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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au secrétaire aux Dominions*

Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary

DESPATCH 435

Ottawa, December 10, 1930

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 585 of October 21st, 1930, relating to the position of Mennonites in the Soviet Union, I have the honour to state that the Department of Immigration and Colonization of the Government has had considerable correspondence within the past few years over the admission to Canada of Mennonites as a result of which a good many thousands have entered this country. A little over a year ago the above Department endeavoured to assist, and did succeed in assisting, a number of those who were then in dire need at Moscow and who were subsequently moved to concentration camps in Germany. Hundreds of these came to Canada early this year. Many others went to South America. The suspension of the immigration movement is the result of the Canadian Order in Council of the 14th of August last which has affected the movement of Mennonites, as of others, and at present the only classes admissible are:

- (a) Wives and children under eighteen joining family heads established in Canada.
- (b) Agricultural families with sufficient capital to establish and maintain themselves on the land.

It is well known that Mennonites are for the most part bona fide agriculturalists, but owing to regulations made by the Soviet Government, practically no capital can be brought out of the Soviet Union with the result that the Mennonite agricultural families who come to this country arrive with very little more than the clothes on their backs. It does not appear that there is any prospect of a further movement of Mennonites from Russia to Canada in the near future.

I have etc.

O. D. SKELTON
for the Secretary of State
for External Affairs