

at all, for it is a well-known fact, that in the army, "non-combatant service" is a mis-noma, every man is a soldier and must fight when called upon to do so.*

We were confronted with a difficult situation; we must petition the Government for a provision to be made to cover our case, but we knew Governments do not immediately make amendments to the Acts they pass, besides we knew that in the inflamed state of public opinion against granting exemption to religious bodies, which arose when the Act was published, the Government would hesitate before adding another religious body, along with the Doukhobors and Mennonites, to be entitled to total exemption, from total military service.

However, we had a duty to perform, namely to secure absolute exemption from all military and naval services for "The Christadelphian Church in Canada" and to secure recognition by the authorities that we were "an organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada" within the meaning of the Act. We had no organization such as is common to religious bodies; this gave us no little anxiety, we assure you, because we saw that this Military Act, which was supposed to have been brought into existence for this war only, yet, in reality, it is to be the permanent Military Service Act for all time to come, and can only be repealed by a special Act of Parliament. We foresaw in it a permanency not generally understood. The most to be expected would be that additions to the Act would, from time to time, be made. Therefore for the good of our future, there was this one thing standing out clearly. We must find means of getting official recognition of "the Christadelphian body in Canada" as being a recognized "religious denomination." This seemed to us extraordinarily important, because the Act shows that a man's own individual conscientious objection to combatant service would not avail him anything unless he was a member in good faith of a recognized religious denomination; so that every means we knew had to be bent to this end particularly; and eventually to secure absolute exemption from naval and military service.

In the meantime a Brother had cabled Bro. F. G. Jaanaway to supply us with all data he thought would be helpful, as to what had been done for Christadelphians in England. This greatly helped us to steer a course.

It was then decided to petition the Government in person, to put before it the religious needs of the Christadelphian Church and its collective disposings towards the country in the present distress brought about by the war.

On request a telegram was received from Ottawa stating that a small committee of the Government would receive a deputation from the Christadelphian Church of Canada on the following Monday or Tuesday.

On Oct. 30th, 1917, the Premier and Minister of Justice received the deputation, whose appeal and chairman's remarks addressed to the Government, were as follows:

THE APPEAL.

WHEREAS the Christadelphian Church in Canada petitioned the Honorable the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada in Parliament then assembled, 1917, by the good offices of Sir George Foster, praying to be exempt from compulsory military service, and

*In addition to the Military Service Act proper, there came into existence on October 7th, 1917, an appendix to the Act—the War Time Elections Act, 7-8 Geo. V.—containing a clause 67A, 2, stipulating that "all those who vote at Dominion elections subsequent to October 7th, 1917, shall be held ineligible and incompetent to apply for or to be granted exemption from combatant military or naval service on conscientious grounds." This did not affect true Christadelphians, but it does enlighten us on the view taken in governmental circles that those who participate in governmental affairs by voting at elections ought to and would be compelled to fight. England and the United States avoided such extreme enactments as this. In fact, the Act seems to have been designed all through to avoid the possibility of a conscientious objector in Canada claiming exemption even from combatant military service.