

GERMAN-SPEAKING MANITOBAN HELPS

Sends Cheque for \$50 to Patriotic Fund, With Letter Outlining His Views.

It is with pleasure that the Free Press has received the letter printed below from Johann D. Penner, of Steinbach, Man. Mr. Penner is a Mennonite, whose mother tongue is German. His letter to the Free Press is written in the German language and in German script, because, as Mr. Penner says, he does not know the English language well enough to be able to write a letter in it. Dated Steinbach, Man., Aug. 31, Mr. Penner's letter is addressed to the editor of the Free Press and reads as follows:

"Hoping that you will not refuse my request I beg to enclose you herewith a cheque for \$50, the proceeds of which I wish you to pay either to the Red Cross society or to a fund for the families of reservists gone to the front, whichever seems to you the better course to follow.

"As a Canadian citizen I deem it and feel it my duty to contribute my mite to this good cause. I think it is the duty of every Canadian citizen to do this according to wealth and circumstances.

Thanked by Russian Government.

"Many of our German people who are Mennonites and who came to Canada by way of Russia, will still remember how our German colony took part in the Russo-Turkish war and later in the war with Japan. It was not in the fighting ranks that they distinguished themselves, but in the nursing of the sick and wounded, in helping the bereaved families, in supplying different forms of food and even in assisting in the ambulance department.

"There are still Mennonites among us who were busy in the Crimean war and made sacrifices at that time. Their services were acknowledged by the Russian government as those of true and active example of our forefathers follow the example of our forefathers and make the same sacrifices for our new homeland.

Canada Is Their Home.

"But as the present war is too far distant, making it impossible to take part personally in such works as above mentioned, we grasp the opportunity offered to us by our government to make a financial contribution to the funds of the Red Cross society or for the families of reservists gone to the front, according to our means.

"We are satisfied that the government has placed the administration of this fund in the hands of the best and most capable men and we can rest assured that our gifts will not fail of their purpose, but heal many a wound and dry many a bitter tear. We have become citizens of this country and have learned to love our new home. We would not change it under any circumstances for another.

"We are deeply grateful to our government for regarding us not only as good citizens but as brothers, and for conceding to us the same rights as it concedes to native born Canadians. For this reason we will not be behind in this critical time in proving ourselves to be good and true citizens, not only with words, but with deeds."