

R.R.#2 Pickering Aug 10 1915

Mr W G Weichel
Waterloo

Dear sir

Inclosed you will find copy
of letter written by militia dep
at Toronto submitting names
of Bishops which will be
recognized on church certificates
This appears to be the ministers
of the branch which you will
possibly know, in your district
at John Snyder's Branch

This would cut out our branch
namely Ezra L Martin and
Mria Martin.

We submitted the names of
Bishops + Ministers in our church,
apparently they will not be
honored

Can you do anything for us
kindly do so if you possibly
can

Yours truly Thos Reesor
would be pleased to hear from you

Bish. J. R. Zook, *Chairman*

Bish. C. N. Hostetter, *Secretary*

Eld. S. G. Engle, *Treas.*

Bish. J. N. Hoover

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

Eld. J. M. Sheets

Eld. D. W. Heise

Matt. 28. 19-20

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

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 Aug, 10 th, 191 8

Eld Thos Reesor.

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Bro,

I have your letter of the 6 th inst, and also one of some time ago, the answering of these letters have through force of circumstances been unvoicable delayed, and now the first one is entirely missing. I appreciate very much the information you impart as a result of your experience at the different military camps, and also the results following. I trust that the Lord will continue to help us in these trying times, as He surely has in the past. I can now refer to your letter of some time ago, and recall that you mention "a pamphlet" that you made use of, and could use more in the future, I suppose you have in mind the "Circular Letter" which you perhaps had not at that time received. I am mailing you a further supply of these, if that is what you want. In your last letter to me you mention the printing of the Ruleing which I distributed among the members of the Committee. In a Telephone conversation with Bro Burkholder this morning I understood him to say that you, since writing to me had a number of coppies printed, if this is not correct, kindly let me know, and I will try and supply you with some. I am somewhat confused as to how I should fully answer your two letters, so if this is not sufficient kindly advise and I will try and do better.

Yours Brother D. W. Heise

R.R. #2 Pickering Aug 27 1915

W G Weichel Esq
Waterloo

Dear sir,

Enclosed find copy of letter sent from Niagara camp to Bishop Pittenhouse. It appears they will not recognize the Militia council order which you received from Ottawa, any thing you can do to clear this point would be appreciated very much as our whole hopes appears to hang on this. Thanking you for past favors
I am yours truly

Thos Reesor

FOR GOD FOR KING
AND FOR COUNTRY



WITH THE CANADIAN
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Fri. Sept. 6th 1918.

Dear Minister:

Well I got back alright is was pretty wet though. There is a draft going on Sun. night, they have not warned me yet but the Corporal said my name was on the list, I dont know if you can do anything or not but I thought I would let you know anyway. There is not very much time if it goes Sun. night there was one left last night too. I suppose I will just have to refuse to go, if they want me to go. It seems to take them a long time to settle my case. But I hope and trust that they might take me off yet and I trust the Lord will be with me in further trials I remain Yours as ever

3235665 Pte. J. Smith

H. Co. 72. C. O. R.

Nagara-on-the-Lake

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917.

Notice of Disposition of Appeal to Central Appeal Judge.

Serial Number,
706062 AC

Consecutive Number
159 A

Mr. John Roes,
Brunner Ont.

You are notified that the appeal to the Central Appeal Judge with respect to the exemption from Military Service of yourself, has been considered by the Central Appeal Judge and his decision is that Exemption be ----- The subject is in the class referred to in the Order-in-Council of Canada passed in the year 1873 and is not under the application of the Military Service Act, 1917.

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

C O P Y .

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917.

Central Appeal Judge.

AC 706062- A 1441.

John Roes,
RR 1 Brunner Ontario.
District, London.

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

(Signed) Clerk to the Central Appeal Judge

Ottawa, Sept. 13th, 1918.

Elmira, Ont., Sept. 12th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,

Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Greetings.

Your letter of Sept. 10th has been received and I am enclosing the forms as requested. I am sorry to hear that you still have trouble with the authorities but trust that matters will soon be adjusted to your satisfaction.

In our community everything seems to be quiet as far as military circles are concerned. A member of the clergy of the other church has informed me that they have received word to proceed with the donation and that the contributions are to be made to you. In view of the opinions expressed by Mr. Weichel and Mr. Scott regarding this matter I fail to understand the meaning of the action that is being taken.

An appeal has been made to our Church for aid in connection with the Merchants Marine Sailors' Relief Fund. Owing to the fact that the Government has made no provisions for the widows and orphans of these sailors the cause will possibly be recognized and assistance given. Ezra was here yesterday in reference to the matter and expressed himself as being willing to bring it up before the people and urge them to give liberally as he thinks it is time that we "cough up". I was rather surprised that he views the proposition in that light and was pleased to realize that at last there is a cause which is deemed worthy of our support. The local committee had appointed two special delegates to interview Ezra and this may have made a deep impression even if they did catch him at his breakfast.

I do not know how you regard assistance to such a cause but I realize that we must snatch up something whereby we can to some extent remove the spirit of avarice and stinginess for which we are being blamed. The majority of the people are clamoring for a special tax but with the statement of Mr. Scott in this proposal for backing I have tried to make the people understand that such a thing is impossible for the present.

The cause which is at present under consideration is perhaps the best that has presented itself to the non-resistant classes. The assistance is to be solely for the dependants of the sailors of the Merchants Marine who are employed in the transfer of merchandise and not as a fighting unit.

We are thankful to be able to say that every thing is well with us. We do not know when our proposed visit with Urias will be carried out but we are looking forward to it with pleasure.

Yours very truly,

P.S. — A systematic method has been adopted to make up my expenses in working N. M. Bearinger on this exemption business and I rest assured that all will be well.

Elmira, Ont., Sept. 18/18.

Rev. Thomas Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Greetings in the name of the Saviour.

Your letter of Sept. 16th has been received and I feel obliged to answer it immediately. In reference to the assistance to be given to the Sailors' Fund and the donation which is in progress, I had a conversation with Brother Cressman to-day in which the matter was thoroughly discussed.

I wish to take this opportunity to heartily thank you for calling my attention to the advisability of forwarding our donation to this cause through the committee and with the other different funds of the non-resistant classes. There is no necessity for me to remind you of the prospects of a donation by our people in the form suggested by the committee as there are no ends of unreasonable arguments against it.

The suggestions offered in your letter alter the situation. In the first place it is, as you state, of the utmost importance that we work together. The importance of this fact will likely be made manifest at a later period. The fore-sight with which our committee was blessed makes arrangements for each community to raise funds in its own manner and to donate it for its own specified cause. This enables the people of this community to donate to the Sailors' Fund with the assurance that the funds will be forwarded to the committee who will naturally see to it that it will reach its proper destination.

There is now a clean slate to place before the people. The Sailors' Fund is in no way connected with any war propaganda. By making the donation through the committee the people will be serving the double purpose of thanking their government and doing to a certain extent their duty in assisting the innocent suffering.

Brother Cressman was highly in favor of dealing with the proposition in the manner suggested and if the others will see it in the same light the coast will be clear. There are such who will do all in their power to destroy the unity of the project but I fear that such a spirit will be of little avail if the blessings of the Lord are in our cause.

Therefore you may depend upon it, dear brother that I will do all in my power to assist in carrying out the proposed plan. After considering the question from all points I cannot see that there is anything to keep the people from donating generously with a free conscience unless it be that evil which is so often, under the cloak of religion. I shall at all times be pleased to keep you informed as to the progress we are making.

Yours very truly,

N. M. Bearinger

Brother Cressman requests me to inquire whether ^{you paid} for a certain set of certificates which you and Urias had printed at Waterloo. Kindly send in your bill if you paid for them. My affairs in this line are OK.

Elmira, Ont. Oct 1st, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother:

Greetings.

I feel obliged to drop a few lines in order to keep you posted as to our affairs. Meetings are being called in order to discuss the donation to the Sailors' Fund and to take up collections and indications are that a fair sum will be raised.

The object of discussion is as to what channels the money must pass through until it reaches its objective, the general inclination being to forward it through the banks. I do not care to discuss the reason that seems to be generally given by those who are not in favor of forwarding it to the committee but I fear that the "I AM BETTER THAN THOU" spirit is gradually gaining a strong foothold with some of our people and it will be one of the dangerous things with which we have to cope in the future.

However, I know that many of our people are anxious to have the money pass through the hands of the committee only they would like to ascertain whether the committee has the assurance of the government that the money will be used as will be stipulated by the different branches donating it. This seems to be a very important factor in the eyes of many and must therefore be explained in detail. Brother Cressman has requested me to attend the meeting and I would like to be well posted concerning this point. Dear brother, when I think of the many anxious hours that we have spent together in behalf of these very people I often wonder whether----- but I always remember what you once said about ignorance.

Brother Cressman wishes me to exchange confidences with you ~~in~~ this letter. He has been informed that David Reesor had been expelled from the Church on account of his car when he had purchased it and had recently partaken of communion without going through the formalities of being re-instated as a member. Brother Cressman and I were both of the opinion that David had of his own accord and free will not partaken of communion since he has the car until perhaps recently. There is no need of mentioning the name of the party giving the information and it will be readily seen that the **object** is again poor Freeman. Brother Cressman wishes you to kindly give us the facts of this case as he feels duty bound to correct his informant. I do not like this business but am doing it as a favor to the old man and hope that it will be treated confidentially.

I called on Ezra last night and the donation matter was also discussed. He is highly in favor of the scheme in progress but would not give much satisfaction as to how it should be forwarded. I wish you would get Urias posted and explain to him the object of having the funds pass through the committee as I believe he would be able to do more than I can to have it forwarded that way.

*An early answer will
be appreciated.*

Yours very truly,

M. M. Bearinger

speaking at the same place on the same date, and possibly from the same "stump" as your letter stated. It affords me great pleasure to rehearse the scene in my imagination but I am glad they didn't "get" us. I followed your example and likewise "regretted".

You are likely to hear from me again in the near future if the proposition is put on a footing again. In the meantime kindly do not advertise this correspondence until I can send you a more favourable report.

Yours very truly,

W. M. Bearinger.

P.S. — Since I saw you last I have had the audacity to promote myself. The wife has taken a fancy to the type writer and is therefore acting the part of stenographer for my private correspondence. Since beginning this letter I have had a conversation with some members of our committee and they are certainly not in a humour to drop the donation scheme. I have consented to be present at another meeting of the committee and I fully expect that the affair will assume a different aspect by next Sunday as the men acting on the committee all seem to be of one mind.

Members of the Non-Resistant
Relief Organization.

Vineland Ont. October 3rd, 1918.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

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

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

Copy.

Ottawa, 24th September, 1918.

Dear Sir,-

In Mr. Calder's absence I beg to acknowledge of your further letter of the 19th instant with respect to the proposed donation to the Government by the people of Non-Resistant Faith. In reply I beg to say that there are no charitable funds or organizations under the control or direction of the Government, but as pointed out in Mr. Calder's letter of the 11th instant, I am quite confident that any of the several Societies and organizations carrying on philanthropic work will very much appreciate any contributions offered.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. E. Featherstone,

Associate Private Secretary.

S. P. Coffman,
Vineland Ont.

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

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

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

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

S. P. Coffman

Bish. J. R. Zook, *Chairman*

Bish. C. N. Hoover, *Secretary*

Eld. S. G. Engle, *Treas.*

Bish. S. N. Hoover

Eld. J. L. [unclear], *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 Oct. 7 th 1918

Eld Thomas Ressor.

Dear Brother -----pickering ont.

Greeting.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5 th inst and may say in reply, the copies of memorandum will go forward as per your instructions, as we have plenty of them. I am inclosing you the five copies requested. With refference to the other matter you mention I may say our people are now making their solicitations, and what the result may be is of course only a guess, and we will not know until the 1 st of Nov, as we have given them until that time to make their returns. I was talking to Bro Goudie this morning, and we come to the conclusion that the committ should be called together in the very near future to consult on just such matters as you bring up, as well as other matters of similar importance. So it is my intention to call the chairman as soon as I canget him and arrange for a meeting in case he considers it advisaable, when you will be advised thereof.

Yours In The Masters Service.

D. W. Heise

Elmira, Ont., Oct. 11th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Your letter was received yesterday and I appreciate the information it contained.

In reference to our donation to the Sailors' Aid I am unable to say much as I have not heard the results of all the districts. It is altogether probable that we shall have to make a second appeal to the people if we wish to attain anything near to the amount expected by the local committee.

It seems to me that we made one big mistake in not having the object of the donation thoroughly explained to the people as some who have since taken the trouble to find out more about it have made a second contribution and I am confident that this would be the case in many instances if the people would understand the real nature of the donation. The interest taken by many people is to be commended upon however, as their liberal contributions show that they are in earnest; but the opinions of the people in general, many of whom are practically in the same financial standing, are so varied as to almost border on a state of unfairness and this will be a difficult thing to remedy. It is not likely that any steps in this connection will be made until the contributions have all been handed in. At your suggestion we have asked Mr. Weichel to present the donation for us but, acknowledging our kindness, he advised us to pay through the local committee which we decided to do.

We had a meeting yesterday at the home of Manasseh Martin called by Mr. Weichel. A government representative was there to explain how our Minister of Finance has, in a special manner, made it possible for Mennonites to buy government bonds without conflicting with their religious convictions. The project appealed very strongly to the elder brethren who were present; we formed ourselves into a sort of a committee and a meeting will be announced from the pulpits to be held at Elmira Meeting House on Tuesday, Oct. 22nd, at 1.30 P. M. Mr. Weichel has requested me to take the matter up with you and I wish you could arrange to be present at the meeting. The object of the meeting will be to get in touch with such who are opposed to the proposition on account of religious convictions. It will be in charge of the committee and there will be no outsiders present.

Mr. Weichel requests me to state that the trouble mentioned in your letter to him has been set aright. One of our young men has been drafted but is being set free before the date of reporting. May the labor that we perform not base our faith too much in the power of man but rather in Him who has so Fatherly guided us thro many difficulties and let His Name be praised.

*Kindly let me know whether
you can be present.*

N. M. Bearinger

Gormley. Oct, 26 th, 1918.

Dear Brother.

As a member of the "None-Resistant" Relief Organization, you are hereby notified that a meeting of the said Organization will be held in the Wideman Mennonite church on the Eighth Concession of Markham Tp, at 10.00 A. M. on the 30th day of Oct. As one interested in this Organization, and its objects, you are especially requested to be present, as a number of very important matters will come up for consideration relative to the position of the None-Resistant Churches in Canada, Among them; the Memorial Fund, and the Victory Loan Etc. Let there be much Prayer that our God may continue to direct us by His Spirit.

Fraternally Yours.

D. W. Heise.

Secy.

Elmira, Oct. 29/18.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.
Dear Brother in Faith:

I fear that my letter will not reach you as soon as you had expected it. The desired information from Mr. Weichel could not be obtained in time and when I did get it I did not consider it necessary to wire you.

Mr. Weichel tells me that leave of absence has been extended till Nov. 15th in all cases on account of the prevailing epidemic. You will likely be aware of this as your boys may have received notice to that effect. It was further stated that the boys should report in writing when called upon to report. This comes from Col. Smith, London, and will likely be taken up more closely before the next leave expires.

In reference to the new order-in-council effecting the Mennonites, Mr. Scott has wired to Ottawa to gain more definite information and I have received the assurance that the answer to his telegram will be forwarded to me as soon as it arrives. I shall let you know immediately how matters stand.

Gormley Oct 29th 1918

The Non-Resistant Relief Organization
Expense Ac Dr to D.W. Heise

From June 21 to Oct 3 postage etc	188
July 15. 250 Circular Letters	4.50
Sept 13. Laws computation	17.00
From Oct 3 to Oct 29 postage etc	62
" 22 Fair Exp to Hitchiner	5.70
	<hr/>
D.W. Heise Cr Collections	28.19
	23.00
Bal due	<hr/> \$5.19

Received payment
in full
D.W. Heise

Markham Oct 30th 1918

Received from Thos Brown the
Sum of \$28¹⁹ in full of Expenses
in connection with the N.R. R.O.
to date.

T. W. Weiser
T. W.

CONTRIBUTION TO MEMORIAL FUND FOR RELIEF,
TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

I. The Government has kept faith with us.

1. There were some annoyances, due to much opposition to the favors granted us.
2. None of our brethren were obliged to do military service, and we have assurance of continued exemption.
3. Suspicion regarding the future should not discount present and past favors:- we have exemptions.

II. We are able to contribute largely.

1. The past four years have brought exceptional prosperity to all.
2. The times of exceptional affliction are not the time for luxury and increasing of wealth.
3. The boy at home saves \$300.00 or more in wages per year besides unestimated gain in increased production. What if he were away?
4. We have contributed but little to other than our regular Church funds. Others have given to the demands of war in sons and money.
5. We have saved and waited to give according to our faith. We have now an opportunity to use our savings. "Do good to all men."

III. The objects of our gift to the Government.

1. The relief of widows and orphans of merchant sailors of Canada.
2. Relief of destitute in Belgium, France Syria, Armenia and other greatly afflicted localities.
3. Restoration of many wasted and destroyed farms and homes in war areas, to give an opportunity to the people to help themselves and be free from charity.
4. Supply food and clothing for many needy ones this coming Winter.

IV. Why we should give.

1. The war may be over, but the needy must be cared for.
2. The Government expects our people, especially, to do their share of charitable work. Have we done it?
3. Those who have represented our interests in the Government desire to show our opponents that we have done something worth while, for the exemptions we have enjoyed.
4. If our inactive attitude should lose us our exemption the coming years may require the payment of exceedingly large sums over which we will have no control as to their expenditure.

V. Why object to the fund?

1. It will be used by the Government as we say. Our Treasurer will receive receipts from any Society using this fund.
2. The Government has other methods of raising expense funds.
3. If the war should cease we are certain that our funds will be used for charity and not for war. Then, why not give liberally?

VI. How much to give.

1. As a man thinketh in his heart, - As the Lord hath prospered.
2. How much have we prospered in the last four years? Has the giving been in due proportion to the prosperity? God expects it to be equal.
3. Love our neighbor as ourselves. If we were the war sufferers how much would we expect the Canadian Christians to give?
4. If \$50.00 per year would have kept the son or brother in the Church from military service, how much less can we give as a free-will offering to God for our favors from the Government?
5. In many congregations each brother subscribes from \$50.00 to \$200.00 toward the relief fund.
6. There are about 7,000 members in the Non-resistant Churches in Ontario. \$100,000.00 presented to the Government would look very small as a token of our appreciation or the great favor of exemption from military service, since it would represent only about \$15.00 per member. Cannot our Churches afford more, or shall we appear ungrateful?

7. ~~XX~~ \$100,000 will not go far to relieve the awful suffering in war-stricken countries. A million dollars is being asked for by another society to relieve the needy children in Palestine alone which country is larger than two counties of Ontario.
8. Give as if you were the only one to give. Give hence according as God has prospered and prove God, and receive a blessing that will be in proportion with the giving.
9. "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." The Lord is to be the One who shall receive our gifts. Can we withhold them?

VII. When to give.

1. At once. The need is great at the present time.
2. The invitation to meet the Government to consider our standing and the guarantee of the privileges of exemption may come at any time, and our funds should be ready.
3. What is done now in the nature of a gift may save ourselves and our children many times more in the nature of a special tax for exemption. We are not purchasing our liberty, but a gratitude that is unexpressed is not usually recognized and calls for no special recompense.

Dear Brethren:- Greeting.

The Non-Resistant Relief Organization has felt the need of making a greater effort to increase the contributions to the Memorial Fund. Our people are in sympathy with the objects of this fund, but have not realized the need which demands larger giving. The Government is asking ~~us~~ nothing from us. Our boast, if it may be called such, is that our people are willing to do their share in supplying the needs of the suffering ones all over the world. We must give more than the ordinary Church collections, or our boasting will only bring us shame. The needy ones will continue to suffer if others give only as we have seemed to give. The standard set by some congregations is a worthy one, and we feel that all can easily equal their example.

Please make use of the information stated above and add what you feel to be in order in pressing this matter. It is urgent. Place this information in the hands of those who have the work of soliciting or collecting for this fund. Let us be united in our effort: We are united in our principles of faith, in our desire to relieve the suffering and let us also be united in the degree of our liberality and in the expression of thankfulness to our Government for our religious privileges, and pray that the Lord may direct the minds and hearts of those who rule over us, that we may continue to enjoy these privileges in years to come.

This Fund is entirely separate from the purchase of Government Bonds.

Yours in behalf of our Churches, our children, the Lord's suffering ones and religious liberty in Canada,

The Committee.

Per S.F.C.

Markham, Ont. Nov. 4/18

Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear brother, Greeting:-

I suppose you have heard from brother Heise since we were in Toronto last week. I think the arrangement with the 1918 Loan officials is quite satisfactory. I will be glad to explain more fully if you call at the house some day when you are passing.

If I am entitled to the following expenses you may kindly remit at your convenience.

Railway fare	Markham to Toronto & return	\$1.20
Postage on mailing	30 slips to ministers	.30
		<hr/>
		\$1.50

Brother Heise had asked me to mail these slips to each of our ministers which I did.

I hope the Memorial Fund is swelling fast.

Your brother in the faith,

L. J. Burkholder

Elmira, Ont., Nov. 7/18.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
 Pickering, Ont.
 Dear Brother in Faith:

Your letter of recent date to hand and its contents were very interesting. After reading it I was very sorry that I could not attend the meeting. However, since our people are not all in favor of the different propositions one has to work to a certain extent with his hands tied.

The resolutions passed by the committee regarding the donation to precede the head tax is meeting with favor as far as I can learn. Mr. Weichel is at present at Ottawa but will be back on Saturday. Our churches will be open again on Sunday and the head tax donation will likely be proceeded with during the next week.

We have no idea how strong the different branches of the Churches donating are but you might give us an idea as to what is expected from us. Do you think that \$20,000 would be sufficient. An early answer to this will be appreciated as our meeting will likely be at the beginning of next week.

Yours etc.
 Wm Bearinger.

Markham, Ont.
Nov. 7th 1918

Received from Thomas Keeson
the sum of One Dollar and Fifty
cents for expenses for trip to Toronto
in work for the Non-Resistant Relief
Organization,

L. J. Burkholder

S T A T E M E N T .

S. F. Coffman, I account with

Non-Resistant Relief Organization.

October 30,	Trip to Markham, to Committee Meeting.	\$4.86
November 7	Postage on circular letter	3.00
	Paper for circular letter	.30
	Envelopes	<u>.30</u>
		\$8.46

Received payment.
Nov 18, 1968
S. F. Coffman

Vineland Ont., Nov. 14th, 1918.

Thomas Reesor,
Pickering Ont.

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Mrs. Jacob Smith has written me two letters

regarding the release of her son, Joseph Smith who is still detained in the East End Barracks in Hamilton. The first letter was very brief and I could not tell much about the case, although I had suspicions that it was the one in which you were interested. I replied to her and stated that I would like to have more information before doing anything with the Authorities. Her second letter explained conditions and stated also that you had been interested in getting the boy out of camp. After knowing the particulars I wrote to Col. Windyer, Toronto and placed the conditions of the boy's detention before him and intimated that some one was interfering with orders from Headquarters and detaining the boy in the camp. I then asked him what further steps might be taken to secure his release according to our arrangements with the Militia Council at Ottawa. I also stated that you had several satisfactory interviews with the Department at Toronto but that you had received no satisfaction from the Officers commanding the Regiment. I hope to hear from the Colonel soon, and it may be the same report that has come to you again and again. In case there is no result from this application I will take it up with Mr. Scott and ask him to get in touch with Ottawa and have the boy released at once. This might have been the wisest thing to do, but it might not be best to ignore the Commanding Officer at Toronto, if we expect him to give us any favor. I will be glad to have any suggestions from you with regard to this matter. It was perhaps not in order to take this case up, since the brother is a member of your congregation. But I was not sure of this until I had received the second letter, and had already promised Sister Smith to do what I could for them.

The enclosed letter was found on my desk, and as it was omitted in previous letter, I am taking this opportunity of returning it. We have had no services here for the last four weeks, and we have not been able to do much along the line of the Memorial Fund. We hope to take it up at once and believe that there will be a fair response on the part of our people. I have been wondering who will take it up with Brother Wismer's congregation. He is so hard of hearing that it is difficult to make him understand some things. Perhaps a line from Brother Rittenhouse would give us the information. We are as well as usual, thanks to the aLord. Hope all are well with you.

Yours in faith,

S. A. Coffman

Elmira, Ont., Nov. 18th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

I have been intending to write to you for some time but was always awaiting the development of some circumstances so that I could send a more detailed account of existing conditions. According to reports which reached me to-day I rather believe that events have reached their climax for the time being.

On Monday, November 11th, services were held in order to ordain a Minister, the lot falling to Henry S. Bauman. At this meeting another meeting was announced to be held the same afternoon in connection with the donation and all were invited to attend. It was not well attended but the donation question was brought up and the sum mentioned. Practically the only opposition received was the fact that nothing should be done until the war was definitely over. This opposition has since been partly with-drawn by the party who offered it as conditions in Europe are favourable.

After considerable discussion the matter was referred to the clergy but the few members present rejected the proposition of having the clergy connected with it. A committee of ten men was then appointed to meet at the home of David Sauder on a certain date. At this meeting complaint was brought up by a deacon to the effect that there are too many of these affairs taken up by the people without consulting or having authority from the bishop. It was mentioned that recently at the request of the government a man had approached the bishop to ascertain what the church had done in the way of free donations. He had to send the man to Bearinger as he did not know.

The committee then decided to hold collection at the different churches on November 28th, in order to make up the sum and to have this fact announced from the pulpits, providing the bishop is in favor of such proceedings. Yesterday morning it was calmly announced from the pulpit that the affair is not to be proceeded with. I was not present and could not since ascertain the definite meaning of the announcement or whether it will be taken up later. There is only one reason that presents itself to me for this turn of affairs and I would rather not mention it. During one of our conversations you once said something about "importance."

Fortunately I do not happen to be on the committee and I shall simply leave matters for the present. I have heard that there is a movement among the boys to raise a sum if this other does not go through and I shall certainly encourage it. Last week I was asked to give a report as to the free donations of the Mennonites. The same day I received a copy of a telegram asking the percentage of the investments in Victory Bonds from the Mennonites. The significant point is that both requests came from Toronto.

The Victory Loan men must have had matters doped out in great style. I had received three earnest requests by phone to

Vineland Ont., Nov. 22, 1918.

Thomas Ressor, Treas.
Pickering Ont.^a

Dear Brother:- Greeting.

Your letters received, also Cheque for the amount of Statemnt. Thanks for the same.

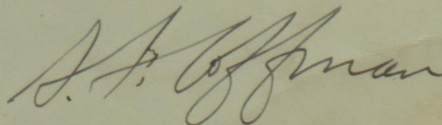
Our collectors have not yet taken up the work here. Some have been sick and others have not been able to get out to do the work. Was glad for the report from Brother Gascho's District. Hope the others will be as liberal in their districts. I had a letter from the russiana district in Manitoba, showing an interest in our movement and there might be a possibility of their taking this matter up also, although I believe that we ought to keep the interest somewhat distinct just at the present time. The Cheque which you sent did not have the cents indicated in the body of the cheque, and, thoughtlessly, I added the number. I detected my error and offered to return the Cheque for a new one but our Banker said that he would put it through.

We just had word of the death of Sister Ressor in Mount Joy. One by one the friends are being called home. These are days of sorrow and trial to all people. We need to be faithful to our calling and to our faith, so that we may be ready when the call comes for us.

I will inform our Treasurer about the bank connections which you have at Markham, so that it will save you trouble there.

This leaves us in usual health, thanks to the Lord.

Yours in His service,



Have not heard from Toronto as yet, regarding Brother Smith.

Elmira, Nov. 27th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

The committee appointed to take up the donation is more or less discouraged in its undertaking as the general opinions met among our people are to the effect that the proposition is worthy of support but that money is very ~~scarce~~ scarce at the present time owing to the investments which the farmers have placed in stock and the taxes that will be due in the next month.

I am requested to ascertain whether there is a certain time set by your committee as to when this donation is to be forwarded and how long a time would be given to the different communities to make the collections. The members of the committee believe the proposition would receive a better response later on. One would wonder where the money came from to purchase the \$113000 in Victory Bonds. Kindly advise me as to the time for making the collection.

We had communion services on Sunday with four members of the clergy present, two of whom did not partake. Their example was followed by a few members. I have no definite idea what the reason of such action might have been.

Yours very truly,

A. M. Bearinger.

P. S. —

I fear that the dissention amongst the clergy may possibly be more than such as would be caused by recent events. The Victory Bonds may have something to do with it but the present proposition will receive the support of nearly all. It has been observed that another reason for the action taken on Sunday is the trouble which was mentioned in my letter to you after one of our deacons had visited your community.

Elmira, Ont., Nov. 30th/17.

Dear Brother in Faith:

Greetings:

Your letter was received to-day and I am sincerely grateful for the encouragement it contained. I was indeed glad to learn that Rev. Rittenhouse and yourself hold the same opinion regarding so important a matter as this donation question and I feel more than ever urged to push the proposition with all speed.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent to our bishop, not as a show my dear brother, but to let you know that should the matter again be ignored, it will not be because they are not aware of existing conditions. I would, however, not be surprised to experience an indifferent attitude from the party it was addressed to, but that will not discourage me as the general opinion is in its favor and I am pleased to be able to express the opinion which you and Rev. Rittenhouse entertain.

I have also sent a copy of this letter to Rev. Rittenhouse and have thanked him for urging the proposition as I think it will mean much by way of making an impression upon the minds of the people.

My earnest hope is that we can at once proceed as I think there is no time to be lost but I fear, judging from past experience that it will be some — well I believe we will at the future expose the rest. I again wish to thank you for the interest that you have shown in so just a cause and for reviving the proposition in our denomination.

I have just received stern orders from my physician to take a rest. In October he wanted me to go to bed but I promised him that I would take a few holidays in November and since I did not keep the promise I must make good. So if I can get away from the office some time during the next month I might infringe upon your hospitality for a few days as the doctor wants me away from the office. I also intend to spend a day or so with Rev. Pittenhouse in Cayuga if all is well.

I will be pleased to keep you posted in regard to the procedure taken concerning the donation question as I believe you will appreciate it.

Yours truly
N. M. Peeringer

Elmira, Ont., Dec. 5th, 1918.

Rev. Thos. Keesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Brother in Faith:

I take great pleasure in informing you that our congregation expects to hold meetings at the different churches on Dec. 10th for the purpose of collecting towards the donation for relief work. The proposition is endorsed by the clergy and is receiving every encouragement.

According to reports there will be no sum set and it is doubtful whether the sum expected will be reached but the movement seems to gain more favor than ever before and I hope that the people will donate liberally. The matter of collecting is left in the hands of the committee recently appointed.

The misunderstanding which caused some to refuse communion has been settled. It was caused by the fact that the bishop purchased bonds. He will likely rid himself of them. I will do all I can to rush the funds into your treasury as soon as they have been collected.

Yours in haste
N. M. Bearinger.

Elmira, Dec. 27th 1918.

Dear Brother:

A few lines in haste to let you know how things are coming along.

The local bankers have requested us to leave our funds with them as a deposit over the end of the year so as to make a good showing for them. We have decided to do so providing it is satisfactory to you. It would suit me fine as there is still some to come in from this district. The whole sum will amount to something between \$14 and \$15,000 if all those who are expected will show up.

It has been decided not to send a man from this vicinity to Ottawa. I do not know how this will suit Mr. Weichel as it was at his special request that I mentioned the matter. I am not anxious to go along but I think that if Mr. Weichel requests that his county should be represented we should try to oblige him.

If the above arrangements are satisfactory I will forward the funds on Jan. 2/19.

(We are all well although the flu is prevalent in the country
Josiah Cressman's wife was buried yesterday.

Yours etc

Noah.

Waterloo. Dec 28th 1918

Dear Bro. Greeting.

I received a letter from Markham today, but no name attached to it, but thought it was from Lewis Burkholder, as he said, was at your place looking over the books about the Relief Organization, and did not find a contribution of our church at Waterloo. Well I am sorry it was not sent yet, but will be sent. I understand from our treasurer J. S. Snider at an early date, at any rate, the beginning of January. So if you have a little patience I think it will be all right, as I gave notice to the treasurer today. Trusting this will be satisfactory.

Yours Truly,
Hoak S. Weber
R. R. 1. Waterloo
Ont.

LEVI MUMAW, Secretary,
Scottsdale, Pa.

ELI G. REIST, Vice President,
Mt. Joy, Pa.

G. L. BENDER, Treasurer,
Elkhart, Ind.

Mennonite Relief Commission for War Sufferers

AARON LOUCKS, President

*Thomas Reiser
Pickering, Ont*

Scottdale, Pa. Dec. 28, 1918.

Dear Brother:- Greetings.

On account of the meeting at Elida, Ohio being called off indefinitely and after consulting a number of brethren relative to the plans for Relief Work for the future, it was urged that an Executive Committee Meeting of the Mennonite Relief Commission be called at an early date.

A number of brethren feel that the situation in the Near East on account of war conditions is such that we ought to plan for some definite Relief Work as speedily as possible. We have, therefore, decided to call an Executive Committee meeting conjointly with the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities at Lancaster, Pa., Saturday, January 4, 1919, and have invited a few other brethren to be present to council with us in this work; expecting that there will be a general meeting of the Relief Commission held at some later date.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief are planning to take two or three hundred people on a transport laden with food, clothing, machinery, etc. for the rehabilitation of districts in Armenia, Syria and Turkey. Both Department of State as well as the American Committee invite us to accompany them on that expedition, without in any way connecting with them in anything else than giving relief.

Trusting that you can be present with us in this meeting, I am

Faternally yours,

Aaron Loucks, Pres.

AL
NMM

Thos. Reiser. — Dear Brother; Greetings of the Season. This letter is sent to members of our Executive Committee and I think it is worthy of consideration. I have suggested to Mrs. Brubaker that he call a meeting to consider representing our committee and wish at this meeting.

Yours. S. A. Hoffman

Handwritten note on the left side of the page, partially obscured by the fold.

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AVKON ΓΟΥCK2, President

M. J. B. B. E. G. BEIGL, Vice President

Handwritten signature or initials on the right side of the page.

Scottish, B. 1901, 80

Gornley Jany, 1st, 1919

Dear Brother.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization.

You are hereby notified that a meeting of the said Executive will be held D. V. in the Wideman Church, 8th line Markham; on Tuesday the 7th, inst; at 9.30 A. M. Kindly arrange to be present as matters of importance will come up at this meeting for consideration.

Yours Very Respectfully.

D. W. Heise.

Secy.

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Elmira, Ont., Jan. 24th, 1919.

Rev. Thos. Reesor,
Pickering, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing draft for the amount of our donation. I have forwarded a report of this donation and also a copy in part of the minutes of your meeting to our clergy and the members of our committee.

Kindly excuse hurry as I want this letter to go with this after-noon's mail. An acknowledgement would be appreciated.

Yours truly,

W. M. Bearinger

\$ 12.521 00

Gornley, Feb, 26 th, 1919

Beloved Brother.

As a member of the Executive of the Non-resistant Relief Organization, you are hereby advised that resolution (B) Minutes of last Executive meeting, has failed by virtue of the absence of Sir Robert Borden from Canada at present, which absence may continue for some time to come.

And in view of the urgent need of "Food, Clothing, and other necessities" on the part of the thousands of war sufferers.

The Chairman, Bro L. J. Burkholder and myself have concluded that immediate independent action, as per resolution (C) of last meeting should be taken.

Especially so from the fact that inquiries have been made by personal interviews, as well as somewhat extensive correspondence as to the purposes, and objects of the various Institutions, and Organizations to whom appropriations were made at the last meeting of our Executive, as per resolution (A), and so far as we are able to judge, after having gone carefully into the whole matter, there does not seem to be any good reason why the funds of this organization should not be turned over to the various interests for which they were donated by our people, so they may be of immediate service.

We might state further, that all of these organizations are working along lines which appear to be absolutely free from militarism, or political influence, and we believe conform to the principles for which we stand.

We, therefore appeal to you ~~as~~ as a member of the Executive, as to whether you are in favor of having our Treasurer issue his cheques for the amounts designated in the resolution of last meeting, and turn them over to the proper officials of the various institutions, and organizations, without any further formality on our part.

In the event of the members of the Executive being unanimous on this point, this course will be taken without further delay.

If desired, the Secretaries of the various organizations might be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the amounts, both to our treasurer, and also to the Premier, or acting Premier of Canada, as thought best.

Kindly let me have your immediate answer to the questions implied in this communication.

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

YOURS FOR SERVICE.

D. W. Heise Secy.