters arranged so that your people will be exempted from the operations of the Orders in Council recently passed, calling to the Colors the young men from 19 to 23. We had an interview yesterday with the Militia Council. The Minister of Militia was present and after discussing the whole situation thoroughly, it was arranged that we should secure the names of Bishops or someone in authority who could issue certificates of membership in your Church. The Officer Commanding the Military District will be authorized to accept these certificates and allow the men off on leave."

"Kindly forward to me as quickly as possible the names of those to whom the Government could refer."

Concerning the exemption of adherents, he does not think it possible at the present time, but would keep us informed if any further changes in the situation. Mr. Weichel would get in touch with our people in his district.

In reply to this letter, I sent the names of Bishops and Ministers of the Mennonite, Anish and M.B.C. and Tunkoe Churches who would sign certificates. Also, I stated the following,- "We have instructed our young men who were previously called and whose claims were cancelled by the Order in Council that they should present their Church Certificates when called, and secure their exemption. We have also instructed our youngmen who are members but under the Exceptions accorded us, they need not register under the Order in Council. In case they are approached as defaulters under the Act, they should present their certificates as evidence that they have a right to claim exemption from service, ----- and to keep their Church certificates constantly in their possession as evidence to any who might approach them for reasons for not being in service. If this is not in accordance with your arrangements please let me know."

In reply to my letter I have one from Mr. Scott as follows:- "I believe that the instructions which you have given to our young men will cover the situation. If anything different develops, kindly let me know."

Mr. Scott acknowledged the receipt of the list of Ministers, and also asked for a list of the "Tunkoe" ministers, but these had been sent him. He asked for specific cases where the "Tunkoe" brethren were imprisoned or forced into military service, and he would look into the question.

We have notified him of the two cases of imprisonment of our brethren in London, and of the case of the Tunkoe brother in Hamilton. We will be glad to report any other cases to the Authorities in Ottawa.

There will be opposition to these privileges accorded us, but let us be patient and look to the Lord for His help. The Government will stand by us in these times of trial.

The question of adherents has not yet been decided. The question of minor sons has not been considered as yet. We have much to be thankful for but also much to pray for. At the request of those who have assisted us, please keep these matters as quiet as possible. It is desirable thus.

May 23, --2.

A letter from a brother in Warkham, states that some of the brethren there had received word from the Ontario registrar that all was cancelled for the present and the cases were being taken before Judge Duff at Ottawa. It is evident that there is pressure being brought to bear against the granting of exemptions to the non-resistant people. This information is being sent to Mr. Scott at Ottawa and he is being urged to get in touch with others with whom we have had correspondence and see that the cases are looked after if brought before the Chief Justice.

We have sent as much correspondence on the question of our claims as will be necessary to inform the Government where we stand and why we believe as we do regarding Military service.

The names of those who were suggested as having authority to sign certificates are as follows.

Mennonites:- Bishops Jonas Snyder, Abram Gingsch, Mannassch Hallman, S. F. Coffman, Acting Bishop L. E. Burkholder, and John Gascho, appointed.

Bishops Frederick Rittenhouse, Ezra L. Martin, and Minister Thomas Reesor.

Anish Mennonite--Bishops Daniel H. Steinman, Christian B. Zehr, Daniel S. Jutsi, Nicholas Fafziger, John J. Kuemper, Joseph W. Kuemper, Jacob Lichty.

Mennonite Brethren in Christ:- Elders, Samuel Goudie and C. E. Good.

Ministers-- M. Bricker, J. Bolwell, W. Brown, I. Brubacher, P. Coker, S. Crossman, R. Elthorington, H. R. Frey, A. T. Gooding, J. K. Kitching, F. J. Lehman, Elmer Moyer, F. H. Schwalm, E. Stevenpiper, C. I. Sinden, D. J. Storms, A. G. Warder, W. Yates,

Tunker Church: Asa Bearss, John Sider, D. W. Heise, Fred Elliott, Simon Coker, John A. Figh.

It was suggested to Mr. Scott that these lists could be supplemented if necessary and approved lists of Conference records could be sent from such congregations or organizations that had them.

A letter from Bro. L. J. Burkholder says, that the Ontario Registrar asks that all certificates given to our young men who seek exemption should show how long they have been members of the Church.

A letter from the District Registrar to myself as the pastor of the Mennonite Church at Vinland asked for the names of all members, brethren, who are between the ages of 18 to 34 inclusive. These were forwarded.

Please give attention to any instructions from the Government. We still claim ourselves to be Excluded from the Act and Order in Council that is the instructions which was given us from Ottawa. Opinions of men differ, as may be observed by reports. We cannot follow all of these opinions. As soon as we learn of any further changes we will notify the members of the Committee dealing with these subjects, and, if necessary, all of our ministers.

Looking to the Lord for guidance and for deliverance from our troubles, and asking all to join in earnest prayer for those who are in trouble at the present time on account of loyalty to our faith in Christ, I am,

Yours in Him,

S. F. Coffman, Sec.

For the Committee.

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

-----00-----

Bishop Daniel H. Steinman,	Baden Ont.
Bishop Christian B. Zehr,	Wellesley Ont.
Bishop Daniel S. Jutsi,	Favistock Ont.
Bishop Nicholas Hafziger,	Brunner, Ont.
John J.	
Bishop Janspikok. 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,	Battaux, 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, Steuffville Ont.

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

Ministers,

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| M. Bricker, | Markham Ont. |
| J. Belwell, | Edgeley Ont. |
| W. Brown, | Kitchener, Ont. |
| I. Brubacher, | Elmwood Ont. |
| P. Cober, | Maryboro Ont. |
| S. Grossman, | Breslau Ont. |
| R. Eltherington, | Lion's Head Ont. |
| H. R. Frey, | Sunnisdale Ont. |
| A. F. Gooding, | Stayner Ont. |
| J. H. Kitching, | Toronto Ont. 151 Brunswick Ave. |
| Elmer Meyer, | Elmer West Ont. |
| H. H. Schwalm, | New Dundee Ont. |
| B. Sievenpiper, | Steuffville 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. |

List of Bishops and Ministers in the Branches
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. Geffman,	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 Gingrich,	Elmira Ont.
Israel Weber,	St. Jacobs Ont.
Christian Cayman,	Unionville Ont.
Levi Grove,	Claremont Ont. R.R./3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thomas Reesor,	Pickering Ont., R.R./2.
Isaac Rittenhouse,	South Cayuga Ont.
John Sherk,	Dunnville Ont. R.R./9.

Stevensville May 28-18

The N. R. R Organization
in account with Bert Shirk

may 28

Trip to Toronto &

\$5.50

Received payment
in full.
D. W. Heise