

"The Canadian Quaker objector for whom the most information is available was Thomas George Mabley, a twenty-three-year-old farmer from Ilderton, Ontario, who belonged to the Coldstream meeting. Mabley was born in Britain and had come to Canada as a boy of eight in 1904, under the Barnardo scheme. He lived and worked on the farm of the Zavitz family, who were prominent in the Quaker community, and himself joined the Friends in 1910.

Mabley was called before the Bryanston tribunal on 19 November 1917 and applied for exemption both as a farmer and a member of the Society of Friends; he was granted exemption because of his agricultural work. When the changes in the Military Service Act cancelled that exemption, Mabley was enlisted in the First Depot Battalion, Western Ontario Regiment, at London, Ontario.

He was court-martialed on 17 June 1918, pleaded guilty to the charge of disobeying an order, and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. After two weeks in London City Jail, Mabley served eight months' hard labour at Kingston Penitentiary. He did farm work while in prison and 'had no complaints' about his treatment by the prison authorities or guards. Mabley remembers that, in prison, he was visited by ministers of various churches who tried to persuade him to abandon his position as a conscientious objector."

- p. 50-51, *Crisis of Conscience: Conscientious Objection in Canada during the First World War*, Amy J. Shaw, UBC Press, 2009