

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Rev. Gilbert Christian, April 12, 1948

Levi T. Pennington

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April 12, 1948.

Rev. Gilbert B. Christian,
Oregon Council of Churches,
215 S. E. Ninth Ave.,
Portland 14, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

It happened that I entered the office of Heifers-for-Relief just as you were talking with J. J. Handsaker this afternoon, and he told me that the Church World Service campaign had "folded up", as he expressed it. Both of us found it hard to believe, though I found a man later who was less surprised than we were.

Mr. Handsaker told me that you had well on its way a campaign for clothing for relief through the schools of the state, and I knew that Emmett W. Gulley, executive secretary of the Oregon Branch of the American Friends Service Committee had had the same idea in mind, though perhaps not entirely identical, and had had some interviews with Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction, in regard to plans for the coming fall at the latest.

Well, we are all anxious that the work you have done shall not be stopped nor even delayed of fulfilment, and so I called up Mr. Gulley at once, and was glad to learn that he had suggested to you already that since you cannot carry on this work under the original auspices, you go on with it as a representative of the American Friends Service Committee. You see, our sectional organizations of this committee are not at all confined to Friends. William Genne is head of our peace section, with such men as R. A. Hungerford, Norman F. Coleman and Dick -- what's his name? *President of the Portland Ministerial Association -- as members. You'd make a fine addition to our Foreign Section, and then --

Of course no one can do this work you have started as well as you can, especially since it is you who did start it. I hope you carry it on. It will mean more work for some of us, and if it could go as well through some other organization we'd be satisfied; but we don't want it to fail just because the Church World Service organization is no longer to carry it on. You'll do it, I'm confident. Those folks over there must be clothed and fed.

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.

*The name is Morgan I believe.