

Ridgeway May 28th 18  
 The N. P. R. Organization  
 In C/c with Asa Pearce

Dec 1917. Fair and Exp- ence to Toronto	7 00					
May 28-18. DO	5 65					
						\$12.65

Received payment in  
 full.  
 D. W. Heise

Gormley, May 29 th, 1918

Dear Brethern.

Greeting

According to arrangements, a number of of the members of our church met W. R. Smythe, K. C. in Toronto on Monday last. Our delegation was composed of Three of our Bishops, Three Elders, and Two lay-members.

We are pleased to report that Mr Smythe received us very kindly, and gave us a very very courteous and considerate hearing. The first matter under consideration was, the establishment of our body as an established, and fully organized religious body known as "Tunkers" We were able to establish this fact beyond a doubt, and Mr Smythe was fully satisfied on this point.

The next was to establish our claims for exemption on religious grounds, as provided in the statutes of Canada, this Mr Smythe also fully recognized up to the limit of "Combatant service only" admitting however that we, together with all the Mennonite bodies, other than that of the "Russian Mennonites" were entitled to the same consideration as was accorded them in 1873, but Mr Smythe held firmly that the Order in Council of 1873, was a special bargain, or contract on the part of the Government of Canada, with the Russian Mennonites, excepting them from any form of military service which up to that <sup>time</sup> had not been granted to any of the three bodies mentioned in any of the Acts previously passed for the benefit of these bodies. Mr Smythe further held that the Act of 1906, is the only Act under which The Quakers, Mennonites, and Tunkers, may claim exemption, and that from "Combatant Service only". Contending as he did that the only reference made in the Military Service Act of 1917, relative to exemption for the three bodies named, was based on the Act of 1906, and that none of these three bodies had any recognition under the "EXCEPTIONS" paragraph 7 of that Act, nor does the Order in Council of May 20 th 1918 make any recognition of these bodies other than that provided in the 1906 Act. And while <sup>we</sup> adhered strictly to the provisions of the various Acts, yet Mr Smythe appeared to be in sympathy with us, and assured us that we could depend that the whole situation should be thoroughly investigated, and he further assured <sup>us</sup> that we, (Mennonites, and Tunkers) would have a "Square deal", and even thanked us for placing our cause before him in the manner we did. Now this places us, Especially our "Mennonite Brethern" in a different position, and less favorable than it was thought they enjoyed, there being no question as to the opinion of Mr Smythe, that at present "absolute exemption" cannot be granted to any of the members of the Quakers, Tunkers, or Mennonites, other than the "Russian", and the question naturally arises, what further should be done in view of this new turn of the situation. For this reason I am submitting this information for your serious consideration, and counsel. A copy of this is being mailed to Elders, S. Goudie, Thos Reesor, L. J. Burkholder, and S. F. Coffman. May we still earnestly pray our God to come to our help by His mighty power and deliver us and our young men. AMEN.

Fraternally Yours.

D. W. Heise

Ottawa, May 31st, 1918.

Sir:-

Referring to your recent interview, I beg to state that your request has been favourably considered by the Military Service Sub-Committee and I enclose herewith a letter sent to the General Officers Commanding Military Districts Nos. 1 and 2, London and Toronto, on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. Y. Tyndale,

Captain D.A.A.G.,  
Secretary  
Military Service Sub/Committee.

W. G. Weichel, Esq.,  
Waterloo, Ont.

Ottawa, May 31st, 1918.

(Copy)

To-

The General Officer Commanding,  
Military District No 1 & 2.,  
Toronto & London.

Pursuant to Headquarter's letter of the 22nd and 29th instant on the marginally noted subject, it has been brought to the attention of the Department that a large number of bona fide adherents of these sects were not actually members of the Church on the 6th July 1917.

It is accordingly been decided that leave of absence may be granted, as stated in the letter of the 22nd on certificate of one of the bishops whose names have been submitted, to the effect that the man concerned was prior to July 6th, 1917, a regular attendant at the Church, and a bona fide adherent and has since actually joined the Church.

Captain D.A.A.G.  
for Adjutant-General.

Military Service Act and Order in Council, 1917, 1918.

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. Weiche, Waterloo Ont., who acts as the  
Government's representative in this matter, that the Mennonite and  
Tunker <sup>Churches</sup> 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 <sup>adherents</sup> 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  
takes 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 these 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 soldiers 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 Committees.

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

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

Dear Sir:

Please note the following changes and additions to the list of Bishops and ministers who will sign or have signed certificates of members of the Mennonite, Amish Mennonite and Tunker Churches.

In the list of Mennonite Ministers and Bishops, the second list should now read as follows,

Bishop Freeman Rittenhouse, Dunville, Ont. R.R.# 4.

Bishop Ezra L. Martin, St. Jacobs, Ont. R.R.#1.

Ministers,

John Bowman, Elmira Ont.

Amos Gingerich, Elmira Ont.

Urias Martin, Waterloo Ont.

Israel Weber, St. Jacobs, Ont.

Christian Gayman, Unionville Ont.

Levi Grove, Claremont, Ont. R.R.#3.

Thomas Reesor, Pickering Ont. R.R.# 2.

Isaac Rittenhouse, South Cayuga, Ont.

John Sherk, Dunnville Ont. R.R.#9.

In the Amish Mennonite list, add the name of Peter Boshart, Milverton Ont., Acting Bishop.

In the Mennonite list change the name of John Gascho, Zurich Ont, to Christian Schrag, Blake Ont., Appointed by the Committee.

Trusting that this list will be of value in the work of the Department and in assisting our people in securing their exemptions without further complications, I am

Yours truly,

Vineland Ont., June 4, 1918.

Mr. W. G. Weichel,  
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, Amish 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 liberty that has been accorded us on account of our faith.

Today, 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 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 this fund we shall proceed with the collections.

In his letter to me, Mr. Reesor stated that all exemptions must go through the hands of Mr. Weichel. 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 a circular letter sent out to them to-day. I have also mailed 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 Charlton. Elmer Steckley and John H. Heise are imprisoned or detained in the camp in Toronto.

Some of the Amish 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 Order 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 in 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,

For the Committee.

Vineland Ont. June 4th 1918.

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

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copies of circular letter which we have sent out to our ministers, under the instruction of a 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 from 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 summed up his opinion as per the Copy.

It seems that Mr. Weichel is to represent those who claim exemptions at the present time. Will all claims be sent to him? Some of the Tunker boys are still retained under guard in the camp at Niagara and in Toronto. Word was received that a few more of the Amish boys were called to London, and some of our boys from Baden are called to report in London on Jun 12.

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 Hon. 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 Government is making for us.

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

Yours most gratefully,

*S. L. Coffman*  
*Wm. L. Coffman*



Bish. J. R. Cook, *Chairman*

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, *Secretary*

Eld. S. C. Engle, *Treas.*

Bish. J. N. Hoover

Eld. 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 June, 8 th, 1918

Eld Thomas Reesor.

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Bro, Greeting.

"The blessing of the Lord attendeth those who are upright before Him".

Our hearts are filled with prais to our God for His abundant mercy, and that He still heareth those who call upon him, those who call upon Him in truth.

I have sent the welcome information to all of our churches, with instructions as to the necessary precedure. But say Bro Reesor, it ocured to me, that since Mr Weichle is made the Government representative, in the matter of our exemption cause. would it not be well the members of our "Executive" were recognized as representing their several churches, for the express purpose of looking after the interest of their young men who are in the draft, and especially those who are in custody, and training by undue force.

And further, do you think that Mr Weichle would have the authority to invest the members of the Executive with credentials to this effect, If this were done, it would remove any embarrasment incidental to the approach of the young men who are in detention. What do you think of this suggestion, if you refard it favorable, you might discuss it with the chairman Bro Burkholder, and act accordingly, I will probably call him by Phone, and mention the matter to him. Our men are still under guard, without a decision, as far as I know at this date.

Kindly let me hear from you. I have written Mr Weichle asking for instructions regarding those of uor men in prison.

Yours Very Sincerely.

D. W. Heise

Elmira, Ont., June 9th, 1918.

Major Hirsch, A. P. M.

M. D. No. 1,

London, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Your Military Representative, Sergeant Wray, was at one of our churches to-day in performance of his duties and interviewed our young men as to their reporting for service to the Military Authorities at London.

At his request I am making the following statement.

..... This is to certify that the following is a list of the names of such young men who are between the ages of 19 and 25 inclusive and who are at present under confirmation to become members of the Mennonite Church having been recognized as adherents of same through all their lives. These young men have been brought up and educated in the principles of the Mennonite Church by Mennonite parents in good standing with the Church.

*Geo. Busbacher*

Urias Bauman,	R. R. No. 4,	Elmira, Ont.
Annia Martin	" " 3	Waterloo, Ont.
Seranus Gingrich	" " 2	Wallenstein, Ont.
Addison Martin,	" " 3	Wallenstein
Sylvester Bauman	" " "	"
Amos Gingrich	" " 2	"
Ishmael Martin	" " 1	Waterloo
Ozias Gingrich	" " "	Elmira, I/C. Geo. Bauman
Nathaniel Martin	" " "	St. Jacobs
Clayton Martin	" " 4	Elmira
David Snider	" " 1	Waterloo
Daniel Martin	" " 4	Elmira
Seranus Bauman	" " 2	Elmira
Daniel Steckle	" " 3	Waterloo
Noah Gingrich	" " 1	West Montrose
Jeremiah Bauman	" " 3	Waterloo
Oliver Martin	" " 4	Elmira
Aden Martin	" " 3	Waterloo
Elum Martin	" " 1	"
Edwin Shantz	" " 1	"
Lincoln Martin	" " 1	Elmira
Ivan Martin	" " "	St. Jacobs
Menno Reist	" " "	Elmira

Waterloo & Wellington Counties.

George Brubacher, R.R. No....	Elmira	Samuel Brubacher, #...	Elmira
Clayton Martin	"	Daniel Martin	"
Nosh Bauman	"	Menno R. Reist	"
<del>Isaac Martin</del>	Drayton	Peter Martin	"
Lincoln Martin	Elmira	Urias Bauman	"
Amsey Martin	"	Oliver Shantz	Wallenstein
Norman Brubacher	Wallenstein	Alvin Brubacher	Elmira
Ivan Brubacher	"	Isaiah Eby	St. Jacobs
Abraham Brubacher	Waterloo	Elam S. Martin	Waterloo
Amos B. Gingrich	Wallenstein	Edwin Martin	Waterloo
Norman S. Benzinger	Waterloo	Jesse M. Martin	Waterloo
Peter M. Martin	"	Roy Snider	Breslau
Urias G. Weber	"	Manasseh Clemmer	Waterloo
Edwin M. Bauman	"	Irvin W. Martin	"
Benjamin Sauder	St. Jacobs	Iven Steckle	Zurich
Elum Shantz Martin	Waterloo	Jeremiah Bauman	Waterloo
Edwin Shantz	"	Edwin Clemmer	"
Christian Burkhart	"	John M. Martin	"
Daniel Steckle	"	Aden S. Martin	"
Annius Martin	"	David B. Snider	"
Menno Steckle	Zurich	Alvin Shoemaker	Elora
Noah Gingrich	West Montrose	Seranus Gingrich	Wallenstein
Simeon Gingrich	Elmira	Eli B. Gingrich	"
Oliver Martin	"	Addison Martin	Elmira
Sylvester Bauman	Wallenstein	Henry Brubacher	Hawkesville
Aaron Martin	Elmira	Ishmael Martin	Waterloo

York County

Allen Wideman	Stouffville	Simeon Reesor	Markham
Carl Reesor	Markham	Levi Drudge	"
Joseph Smith	Unionville	Joseph Diller	"
Allan Reesor	Locust Hill	Abraham Reesor	"
Joseph Reesor	Markham		

May 31	Tel	60
June 1	"	40
" 8	"	25
" 8	Hotel night - & Breakfast	1.00
" 8	Trolley fare	30
" 9	Toronto Kitchener & return	3.75
" 10	Toronto lunch	.35
" "	C.N.R. ticket -	50
		<hr/> 7.15

Elmira, Ont., June 13th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,  
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother:

Greetings.

Since our people have found out that we have been so favoured by the authorities there have been many inquiries as to the progress of our donation scheme. I believe that it would be a good idea to have the matter proceeded with at once while the excuse to approach them is good. I fear that if the outsiders once find out the true state of affairs we may have trouble. I am taking the matter up with Rev. Coffman and your idea about the question would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

*N. M. Bearinger*

Elmira, Ont., June 18th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,

Pickering, Ont.,

Dear Brother In Faith:

I received your letter to-day and I am very sorry that I cannot oblige you in your request for my presence at the meeting of the committee but perhaps if I explain you will see how utterly impossible it is for me to be present.

Arrangements are being made by our doctor to have an operation performed on my wife at the K.&W. Hospital on Thursday. She has been bothered for some time past with an internal tumor and the doctors claim that it is in good condition to be removed at present. While they do not consider the operation a serious one it is only natural that one should feel anxious as to the results and I pray that the Almighty God in whom we are united may see fit to restore unto me my wife.

I have taken the committee meeting up with Urias and we talked of post-poning the operation but the wife is in good condition to undertake it now while she would run chances of being too tired and run down after the trip and we are anxious to have the operation over as soon as possible. I urged Urias to go anyway but he did not care to do so as he thought you could represent us at the meeting as you are well acquainted with our conditions.

I am extremely sorry that I cannot be present as I had looked forward to the day when we should meet with a good cause to forward our donation movement. You would greatly oblige me if you would send me a copy of the minutes of the meeting as soon as convenient so that I know exactly what was the decision of the committee and how to approach the people here. I am positive that the proposition will receive more favour here than formerly and am anxious to serve the cause whenever possible. However, the undertaking before me is the more serious one for me at the present time, and I trust that my absence can be excused under the circumstances. Should occasion require it, and if other circumstances permit, I will be glad to assist at any time later on.

Accept my sincere thanks for the copy of that other Act which I will return as soon as I get a chance to make a copy of it. I received a letter from the G. O. C. Lt.Col. Smith, of London and also from F. S. Scott both of whom were delighted with our opinion of Sergt. Wray and will have him sent to this district whenever required.

*I trust your sister need not suffer long before she will be released.* *Yours* *In haste*

June 20th 1918  
 The M. R. P. Organization  
 In account with D. W. Heise

Mar 28	To postage &c	70		
" 28	" fair &c Ottawa	17 00		
Apr 24	" postage &c	66		
May 25	" fair &c Hamilton			
" 27	" " &c E. J. Swalm Toronto	5.75		
" 27	" " &c W. R. Smythe Toronto	1.25		
" 30	" Do gas McCallum	2.90		
" 31	" fair &c Niagara E. J. Swalm	4.75		
" 6	" fair &c Toronto J. H. Heise	1.75		
" 17	" " Toronto Col Windeyer	75		
" 17	" Telegrams	1.25		
" 19	" fair St Catharines	5.70		
" 20	" postage &c	1.10		
				\$43.56

Received Payment  
 in full.

D. W. Heise

Elmira, Ont., June 22nd, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,  
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother In Faith:

Greetings:

I am returning the copy which you were kind enough to forward to me some time ago. I think it is a valuable addition to that which we already have in our possession as it seems to be the more recent of any Acts which refer to the priviledges of the non-resistants.

Everything seems to be quiet as far as our boys are concerned and every one is well pleased with the outcome of the little episode the other Sunday.

I hope that your sister need not suffer long if she cannot get better. There are some of our people visiting in your vicinity at present.

The operation upon my wife has been a success although she is suffering more or less pain as yet. The doctors removed a tumor about the size of a lemon and fully as solid and also removed her appendix. I have just received a message that she has had a restful night and is resting well this morning although her temperature is a little above normal. I hope that she may soon return home as it is very lonesome both for her and myself.

Noah.



COPY.

OFFICE OF ONTARIO REGISTRAR,  
Under Military Service Act.

Toronto Ont. June 27th, 1918.

Bishop S. F. Coffman,  
Vineland Ont.

Dear Sir:

The Central Appeal Judge has ruled that Tankers and Ontario Mennonites are not excepted from the Military Service Act. Therefore all members and adherents of the Church born since 1882 and now 19 years of age, and in the future as they become 19 years of age, must register under the Act. When their cases come to be dealt with they may raise whatever claims for exemption either from full service or combatant service as they may be advised.

You had better see that all the persons in your congregation coming within the above description register at once, if they have not already done so.

In view of what has passed between us, I venture to again call your attention to the advisability of your community holding a conference with a view of seeing whether you cannot see your way ~~sixx~~ to make a compromise on the subject of non-combatant service with Hospital Corps or other non-combatant units. With the example of your brethren during the Napoleonic Wars and during the American Civil War, it seems to me that you should find some better use for your young men than having them sent to prison.

Yours truly,

(Signed) C. Leslie Wilson,  
Ontario Registrar.  
Per. (Signed) W. R. Smyth,  
Chief Public Representative.

WRS/1.

Bish. J. R. Zook, *Chairman*

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, *Secretary*

Eld. S. C. Engle, *Treas.*

Bish. J. N. Hoover

Eld. 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 always, *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 June, 27 th, 1918

Eld Thos Reesor.  
Pickering Ont.

Dear Bro Reesor.

Greeting

I am in receipt of your letter of the 24 th inst, and contents fully noted. I regret exceedingly, that anything in our deliberations, or in the Minutes, of our last meeting, should have left any room for you to construe any sentiment as "reflecting on you personally" as to your action, or effort, on behalf of the cause which we all have so much at heart. And let me assure you that anything that I may have said, or done, either by word, or resolution, never had in it the slightest thought of either reflection, or sensure, on, or for anyone. bur only that our effort in the future might be if possible even more methodical, and systematic. I think I thoroughly understand your position, and the action that you took, and am sure that you did the very best that could have been done. And while we are indebted to God first for what has been accomplished on behalf of our boys in the draft, I nevertheless realize that we owe you personally a debt of gratitude especially for what those of our young men who were not members of the churches, but only adhereants, are now enjoying. May you realize that what effort has been put forth on your part was done as "UNTO THE LORD".

Bish. J. R. Zook, *Chairman*

Bish. J. N. Hoover

Eld. J. M. Sheets

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, *Secretary*

Eld. S. C. Engle, *Treas.*

Eld. J. L. H. *Asst. Sec.*

Eld. D. W. Heise

Matt. 28. 19-20

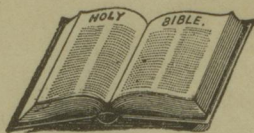
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.

Amen.

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Foreign Mission Board of The Brethren in Christ Church



Gormley

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And that He in his own good time will reward you abundantly for your interest. Now Brother Reesor, in conclusion let me acknowledge ~~my~~ indiscretion in the way I brought this matter up the other day, and may I also ask your forgiveness for ~~my~~ blundering, and that all these mistakes may after all be that which will lead us all into a clearer comprehension of the consideration we owe to those of our fellows. And may I indulge the hope that we fully understand each other, and that we may work unitedly for the continuance of our privileges, and liberty under the glorious Gospel. I received notice yesterday from Col R. C. Wind-<sup>son</sup>eyer, that action had already taken, having for its object the release of all of our young men, Two are already home, and the other Six may also be at this writing. We surely have abundant reason to praise our God who has been so merciful unto us.

Yours Fraternally.

D. W. Heise

Elmira, Ont., July 2nd, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Greetings:

I received your letter this morning and must say that of all my other troubles this seems to be the climax.

If the ruling handed down by the Central Appeal Judge is to be upheld then it seems to me to be absolutely necessary to take immediate steps to meet the situation as the decision is likely to be acted upon at once.

Mr. Weichel is at present up North on his holidays and I do not care to disturb him unless it becomes necessary. I am taking the matter up with Urias this morning and am taking your letter with me in order to post him for immediate action. I hardly know what to do to help the situation out but perhaps we had better remain quiet until we ascertain whether the ruling is upheld.

Would it be advisable to hold a conference in regard to the matter? If the ruling should be upheld and we are informed of the fact I think it would be a good idea to immediately apply for an extension of the power of the ruling so as to give us time to reach a definite understanding amongst our selves. However it would be a question whether this would be granted.

I am in communication with Major Hirsch of London regarding the Steckle case. The wife is getting on fine and will be home on Thursday if all is well.

Let us continue in hope and prayer through these anxious times. If you should find it necessary to come into this district please call at my home as I have a house keeper.

Yours truly,

*A. M. Reisinger*

*Please excuse  
hurry.*

COPY.

Vineland Ont., July 2, 1918.

Mr. C. Leslie Wilson,  
Ontario Registrar, M.S.A.  
Board of Trade Bldg.  
Toronto Ont.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 27th June, Ult., per W. R. Smyth, regarding the status of the Mennonites in Ontario and the Tunkers, under the Military Service Act, 1917, has been received and noted.

Permit me to say that our standing on the article of war and our attitude toward all military service, as expressed in the Resolutions of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church, in 1917, and the Conference of the Tunker Church, has been handed to the Government at Ottawa. The arrangements which have been made with the Government and the Department concerned regarding our brethren who may be called for service are being complied with, and thus far have proven satisfactory.

The Hon. F. S. Scott, of Glat Ont., has kindly consented to represent our interests with the Government, and Mr. W. G. Weichel has been active in rendering assistance, since his residence in Waterloo Ont., has constantly brought him in touch with our people. Our Committee has much appreciated their services, and, for the sake of avoiding complications and misunderstandings which naturally result from general correspondence, we prefer that all matters affecting the Government be referred to the above mentioned Gentlemen. Any information that we can give concerning our people, or that may affect our people as related to the Ontario District, will be gladly given by the undersigned, who has been appointed by the Committee of the Mennonite and Tunker Churches to represent them in such services.

Yours Respectfully,

(Signed) S. F. Goffman,  
For the Committee.

Vineland Ont., July 2nd, 1918.

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

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed, please find copies of correspondence which will explain itself. It seems that the District Representative does not understand the position which our people take regarding military service, and seems to think that it will be possible for us to modify our present standing regarding non-combatant service. To compromise our position would be to deny our faith by which we stand. We trust that the Government does not require us to do this.

Information, to-day, tells of the release from jail of Earnest J. Swalm. We hope that the remaining boys who are retained under sentence will soon be released. I have been wondering much whether our boys who report when called will be required to sign and take the medical examination. Their signatures would obligate them to do military duty and accept military regulations. The medical examination would require their classification as soldiers. Under the present arrangement, their signatures to the Leave of Absence requires them to report regularly and might be construed to imply their consent to do military service when called upon. We do not wish to appear as doubting the sincerity of the arrangements, but note a source of possible complication.

Please note the nature of the Certificates granted our people in the West, and also that granted to the Russian brethren.

Yours truly,

Vineland Ont., July 2nd, 1918.

Mr. W. G. Weisbel,  
Waterloo, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

Your Letter of the 27th June Ult., Received and noted. I thank you for the information and glad that there seems to be a correct understanding of our position and privileges at headquarters at London. A letter from L. J. Burkholder, the Chairman of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, states that he was informed at Toronto, by the Assistant Registrar, that the ruling from Ottawa is that we need not register, since doing so only takes extra work and trouble and the men are not required to serve. We are, however, complying with the regulations to register, so that any complications may be avoided.

Regarding the physical examination, and the signing up for service by our brethren, when they report to the Depot for their Leave of Absence, I have thought that such signing up might be construed by some as voluntary enlistment, and made an excuse for afterwards obligating our brethren for service. The physical examination would be of no value and the signing of any documents by our boys signifying their acceptance of the conditions of military service would be inconsistent. Even their signature to the conditions of the Leave of Absence could be wrongly construed. Whatever might be done to avoid our brethren misrepresenting their position and relation to the authorities would be appreciated.

Please find copies of letters which will explain themselves. Especially note the character of Certificates given to our brethren in the West and those given to the Russian Brethren. The Certificates of our brethren grant total exemption and the Russian's sons, Non members, are also exempted.

Thanking you for your many favors, I am,

Yours truly,

Vineland Ont., July 3rd, 1918.

Thomas Reesor,  
Pickering Ont. R.R.

Dear Brother:- Greeting in the name of Jesus.

Today I received a letter from Brother N.M. Bearinger in which he referred to a letter which was sent him as from yourself regarding the proposal by the Ontario Registrar that our people should hold a Conference and see what could be done toward compromises in the matter of non-combatant service. I had just been writing some letters on this point and am enclosing you copies of letters sent to Mr. Scott, and to Mr. Weichel. I have also sent copies to the Brethren Heise and Burkholder, as members of our Committee. This copy will show the position which it occurs to us to be wisest in the present issue. We should avoid opening up this question again. The officials at Toronto are subject to the decisions of the Government at Ottawa and we are going now, according to advice from the Militia department at Ottawa. It would be useless to again discuss the question at the request of the officials at Toronto. I have referred to our standing and position in regard to these questions as stated in the documents handed to Ottawa at the time our request for consideration was first brought before the Government. Those statements are now on file at Ottawa and stand for our present claims. We know that there is now a movement on foot to impose more severe penalties upon the conscientious objectors, but as long as the Government sees fit to allow leave of absence to our brethren we will not fall under the censure of the courts martial. Were we to take the matter up with the Ontario Registrar, I fear that we would not receive as favorable consideration as we now have and not as favorable as have our brethren from the Provincial Registrars in Saskatchewan and Alberta. I am enclosing copies of Church Certificates which our Brethren and the Russian hold in the West.

Since there have been a number of the letters from the Ontario Registrar sent out, I am sending copies of the letter which was sent as a reply, to all of the Bishops concerned. This will perhaps clear up the matter at the present time. We trust that there will be no further trouble, and that the persons named to act in our behalf will be able to guide us as far as our relations with these authorities are concerned.

I might say further, that the ruling of the Chief Justice is already provided for by the granting to us of a leave of absence. There is a difference between "exemption" and "leave of absence". The first excuses one from going into service, the second excuses one who is subject to service from going into it.

A letter from Mr. Scott just received says that he fears the matter of our presenting the fund to the Government will be required to wait until the return of the Cabinet Members from England. But we will be able to go on with the collection of the funds.

Ernest Swalm is released from the St. Catharines jail. He is likely on his way home. We thank the Lord for his remembrances to us all.

Yours in faith,



CEDAR GROVE,

July 8, 1918

M. Thos Reesor

IN ACCOUNT  
— WITH —

**THOS. REESOR**

DEALER IN VARIOUS KINDS OF FEED  
Dried Brewers' Grains and Malted Corn  
Meal a Specialty.

TERMS CASH.

INTEREST CHARGED ON ALL OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

July 8	Fare to vineyard	3	50
	Trolley		20
	Auto hire		50
	C A P to		
	Cherrywood		50
" 17	fare to		
	Stouffville & return		45
			<hr/>
		5	15

Paid  
Thos Reesor

N/R.R.9.

Vineland Ont., July 12, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

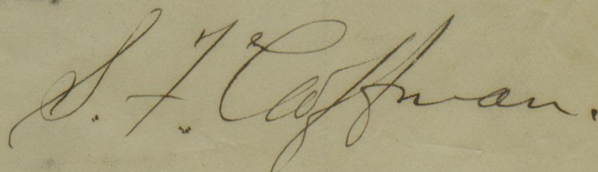
In a letter to Mr. Scott, M. P. I stated the following,  
 "I have been wondering much whether our boys who report when called, will be required to sign for service and take the medical examination. Their signatures would REQUIRE THEM obligated them to do military duty and to accept military regulations. The medical examination would require their classification as soldiers. Under the present arrangement, their signatures to the Leave of Absence requires them to report regularly, and might be construed to imply their consent to do military service when called upon. We do not wish to appear as doubting the sincerity of the arrangements, but note a source of possible complication."

The above letter was dated the 2nd Inst. The reply is as follows,-  
 "I have your letter of the 2nd Inst. and have taken the matter up with the authorities at Ottawa. I have also pointed out that in connection with the carrying out of the instructions which have been issued from Ottawa regarding your people that there appears to be more difficulty in the District of Toronto than in any other District. I trust that my communication may have the desired effect."

The three brethren who were court-martialed and imprisoned are now released from prison and in camp awaiting their leave of absence. Word is at hand that they will be granted their leave of absence. The only brother still in detention, to my knowledge, is Clarence Fisher of Batteaux Ont. No further trouble has been reported from any of the districts. I believe that some of the previous exemptions will be appealed by the Public Representative, Mr. Smythe, of Toronto, and these brethren will be obliged to either send in their credentials to the appeal Tribunal or Report in person and present their Certificates of Membership, as evidence that they will not be able to serve even if called, and that they will be able to secure a leave of absence from the Officer Commanding in case they report for service. In case their exemptions are cancelled by the Appeal Tribunals it will not affect our privilege of secure freedom from service through the present arrangements granting leave of absence. Our brethren will only be obliged to go through further ceremonies and secure their freedom.

Please find enclosed copies of the Memorandum of the laws affecting our Churches as pertaining to their privileges of exemption. These were copied from the copy secured by Brother Ressor. It is well that we have these copies and it might be good to have either more copies made or printed for the use of our brethren who have the work of the Churches in hand. Those brethren who have been on the Committees should have a copy each, and it is my purpose to make another five copies so that each of them may have a copy. It might not be any advantage to print and distribute these laws indiscriminately. But I think it would be well if each of our ministers had a copy of them. It would help them to understand the general situation much better.

Yours in faith,



I forwarded you your copy and one of the new copies. An enclosing a copy of "Statement of faith" if you think it advisable, would be glad to forward copies of "Statement" to each of your ministers - S.J.C.

S. F. Coffman Vineland Ont

In Account with. Non Resident Relief Organization  
Picking, Ont.

1918

July 19.	To	1000 Printed Envelopes	\$ 2.25-
	"	100 Letter Paper	1.50
	"	Postage	10 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>100</sub>
			<hr/>
			\$ 13.75-

Received Payment  
S. F. Coffman.

Com. N/R.R.O. and  
Ottawa Com.

Vineland Ont., July 23rd, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

Some of you have seen the copy of the laws regarding the military service regulation as applied to Quakers, Mennonites and Tunkers, which report was compiled by a lawyer in Toronto at the request of Brother Thomas Ressor, Treas of the N-R.R.O. This report is complete, including all of the laws regarding this matter since the first in 1809. It is important that all of our brethren should be intelligent on this subject, and it is recommended that these compiled statutes be printed and placed in the hands of our Ministers and those who would use them judiciously. The funds now on hand for the expenses of our Committee should be available for this work since these reports may be used to advantage by legislators with whom we have to deal in safeguarding our interests with the Government. Please send your decision to the President of the Organization, Bro. L.J. Burkholder.

There is nothing further to report concerning the exemptions of our brethren. All are now released and at home, having been granted the Leave of absence as arranged for them. Let us thank God for this freedom and be ready to serve the Lord in the relief work proposed.

Yours in Him,

S. F. Coffman,

For the Committees.

Vineland Ont., July 23, 1918.

Thomas Reesor, Treas.  
Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother in faith:- Greeting.

Your letter of the 22nd Inst. with the enclosure for the amount of the statement sent you was duly received. I had not intended you to send a Cheque for thre amount, (\$13.75) but would rather that you had given credit for tha amount to Vineland, so that your books should balance. You understand why I had prefered to do this, on account of the contributions that have come in to help to defray the expenses of my work. Perhaps this can be made right in some other way.

There are still some inquiries coming ~~g~~ in from different persons regarding the conditions of exepmtion. A letter from Petersburg from a brother states that the Central Appeal Judge has given a decision in his case that he is exempt from combatant service and while farmin g until the 1st of November. This means that the will be called upon for combatant service by the Registrar or the Commanding Officer at London on the 1st of November. That is the same time that Norman Reesor is given. It is likely that a good many of the farmer boys will be called on ar about that date. I have written the brother that when he is called he will be required to report and then will only need to present his Church Certifiicate and he will be granted the same leavee that is now being grated to the brethren who have reported in the past. This, I believe, is all that will be required, since the arrangement with the Government is su posed to cover all the cases of our brethren.

Regarding the action of the Government when the Premier and the members who are with him return from England, I feel that there will be some more regulations made that may affect our brethren to some extent. It may be that they will do as they have been doing in the United States, requiring them to be subject to Government control and placed on farms by Government appointment or some such work, but, I cannot see that they will attempt any further effort to require them to engage in any military work.

I am writing to the members of the Committee asking them their opinion regrading the printing of the synopsss of the Military laws regarding Mennonites and Tunkers. I think that it would be a good thing to have about five hundred copies and have them in the right hands for use at all times. The record of the Government in the past should be a guide for the present time and should act as a check on any efforts that even the most rabid militarist shouldn't attempt to force military service on our people.

The Cheque will be cashed so hat you will have your vouchers for reference.

Thanking you for your kindness and for your counsels in this work, I am,

yours in faith,

*S. J. Coffman.*

C O P Y.

Vineland Ont., July 31st, 1918.

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

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 27th Inst., with a copy of your letter from Captain O Syndall, Ottawa, was duly received.

The information contained in the copy of the letter from Ottawa seems to clear up the situation to a great extent. A distinction is made between the operation of the Tribunals and the Military Service Committee. The Tribunals can only define the status of the individual under the Act, 1917, and the Military Service Committee has the disposal of the case of the individual when coming under the jurisdiction of the Officers Commanding in Districts 1 and 2. Since the arrangement concerning the relief of our members from military service is made with the Military Service Committee, there should be no difficulty resulting from the decisions of the Department of Justice on the question of exemption, unless the two departments should come into conflict regarding the matter.

If the Tribunals stand by the decisions of the Department of Justice, they will not consider those persons bona fide members of the Church who have united since Oct. 13th, 1917. If the two departments cooperate, the membership certificates of such persons will not be considered grounds for granting the Leave of Absence. On the other hand, if the Commanding officers will accept the Certificates of Membership as signed by authorized Church Officials as evidence of bona fide membership there will be no difficulty and the agreement with this Department will continue to be satisfactory. But the question is raised, what shall constitute the evidence of bona fide membership, - the decision of the Department of Justice, or the decision of the Church? Nothing in the Act defines the bona fide members of the Churches described under Section 11, 1/f, of the Act, but the Department of Justice has the power to define the Act. But, if the present decision stands, our Non-resistant Churches must close their doors to our own sons, who, by force of present circumstances, are obliged to decide concerning matters of their faith. If our Churches continue in their usual christian work, even among our own people, many persons, since the publication of the decision of the Military Service Council, will consider our Churches as acting in a spirit of rebellion, insubordination, and even traitorous. We are glad to assure you that such is not the case among our people. Where larger accessions than usual have been made in some churches, it has been the case that such young men had not previously united with the Church until earlier years or until at the time of their marriage. No one will refuse a young man taking upon himself religious obligations at such a time as this present one. In the case of Mennonite and Tunker young men, the question of Non-resistance is involved in his church relationship. The Church can not be expected to change its creed.

We have previously pointed out that the religious exemption clause does not describe our faith, and yet we are obliged to have our case decided under its provisions.

We will continue to act under the instructions received from you regarding the obtaining of Leave of Absence.

Thanking you for past favors, I am,

Yours, most gratefully,

S. F. Coffman,  
For the Committee.

To the N-R.R.O. and  
Committee to Ottawa.

Vineland Ont., July 31st, 1918.

Brethren/-greeting in the name of Him in Whom we trust.

Your attention may have recently been called to the report of the decision of the Military Service Council, Department of Justice Branch, Ottawa, as it appeared in the Toronto Globe, Mail and Empire and other papers. Several Communications have come in regarding these reports. Your Secretary, had, previously to receiving these communications, seen the report and at once took up the matter with Hon. Mr. Scott, Galt. He referred to a letter from the Military Service Committee which has in charge the Granting of the Leave of Absence which we are now enjoying, and which says that this department has no jurisdiction over the Department of Justice and its branches. It also says that the ruling of the Chief Justice against the excepting of Mennonites and Tunkers from the Act does not debar them from claiming exemption from service on religious grounds. It also states that instructions have been sent out to commanding Officers at Toronto and London, to release from military service bona fide Mennonites and Tunkers. We are aware of these decisions and arrangements. We have no other instructions to follow than those which have been given us by those who have been in touch with the Departments in our behalf. It will behoove us to continue in good faith in the way that has been pointed out to us and which has up to the present time proven satisfactory, in securing the release of all of our brethren from the camps.

There are some questions which will arise in our minds as to the status of those brethren who have united with the Church since the 13th of October, last, and which the Department of Justice has decided are not entitled to the privilege of exemption on religious grounds. This question has already been presented to the members of the Government with whom we are dealing and will, no doubt, be taken into consideration. Until we are further advised it will be well to ~~await information~~ continue as we have, and all of those who are called should present their membership certificates to the commanding officers of the camps and receive the Leave of absence granted by such officers.

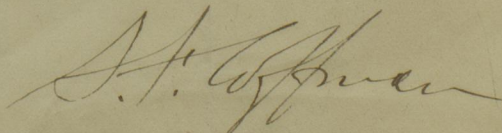
There have been some differences in the Leave of Absence granted at different camps and to different individuals. There is no uniformity in these papers because there may be no uniform instructions concerning the character of the Leave to be given. Let each brother comply with the conditions of the papers which he has received from his Officer, reporting at the time specified and appealing again for further leave.

The Question as to the decision concerning a bona fide member, or member ~~if~~ in good faith is also one to be considered. It may be a question with some whether the Government shall decide this or whether it will be left to the Bishops and Ministers of the Churches. This question has also been brought to the attention of those who represent us in the Government. We feel that these are weighty questions and it is not without a sense of their importance that we present them and not without a prayer to God to assist in the solution of them for the sake of His people that we should consider them.

Let us continue in patience and prayer and thanksgiving to God for mercies we need and for those we are receiving daily.

Notify all possible to continue as we have in our work, for we have no other instructions from the Government.

Yours in faith,



For the committees.

191

Detailed expense acc  
Thos Reesor

July 29	Markham to Toronto & ret	1 30
	lunch	35
	Niagara on the Lake	1 30
	supper	40
" 30	bed	1 00
	Ticket Toronto	1 50
	breakfast	75
	dinner	50
	street car	15
		<hr/> 7 25

Aug 12	expenses to Waterloo	
	trolley	25
	Kitchener & ret	3 75
	two meals at Waterloo	1 00
	Trolley W Hill	25
	Telephone Home	60
	street car	10
	phone	15
		<hr/> 6.1.0



1915		to Waterloo			
Aug	19	W Hill	3	75	
		Kitchener		75	
		phone to Weichel		40	
		Dinner		50	
		Galt + return		50	
		phone W M R		15	
		W Hill		25	
		lunch		35	
"	23				6 15
		Kitchener	3	75	
		lunch		20	
		street car		10	
		West Hill		20	
		Phone W M R		15	
		to M R		50	1 0
					4 90

Oct 11 Kitchener  
Dinner  
carfare

375

60

10

4 45

Elmira, Ont., Aug. 1st / 18.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,  
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother:

Greetings:

Your letter was received and I am enclosing copies as requested. Everything is quiet in military circles in this district as far as we are concerned with the exceptions of the references in the papers, the latest of which is to the effect that only Mennonites that adhere to the old principle of feet washing will be recognized as non-resistants. Possibly you have also read it and know better how it will effect the Mennonites in general. The article did not state under what authority it had been printed.

I am very glad for your information regarding the donation and will use it when the proper time comes. It seems to be gaining more favour although I fear that it is generally mis-understood. I have been wondering whether your expenses have been paid or whether this community is expected to assist. There have been no offers made but I dare say it would be nothing out of the way if they would

join in.

However, the chances may seem slim when I say that so far I have received \$11<sup>45</sup> for my expenses. The matter of making up the necessary sum had been taken up by one of the deacons but was dropped owing to opposition against it. The explanation was so disgusting that I did not inquire on what grounds the opposition was based but I dare say the automobile was again the cause.

I had not intended to write you about this until later on as I know how you feel about it. Please do not make reference in any letter to others about this statement and if I do not receive the amount to which I am entitled by private donation I will let you know and will rely on you to wake some people. In the meantime we will wait as all may turn out well. I am not claiming the amount as a charity fund but I think that I am entitled to my expenses which I had for the cause of the church and the people.

Yours etc

Will write again and explain further events N. M. Bearinger  
in referenc to above.

The wife is gaining rapidly and father is also  
well again

Military Service Act, 1917

To the Members of the Non-Resistant  
Relief Organization.

Wineland Ont., August 8th, 1918.

Brethren:- Greeting.

You will please find enclosed a copy of a letter recently received by me and to which I replied, sending a Certificate to the effect that the same was a member of the M.B.C. Church, since the person in question sent copies of Certificates from the pastor who signed and also from the present pastor. I returned the letters to the present pastor with a letter for explanation so as to avoid any possible imposition. Also, I referred the person to the presiding Elder, Samuel Goudie, for a certificate to be used, since mine was only a provisional one.

There seems to be a question raised by the Department in Toronto of the eligibility of the Ministers of the M.B.C. Church to sign certificates. There appeared in a recent paper a report to the effect that the status of the different branches of the Church would be called into question. I have received no information that such has been the case, but there seems to be some trend in that direction since we were informed that the names sent in to the Department at Ottawa would be honored and are now refused recognition. Let us hope that such is not the actual condition of affairs. One thing is certain, - that is, we should stand together for the principles upon which we have made our appeal to the Government. We may have other differences but those do not effect our appeal. All of our Churches have stood for the Non-resistant faith, and have done so as long as the history of our denomination is in existence.

The matter of the authority of the ministers above mentioned has been referred to Mr. Scott, as well as the matter of the possible questioning of the faith of the branches of the Churches concerned in our appeal and in our Organization. We believe that there are those in the Departments who do not understand our position and our faith, and do not fully understand the privileges that have been accorded us by the Department at Ottawa. We must be patient and allow these questions time to be worked out. Mr. Scott has given the assurance, in a recent letter, that any cases that come into any difficulty be reported to him at once, and he would look after them and believed that there would be no difficulty in getting them released.

We shall endeavor to keep each other posted in all of these matters so that we will be able to act intelligently and harmoniously.

Yours in faith,

