



Privilegium

or

Letter from John Lowe to the Mennonite Delegates
from Russia to Manitoba

English copy and transcription

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October 2024

Department of Agriculture,

IMMIGRATION BRANCH,

Ottawa, 23rd July 1873.



Gentlemen,

I have the honour under instruction 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 afforded 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.

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

2. An Order in Council was passed

Messrs.
David Klaassen,
Jacob Peters
Heinrich Wiebe
Cornelius Liovs
Mennonite Delegates from
Southern Russia.

passed on the 3rd March last to reserve eight Townships in the Province of Manitoba for free grants on the condition of settlement, as provided in the Dominion Lands Act, that is to say "any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to be entered for one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated Dominion Lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof."

3. The said reserve of eight Townships is for the exclusive use of the Mennonites, and the said free grants of one quarter section to consist of 160 acres each, as defined by the Act.

4. Should the Mennonite settlement extend beyond the eight Townships set aside by the Order in Council of March 3rd last, other Townships will be in the same way reserved to meet the full requirements of Mennonite immigration

immigration.

5. If next Spring the Mennonite settlers in viewing the eight Townships set aside for their use, should prefer to exchange them for any other right unoccupied Townships, such exchange will be allowed.

6. In addition to the free grant of a $\frac{1}{4}$ section or 160 acres to every person over 21 years of age on the condition of settlement, the right to purchase the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of the section at \$1⁰⁰ per acre is granted by law so as to complete the whole section of 640 acres, which is the largest quantity of land the Government will grant a Patent for to one person.

7. The settler will receive a Patent, for a free grant, after three years residence, in accordance with the terms of the Dominion Lands Act.

8. In the event of the death of the settler the lawful heirs can claim the Patent for the Free Grant upon proof that settlement duties for three years have been performed.

9.

9. From the moment of occupation, the settler acquires a "homestead right" in the land.

+ 10. The fullest privilege of exercising their religious principles is by law afforded to the Mennonites, without any kind of molestation or restriction whatever; and the same privilege extends to the education of their children in schools.

+ 11. The privilege of affirming instead of making affidavits is afforded by law.

12. The Government of Canada will undertake to furnish Passenger Warrants from Hamburg to Fort Garry for Mennonite families of good character, for the sum of \$30⁰⁰ per adult person over the age of 8 years; for persons under 8 years, half-price, or \$15⁰⁰; and for infants under one year \$3⁰⁰.

13. The Minister specially authorizes me to state that this arrangement as to price shall not be

be changed for the seasons 1874,
1875, and 1876.

14. I am further to state
that, if it is changed thereafter,
the price shall not, up to the
year 1882 exceed \$40⁰⁰ per adult
and children in proportion,
subject to the approval of Parli-
ament.

15. The immigrants will be
provided with provisions on
the portion of the journey be-
tween Liverpool and Colling-
wood; but during other portions
of the journey they are to find
their own provisions.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant
A. M. Stone
Secretary of Department of Agriculture.

Letter from John Lowe to the Mennonite Delegates from Russia to Manitoba

Gentlemen:

I have the honour under the instruction of the Honourable, 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 afforded to Mennonites, which are established by the statute Law of Canada and by orders of His Excellency, the Governor in Council, for the information of German Mennonites having intention to emigrate to Canada via Hamburg.

1. An entire exemption from military service is by Law and Order in Council granted to the denominations of Christians called Mennonites.
2. An Order in Council was passed on the 3rd of March last to reserve eight townships in the province of Manitoba for free grants on the condition of settlement, as provided in the Dominion Land Act, that is to say: "Any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to be entered for one-quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated Dominion Lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead in respect thereof."
3. The said reserve of eight townships is for the exclusive use of the Mennonites, and the said free grants of one-quarter section to consist of 160 acres each, as defined by the Act.
4. Should the Mennonite settlement extend beyond the eight townships set aside by the Order in Council of March 3rd last, other townships will in the same way be reserved to meet the full requirements of Mennonite immigration.
5. If next spring the Mennonite settlers on viewing the eight townships set aside for their use should prefer to exchange them for any other eight unoccupied townships, such exchange will be allowed.
6. In addition to the free grant of one-fourth section or 160 acres to every person over 21 years of age on the condition of settlement, the right to purchase the remaining three-fourths of the section at One Dollar per acre is granted by law so as to complete the whole section of 640 acres, which is the largest quantity of land the government will grant a Patent for to any one person.
7. The settler will receive a Patent for a Free Grant after three years' residence, in accordance with the terms of the Dominion Land Act.
8. In event of the death of the settler the lawful heirs can claim the Patent for the Free Grant upon proof that settlement duties for three years have been performed.
9. From the moment of occupation, the settler acquires a "homestead right" on the land.
10. The fullest privileges of exercising their religious principles is by law afforded the Mennonites, without any kind of molestation or restriction whatever; and the same privilege extends to the education of their children in schools.
11. The privilege of affirming instead of making affidavits is afforded by law.
12. The Government of Canada will undertake to furnish passenger warrants from Hamburg to Fort Garry for Mennonite families of good character, for the sum of thirty dollars per adult person over the age of 8 years; for persons under 8 years, half price, or fifteen dollars; and for infants under one year, three dollars.
13. The Minister specially authorized me to state that this arrangement as to price shall not be changed for the seasons 1874, 1875 and 1876.
14. I am further to state if it is changed thereafter, the price shall not, up to the year 1882, exceed forty dollars for an adult and children in proportion, subject to the approval of Parliament.
15. The immigrant shall be provided with provisions on the portion of the journey between Liverpool and Collingwood; but during other portions of the journey they are to find their own provisions.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
John Lowe
Secretary of Department of Agriculture

Messrs. David Klassen
Jacob Peters
Heinrich Wiebe
Cornelius Toews
Mennonite Delegates from Russia

