

**MEMORANDUM OF LAWS AFFECTING THE MEMBERS  
OF THE MENNONITE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY AND  
MILITARY SERVICE IN CANADA.**

As requested, a search was made of the various Statutes formerly in force in Canada and in Upper Canada prior to Confederation (1867), which affect or refer to that body and military service and obligation.

Apparently there is no Statute of the Imperial (British) Parliament in connection with such matters, so far as the books at Osgoode Hall and Legislative Libraries at Toronto show. In one volume, which was published by the Government at the time, and which purports to contain all statutes and laws of the British Parliament, of Quebec and the subsequent Province of Upper Canada (and including all Ordinances having the force of law), from 1716 to 1820, appears the first statute in which mention is made of the Mennonites and Tunkers, such Statute being one of George III, passed in 1808.

The following extracts from the various Acts from time to time in force will show the history of such legislation and the existing law now in effect.

1808—48 Geo. III, Chapter 1, being "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act the several Laws now in being for the raising and training the Militia of this Province."

Section 11.—That every male inhabitant from sixteen years of age to sixty shall be deemed capable of bearing arms, and shall enroll his name as a militia man on the first day of training, Etc.

Section 27.—Be it further enacted by the authorities aforesaid, that the persons called Quakers, Mennonists and Tunkers, who from certain scruples of conscience decline bearing arms, shall not be compelled to serve in the said militia, but every person professing that he is one of the people called Quakers, Mennonists or Tunkers, and producing a certificate of his being a Quaker, Mennonist or Tunker, signed by the clerk of the meeting of such society or by any three or more of the people called Quakers, Mennonists or Tunkers, shall be excused and exempted from serving in the said militia; provided, nevertheless, that every such person or persons that shall or may be of the people