

and under such regulations as the Governor-in-Council may from time to time prescribe. That under this Section all the persons above mentioned, and the Mennonites are expressly included, are absolutely free and exempted by the law of Canada from military duty or service, either in time of peace or war. That the intention of the Act in conferring upon the Governor-General-in-Council the power of making conditions and regulations was to enable the Government to provide, if necessary, for the registration of the exempted persons in such a manner as to prevent persons belonging to any other denomination than those specified in the section of the Act above quoted from avoiding military duty under false pretences. That the constitution does not confer upon the Governor-General-in-Council any power to over-ride or set aside, under any circumstances, the plain meaning of Statute law, and he recommends that this explanation be conveyed to the Mennonites in Russia.

The Committee concur in the foregoing report, and advise that a copy of this minute be transmitted by Your Excellency to the Earl of Kimberly.

(Signed) John J. McGee, Clerk, Privy Council.

To the Honourable The Minister of the Interior.

Department of Agriculture,
Immigration Branch,
Ottawa, July 23, 1873.

Gentlemen:

I have the honour under the instructions of the Hon. The Minister of Agriculture, to state to you in reply to your letter of this day's date the following facts relating to advantages offered to settlers and to the immunities to Mennonites, which are established by the Statute Law of Canada and by orders of His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council, for the information of German Mennonites having intention to emigrate to Canada via Hamburg.

An entire exemption from military service is by law and Order-in-Council granted to the denomination of Christians called Mennonites.