

Chapter 9 - Theodore Goes to War

The Casualties of War

Theodore Mourned its Fallen Sons 1914-1918

Any word that Theodore's young men were casualties of war was often published in the Theodore news column, and the reaction of the community was also noted. As the following item indicated.

A deep gloom was cast over the town and vicinity when word reached here that Lawrence Thomas Tracey was killed in action in Belgium and Richard W. Mercer and Edward J. Leicester were wounded.¹

Memorial services such as the one held for Pte. Thomas Tracey were often held to honour the fallen and show the communities support and sympathy for the bereaved family.²

In 1918 Carl A. Anderson, B.A., the principle of the Theodore school, wrote the following patriotic song, which was to be sung to the Norse tune "Spin. Spin, Daughter of Mine," for a Red Cross concert he had arranged. Anderson, like thousands of other Americans came to Canada in 1914 to enlist. Although he was disqualified on physical grounds, he decided to remain in Canada do his bit for here. Among other things, he organized the Theodore Red Cross society. The poem reflects the sympathy and sensitivity of the writer, who lost many friends in the war for the Theodore families had lost loved ones at the front.³

Theodore Honoured its Heros 1914-1918

Before either the First or Second World War ended Members of various community organization began to prepare honour rolls listing the names of all the young men and women from Theodore who served in the armed forces. Every effort was made to ensure that no one was forgotten.

Prior to their departure for the wars, those who enlisted in the military from Theodore were often given farewell parties and gifts by their families and the community in general. As the First World War began to draw to a close and the first veterans began to return to Theodore, news items such as the following began to appear in the Theodore news column.

Mr. Robert A. Ross, of Jedburgh, who is our first returned hero, was presented with a beautiful fountain pen by the Creekside and Theodore Homemakers as a memento for his bravery at the front, he having been in some of the biggest battles in France.⁴

Mr. Lawrence Larson, a former citizen of Theodore, was welcomed home from the front, he having been honourable discharged from further military service. While in France he took part in some of the greatest battles. A valuable gold wrist watch was presented by Mrs. A. C. Tracy at the Juvenile Red Cross concert on behalf of the citizens and the Red Cross Society as a token of their admiration and appreciation for the excellent services rendered.

Lawrence Larson has returned after two years as a soldier and eleven months of that time in the trenches. He went through fierce fighting at Somme River and was severely wounded at Vimy Ridge. He speaks enthusiastically of the kindly treatment of the British nurses. He won his strip for two years of good conduct. Mr. Larson is a type of our splendid Danish-Canadian citizens.⁵

Pt. Wm. Graves arrived home on Monday, having spent the past three years "over there." A year ago Pte. Graves was severely wounded and as a result has been granted his discharge. Bill was welcomed back by hosts of his old time friends.⁶

Theodore also began to consider its options for erecting a suitable memorial to those who had died in the war and in honour of those who returned.

As the time of victory draws nearer, the matter of a suitable memorial to the boys and girls who have made the supreme sacrifice and to the service rendered by those privileged to return again, should be considered and discussed. Good leadership in this matter could well be given by the local Community Club and no time should be wasted. Two trying needs of this district are a municipal hospital and a skating and curling rink. There is no reason why the community should not sponsor the rink project and urge the municipality to act immediately in the matter of getting a municipal doctor and provide a suitable hospital building.⁷

Both the curling rink and the hospital were built before the end of the decade and a new, indoor skating rink was constructed in the early 1950s

Heroes of Theodore

Heroes of Theodore!
 We long to see you all once more.
 Hearts are breaking, dear ones weep,
 Heav'n thee guard and safely keep

Fight, fight brave hearts with might
 As God 's above, your cause is right.
 Though we weep, we work and pray
 God to speed our meeting day.

Theodore, forget the loss!
 Smile: lift high yon sacred cross.
 We'll meet, what matters on what shore?
 The Heroes of Theodore!

Heroes of Theodore!
 With Britons brave thou guard our shore,
 Crime, grim, grim Huns, blood-smirched
 and vile,
 Shall ne'er our sacred homes defile.

Tears, tears flow everywhere.
 Loved ones wait in deep despair
 Martyrs thou in Freedom's cause,
 Ours the gain, but bitter loss.

Theodore, forget the loss!
 Smile: lift high yon sacred cross.
 We'll meet, what matters on what shore?
 The Heroes of Theodore!

World War II

Theodore began making plans for the end of hostilities in early April 1945 when it was announced in the Theodore news Column that a service of thanksgiving would be held in the town hall when the war in Europe ended.⁸ In October 1945 a reception for the returned service men and women of the Theodore district was held in the town hall.⁹ Following a program of songs and readings interspersed with community singing, 21 returned veterans were called to the stage and presented with scrolls and gifts. After refreshments were served the remainder of the evening given to dancing.¹⁰

In early August 1945 a public meeting was held in the United Church basement for all those who were interesting in helping Theodore's veterans return to civilian life. Councillors from the village and the rural municipalities as well as the officers of various community organization were particularly requested to attend, and a local advisory committee consisting of Messrs. A. P. Swallow, MLA, Matt Ostapoviteh, J. S. Anderson, N. Drobot, John Hooge,

and I. Burnard was formed to assist returned soldiers in land settlement in the Theodore district.¹¹

How Theodore Helped Finance the Wars

The Canadian Patriotic Fund

In addition to the Red Cross, the people of Theodore were willing to give money to several other worthy causes. One of these causes was the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and a small item stating simply that, “Mr. A. J. Trow, secretary of the Theodore Patriotic society, is meeting with a great success in his canvass on behalf of the Canadian Patriotic Fund.¹²

It was believed that the pay issued to an enlisted man was enough to meet the needs of that individual. However, it was enough to support a family. The government provided a monthly separation allowance to the wife of an enlisted man sent overseas. The amount of the allowance was dependant on the rank and pay of the soldier.¹³

Several Patriotic Funds had existed in Canada in the past. They were mainly private organizations that took donations from individuals and businesses to support soldiers and their dependents, during and after the wars. In 1914 the Canadian Patriotic Fund was organized to provide financial and social assistance to soldiers' families in those cases where the allowance provided by the government was insufficient. During the war years almost fifty million dollars was distributed to the families of soldiers through a network of volunteers. According the Canadian War Museum The Canadian Patriotic Fund

. . . performed its principal tasks – fundraising, relief, and the provision of social advice to recipients – with conservative views on entitlement and moral virtue firmly in mind. Fund investigators, including hundreds of women, acted as volunteer social workers, visiting families to determine their level of need or eligibility, and often advising them on how to manage war-related social issues such as budgeting, child care, nutrition, and personal hygiene. Recipients considered undeserving could be dropped without appeal.¹⁴

When the First World War started in 1914 anything a soldiers could send home from his pay, together with the separation allowance and funding from the Patriotic Fund may have been sufficient funding for his wife and children. However, as the wartime inflation continued, it became more and more difficult for a soldier's wife to care for herself and her family.¹⁵

Victory Loan Sales after World War I

One of the ways in which Canada financed its war effort was to simply ask people to lend it money as Victory Loans. In this case, as in every other case, the people of Theodore responded with enthusiasm. The following item appeared in the Theodore news column at the end of October 1918.

Some details remain to be completed before this subdivision is ready to go "over the top" in the great Victory Loan Drive of 1918. These will be discussed tomorrow with a committee from the central executive and final arrangements will be completed for the commencement of the big drive on Monday next. Theodore's objective has been placed at \$20,000 and the local canvassers are confident this sum will be exceeded.¹⁶

Apparently the goal of \$20,000 was reached because a month later the local correspondent that the honour flag which had been won in the victory Loan campaign was flying in town.¹⁷

Even after the hostilities had ceased, Theodore continued to support the Victory Loan program. In the fall of 1919 it was announced in the Theodore news column that:

Mr. J. L. Magrath and Mr. Paulson were here Monday organizing the local Victory Loan Committee. A good, strong organization was formed including representatives from both town and country, \$40,000 is the allotment to Theodore district.¹⁸

A progress report on the Victory Loan stated that:

A few more days and the local Victory Loan committee expect to go over the top, at present over three-fourths of our allotment has been subscribed. A feature reported by the canvassers this year is several large subscription on the part of the few but absence of the small subscribers applications.¹⁹

Once again, as in previous years, Theodore “went over the top.” The final report on the Victory Loan drive for 1919 states:

The honour flag was unfurled to the breeze on Monday, at the top of the flagstaff over the new school and a task that seemed at one time impossible had been successfully completed, thanks to the energy displayed by chairman John Smith of the Victory Loan committee, and his trusty aids, the flight was a hard one from the start, rendered more difficult by the fact that grain elevators at this point were full and very little grain could be marketed. The cold weather, bad roads, and the general idea among many that the money was no7 so urgently required as last year, made the work all the more arduous, but in spite of this and in spite of the fact that our allotment this year was double last, the goal was reached – and then some. Well done, Theodore.²⁰²⁰

War Savings Stamps in World War II

In the spring of 1941 a public meeting was held in Theodore to organize a committee to undertake the work of canvassing the community and raising funds for the war effort.²¹ It appear that there were two sub-committees, one to co-ordinate the Victory Loan campaigns, and one to promote the sale of War Savings Stamps .

The idea behind War Savings Stamps was that there were many people who could not afford to buy War Bonds, but who could often set aside small amounts of money that would, over time, accumulate into a larger sum that could then be converted into some for of investment. Anyone, including children could buy a War Savings Stamps for 25 cents, and the Canadian governments encouraged children to buy War Savings Stamps. After saving \$4 worth of stamps one could send them and a special form to the federal government who would then issue a War Savings Certificate worth \$5 at maturity.²²

Although Canada first issued war Savings Stamps in December 1918, there was no mention of them in the Theodore News column at the time. The situation, however, was much different during the Second World War, and there are numerous references to them in the Theodore news.



World War II Savings Stamps

One popular use of the War Savings Stamps was as prizes. On 17 March, 1941, for example, the local Community Club sponsored a St. Patrick's Day fund raising event at which prizes for the Whist tournament were War Savings Stamps.²³ Also, in the spring of 1942 the Theodore War Savings Stamp Committee sponsored an armature hour and dance at which War Saving Stamps were again awarded as prizes to those who presented the best armature entertainment according to their age and the type of entertainment offered.²⁴

War Savings Stamps were also used to gain admission to certain community events. When in 1945 the merchants of Theodore sponsored a grand dance admission per person was by war a twenty-five-cent saving stamp and 15 cents to cover cost of music. etc.²⁵ In the same way, when the owners of the Lunch Bar celebrated their first anniversary of doing business in Theodore they offered a chicken dinner to the public at a cost of one War Savings Stamp plus twenty-five cents.²⁶ When Mr. and Mrs. Whelon, of the Lunch Bar extended their thanks to those who patronized their restaurant and helped them to celebrate their first anniversary in

business, it was noted that more than 160 chicken dinners had been served, and that the sale of War Savings Stamps exceeded \$40.²⁷

Salvage in World War II

According to a CBC news item, raw materials needed for the war had become scarce during World War I. To avoid a repeat of that scarcity, Parliament passed the Department of Munitions and Supply Act in 1939 to centralize and co-ordinate the gathering of resources and industrial production. Canadians were encouraged to gather rags, rubber, paper, metals, fats and bones, which could be recycled into essential war materials.²⁸

Theodore soon had a very active salvage committee, and as a result of its work, many thousands of pounds of paper, rubber and metals were gathered from the village and surrounding areas.²⁹ Metals, and especially scrap iron was in high demand and many old steam and gas threshing machines and tractors were shipped from Theodore.³⁰

Even old bones were in demand. By the spring of 1941 several local dealers were in the market for bones and large quantities were being delivered to them. Two large piles of skulls, ribs, and hip bones from many a good old horse or cow were soon added to the landscape near the stockyards.^{31 32}

The government also wanted fat, grease, and oil, but there is no mention of any of these items being salvaged at Theodore. It is very likely that Theodore's scrap dealers, like so many others in Canada simply did not want to bother with the mess.

Victory Loans in World War II

The success of the three Victory Loan campaigns during and just after the first World War prompted the Canadian government to issue a series of nine sales campaigns between June

1941 and November 1945. About twelve billion dollars was raised for the war effort, with about fifty-two percent coming from corporation and the remaining forty-eight percent from individual Canadians.³³ When the committee announced its first campaign in 1941 it stated the hope that every man, woman, and child who had a few dollars to set aside would buy the bonds.³⁴ Almost everyone in the village and surrounding rural area was canvassed and the sales quota assigned to Theodore was surpassed.

In the spring of the following year (1942) bond sales at Theodore were poor, not because of a lack of interest on the part of the general public, but rather because there was real lack of cash in the district.³⁵ The lack of cash was attributed directly to the inability of the farmers to sell their grain. Writing in November and December of 1942, J. D. Anderson stated:

Victory Loan sales have been going very slow, owing chiefly to the impossibility of selling the grain that is bulging all granaries. With a seven-bushel per acre quota, the farmers have scarcely been able to sell more than enough to clear harvest and threshing expenses and are therefore not in a position to invest much in bonds, much as they would wish to do so.³⁶

Grain quotas have been increased at this point by one bushel per acre, which means very little to farmers or businessmen who are anxiously awaiting the returns from the crop. We notice that many points are enjoying quotas as high as 14 bushels per acre, while the local quota is only eight bushels Surely something can be done to equalize quotas between different points in the province.³⁷

By the spring on 1943 farming conditions had changed for the better and the results for the first few days were encouraging.³⁸ At the end of May, 1943 it was reported that Theodore had reached and surpassed its sales target, and that any who never bought Loans before had invested in the Loans.³⁹ There was a second campaign to sell Victory Bonds in the fall of 1943, and in spite of a slow start in October, Theodore was again able to surpass its sales target.^{40 41} The results of the 1944 sales campaign was similar to those of 1943. Sales began slowly, but by the end of the campaign Theodore had again surpassed its goal.^{42 43}

While the Theodore district had little difficulty reaching its sales objectives in the spring of 1945, it seems that victory over German and Japan had an adverse effect on Bond sales. Once the Allied victory was announced many people seemed to think that need was less urgent than before peace was declared.^{44 45}

War Charities 1939-1945

Red Cross

As in the Great War of 1914-1918, the Red Cross Society was a popular recipient of charitable gifts and donation. There were, of course, the annual appeals for fund by teams of canvassers that gave of their time and gasoline to cover the territory assigned to them. On one occasion in 1943 the canvasser attended a Christening party and collected donations from all who were present. In addition, various organization in the village as district held bingo nights, dances, pie socials, and raffles, the proceeds of which were given to the Red Cross. In addition to cash, the Red Cross was usually the recipient of the articles made by the women's groups.

Writing in the summer of 1944, J. S. Anderson, Theodore's correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise*, said:

All told the local Red Cross branch has raised over \$1090 this year[1944], and when the need is so urgent all will be glad to have had some part in helping the fund. No one here regards giving to the Red Cross as anything but a duty to our boys overseas who are doing their part so nobly, that any effort on the part of those remaining at home dwindles into insignificance - but the committee, never the less, wishes to thank each and all who contributed in any way to reach the splendid result above, and feel that they can be depended upon to continue the good work in future.⁴⁶

Other Charities

On several occasions Theodore's charitable activities took on an international flavor, the "Milk For Britain" campaign being just one example. In 1941 Adolph Hitler boasted that

one way he would attack Great Britain was by denying Britain's next generation adequate food. One reason that German U-boats relentlessly tried to destroy supply ships was to cause widespread malnutrition among millions of British children. Lord Woolton British Minister of Food made an urgent transatlantic radio broadcast asking North Americans "Won't you people in America do without cream in your coffee just one day a week so that little children in Britain can have milk?" In Canada, Harold Allin Rogers, a veteran of the First World War and founder of Kinsmen Clubs of Canada, promised the government that the Kinsmen would supply the milk.⁴⁷

One of the ways in which Theodore responded to this appeal was "an Auction Sale of farm produce and useful articles of every description will be held at the Town Hall" in December 1942. People were urged to donate those articles that had been cluttering up their "garrets and store rooms," and the auctioneer, Mr. C. B. Ungar donated his services for the event.⁴⁸ The day of the auction sale turned out to be extremely cold and many who had promised to bring in donations were unable to do so. Because so much of the material that had been donated and not sold a second sale was held the following month.⁴⁹

Because of the cold weather only the perishable donations were sold on the day of the first sale and only \$35.00 was raised.⁵⁰ That \$30.00 would have had the purchasing power of \$510.61 in 1917.⁵¹ Unfortunately, the results of the second auction sale are not available.

Great Britain, of course, was not the only country that fell victim to Hitler's plan to starve his enemies into submission. Millions of Russians died as a result of his "Hunger Plan." In February 1943 at least two Ladies' groups in Theodore responded to the plight of the Russian people. The Ukrainian Ladies' Aid and the Homemakers' Club both reported their efforts to send aid to Russia and plans for future support.⁵²

Just as the residents of Theodore supported aid to Britain and Russia, they also gave generously to the “Theodore Chinese War Relief Fund.” In September, 1943 a list of those individuals and organization that had contributed to this fund was printed in *The Yorkton Enterprise*.⁵³ The at the end of the war there was a drive for clothing for Europe in Theodore. Local residents were asked to take anything that they could possibly spare to the United Church basement because as was pointed out, “Without clothing people will die in Europe this winter; not just a few, but thousands of them. They depend on us. Do not fail them.”⁵⁴

The Important Roll of Theodore’s Women

During the Great War 1914-1918

During the years just prior to the outbreak of World War I, a new women’s group was organized in Saskatchewan, the Homemakers’ Clubs of Saskatchewan. The homemakers’ goal was to improve the lives of rural women as one of their early activities was sewing for those in need in locally and in other part s of Saskatchewan. With the outbreak of World War I there was a significant shift in the purpose of the sewing meetings from sewing for the occasional needs of charity work to sewing for the constant needs of the soldiers. Reports of the meetings of all the homemakers’ clubs in the Theodore district appeared in *The Yorkton Enterprise* and often mentioned sewing such items such as “comforts for the wounded soldiers,” “surgical shirts,” and various knitted items, made by the local women.

The local Homemakers’ clubs also engaged in a number of fund raising activities for the charities mentioned above, primarily the Red Cross, but mention is made in the newspapers of money being sent to the Prisoners in Germany Fund as well as the Saskatchewan Field Hospital, and the Belgian Relief Fund. The money was raised by sponsoring a wide variety of events such as Ice Cream Socials, Sports Days and Picnics, Teas, Bake Sales, and the Sale of

Work made by the ladies at home. The work sold could and did consist of all kinds of fancy embroidery, crocheted items, home made garments, hand sewing, kitting, quilts and cushions. The amounts raised by these efforts could range from \$10.00 or \$15.00 to several hundred dollars, all of which was sent to support Canada's war effort.

Independent Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.)

The Peter Yemen Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was the first of the women's groups in Theodore to begin raising money for the war effort when in February, 1940 it sponsored a well attended bridge and whist drive, the proceeds of which was be used to purchase materials that meet the needs of the boys at the front. The, in June, 1940 they held an ice cream social and tea.^{55 56 57}

At the end of June 1940 it was reported that the women of the I.O.D.E. were working at top speed at knitting, sewing, quilting, and were looking for the assistance of anyone who could give toward their efforts.⁵⁸ By the end of June, the following articles had been packed for shipment: 6 pairs socks, 1 pair wristlets, 1 scarf, 2 quilts, 2 wool blankets, 1 helmet, 1 coat, 3 pairs infants' bootees, 1 bonnet, 1 sweater, 9 nightgowns, 3 petticoats, 21 diapers, 5 binders, and 2 shirts.⁵⁹ Similar reports of items shipped overseas appeared in the Theodore New column through out the war years.

In addition to making items to be sent overseas the I.O.D.E. took one several other projects. They asked for donations of old woollen clothing such as underwear, sweaters, and so on which was shipped to a woolen mill and made into blankets, and they also collected old leather items, such as gloves, which could be made into linings for sailor's vests. In June, 1940 they gave ten dollars toward the purchase of a bomber for the government with the intention

that more would be given when funds were available. It was also decided that the group would meet on the second and last Tuesday of each month, in the old bank building.⁶⁰

The women of the I.O.D.E. employed a number of method of raising money for their work. Card parties similar to the one mentioned above were a popular and frequent method of raising funds. They held dances, a perennial favourite fund raising activity in Theodore, in the community hall.⁶¹ They put boxes in business places so that the general public could contribute toward a cigarette fund for the soldiers.⁶² On several occasions they sponsored a talent show known as a "Saskatchewan Farmer Radio Audition," and invited everyone who possessed any entertainment ability to enter.⁶³ The proceeds from these fund raisers not only allowed the women to continue their usual war work, but also paid for the Christmas parcels to local soldiers serving overseas as well as their work in preventing and treating tuberculosis and local clinics for pre-school aged children.^{64 65 66}

Theodore's Homemakers' Club and the War

Theodore's other major women's group, the Homemakers, weren't very far behind the I.O.D.E. in supporting the war effort. Although many of the fund raising events and the purposes for which the funds were raised were very similar to those of the I.O.D.E., there were some interesting differences. The simple fact that most of the members of the Homemakers' Club were farm women meant that few could find time for sewing and knitting during the busy summer season, and had to put off this kind of activity until the winter months when they were not as busy.⁶⁷

A second difference was the kind of activities they adopted. Farm gardens, for example, could be larger than gardens in the village, and in February, 1941 each member of the club agreed to plant ten pounds of certified seed potatoes which would be sold in the fall

and the money realized would be used by the district organization. Plans for the project included prizes that would be given for the best crop of potatoes.⁶⁸ In June of the following year it was reported that the potato project had raised \$16.00⁶⁹

A third difference lay in the fact that every meeting of the Homemakers' Club had an educational component. At their regional convention at Foam Lake in May 1940, the delegates heard an address on the topic "Our Democracy after the War," in which the presenter said that whether it was to be peace or chaos depended on what preparation were made now.⁷⁰ Another topic of interest to the local homemakers was the state of health care in Canada. At the June meeting in 1942 a presentation was given in which a number of facts about the low quality of health care in Canada were outlined and a defence of state medicine was well received by the members. A similar article on the state of health care in Paraguay and information on the number of recruits that were rejected by the military for health reasons was read in November, 1944.^{71 72}

Even the Children Did Their Bit

During the Great War

Like their parents, children living in Theodore during the First World War contributed to the war effort as they were able. In the fall of 1916 the pupils of Theodore school gave a concert in the old presbyterian church and raised forty-three dollars for the Belgian Fund.⁷³ A few months later, in the spring of 1917, Theodore's school children raised \$21.20 for the Patriotic Fund, by selling patriotic buttons.⁷⁴ Then, to finish off the school year the school children held a patriotic concert in Union Church and raised another \$48.50 for the Patriotic Fund.⁷⁵ Their fund raising activities continued into the next school year when they were able to

donate seven dollars to the Red Cross, from the proceeds of a sale of the pupils handiwork and potatoes which had been grown in the school garden.⁷⁶

Although they are mentioned very infrequently in the Theodore news, there was a Cadet group at Theodore during the First World War. They are first mentioned in the fall of 1915.

Col. Hosmer, Cadet Inspector, of Virden, Man., was in town on Tuesday to inspect the cadets. The boys are expecting their rifles to arrive in about two weeks. Mr. Hosmer gave an interesting talk on the war to the school children.⁷⁷

In 1916, when they escorted a number of recruits to the train station in June and again in July when some of the local boys won prizes at the cadet school.

On 1 May, 1917, the Theodore correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* while preparing his weekly column wrote, "Gopher day today and a school holiday. [What] Next?"⁷⁸ As was mentioned above, agricultural production was extremely important to Canada's war effort. Therefore, anything that posed a threat to agricultural production had to be addressed. According to Waiser, "Gophers destroyed an estimated quarter million acres of crop each year."⁷⁹ On 1 May, 1917, children in Saskatchewan waged a war on gophers. Children attending the Theodore school joined the tens of thousands of other Saskatchewan school children who armed themselves with snare, traps and guns to exterminate more than half a million gophers in the Province.⁸⁰

Junior Red Cross During World War II

At some point in the early years of World War II a branch of the Junior Red Cross Society was formed at the Theodore School, and pupils at the school became very active in raising money for Red Cross activities. The first mention of the Junior Red Cross occurred in November, 1940 when it sponsored a big dance in the town hall at which a quilt made and

donated by Mrs. Mike Larson. was drawn for.⁸¹ Other dances and raffles were conducted by the pupils throughout the war years.

A second popular fund raising activity sponsored by the Junior Red Cross were a series of entertainments known as "Open Lits," which were usually followed by a dance in the community hall. The following item outlining the program appeared in the Theodore news column:

On November 26 an "open lit" and dance was held in the Theodore Hall, sponsored by the senior high school room of Theodore in aid of the Junior Red Cross. The following program was presented:

1. Opening chorus and school yell, by the class.
2. Club swinging — Sheila Peterson, Mabel Frederickson, Bernice Laing, Lillian Gilles, Dorothy Hansen, Annette Ostapovitch, Minnie Stuart.
3. A play, "Have You Had Your Operation?" Sheila Peterson, Margaret Essar, Ruth Helgeson, Esther Merkley, Beth Quinton, Clara Hansen, Olga Minken.
4. A play, "The Gorilla" — Donald Carter, Allan Chernipeski, Donald Brown, Bill Baxter, Christian Hansen, Freddie Ostapovitch, Gordon Lewis.
5. A duet. "Rendezvous" — Lillian Gilles and Dorothy Hansen.
6. A minstrel show — Allan Chernipeski acted as interlocator and the minstrels were Nick Rusnak, Pieter Vanderveen, Minnie Stuart, Marianne Cheropela, Olga Minken, Sheila Peterson, Gordon Lewis, Mabel Frederickson, Mary Hutzul, Rhoda Essar, Marian Slapinsicy, Eileen Stewart, Clara Hansen, Christian Hansen, Victoria Evanovitch.

Joe Gillis made a very able master of ceremonies. Thelma Mercer was pianist for the various musical selections. Following the concert dancing was enjoyed by a record crowd. Net proceeds for the evening totaled \$76.66. The senior high school room wishes to thank everyone who in any way contributed towards making the evening success.⁸²

The Theodore School "Open Lit" became an annual event that was continued by the students in the high school Glee Club for several decades.

Perhaps the most ambitious fund raising events sponsored by the High School students were the Carnivals in 1943 and 1944. The first carnival took place on Friday, 26 February, 1943 and was described in detail a week later.⁸³

“Junior Red Cross Have Great Show”

Theodore Entertained to Gala Night of Fun and Frolic

By Mrs, A. Fernie, Theodore Sask.

The midway at the Yorkton fair had nothing at all on the novelty bazaar staged in the/ Theodore Town Hall, Friday night last, under the auspices of the Junior Red Cross. Great credit is due Miss Grear and her pupils, as she was untiring in her efforts and seemed to be everywhere at once through the entire evening. She was able to help the young people stage a very successful evening of enjoyment for old and young alike. The grandfathers and grandmothers, dads and mothers, children and babies - all found their satisfaction at the bazaar. It was a real family party, of which we have so few.

As you entered the hall you were confronted by a towering Carnival ticket booth which was presided over by Pete Vandervene and Gordon Lewis, and the lads stayed in the booth for hours as it was their duty to sell tickets which gave you entrance to the various booths. The crowd was constantly coming back for more tickets. It seemed when you had visited one booth you wanted to see them all.

On your right as you passes in sat a young lady behind a table on which was placed a bowl of apples. One ticket was the price for a guess at the weight of the apples. And that was just a start. Next to the apple girl was the museum, looking very mysterious in its enclosed walls. So for a look in, we paid another ticket. And what we saw there was very interesting. A ladies' dressing gown in pure silk one hundred years old - and still in good state of repair; hand made linen from the old lands; strange things in petrified stone; Indian hammers and Indian beadwork. A model of the coronation coach made from wood by J Gillis, a high school pupil. This showed great skill and untiring patience and really was a work of great beauty.

Next we cam to a large wreath in a heavy oak frame. I was told the flower for this wreath was made by the honorable ancestors of one of our honorable residents. At any rate it was a work of great skill and I would conclude that like the pyramids of old, it was a hidden, perhaps lost art. Also beautiful old laces in handwork from Belgium and Malts. Fragile silver spoons from the Netherlands and other articles of extreme interest decked the tables.

Next came the photograph gallery over which presided Jimmie Bell. And very few present, especially the ladies missed having their photo taken. Some said he made them look eighteen and others were perfectly satisfied as well. But Jimmie was quite calm through it all and rendered satisfaction to all. Now we came to where the men and boys were enjoying themselves immensely, firing rubber balls at Judy. Three shots fo0r five tickets was the price here and the small boys hardly got a look in for the big boys. Some of Theodore's older citizens forgot they were grown up and acted like it, to the merriment of all. It kept manager Bose Frederickson very busy keeping his crown in order.

But we had to hurry along the great White Way and came to the art gallery. Here a real treat awaited us as many of our leading citizens had managed to get themselves hung on the walls of fame. First we came to our honorable mayor in full college gown less mortar board, Then there was Chris Peterson, one of our councillors, in a snap shot and looking very comfortable in his working clothes. Then our esteemed school board, Tom Dick and Harry, at various stages of development. Out local teaching staff was there too, some big, some little. Miss Simpson and Alice Reese were really lovely babies - no wonder that are so charming now. And our

principal in boys togs! Who could imagine the dignified gent we see going about among us should bear such an unmarked resemblance to the picture we studied at the art gallery? Or Mrs. Alex Fernie, and official of the Theodore Ladies' Aid, and now a gray-haired lady, ever being a youngster of two years with a curly mop sitting in a high chair in an old fashioned tintype. Then there were our twins for which the community is famous, the Hasons, Hooges, Simpson, Minkens, Van Pattens, etc., and last but by no means least, our local policeman at around two hundred pounds. And to think he was a beautiful cuddly baby at one time, But so it was.

At last we were able to tear ourselves away from this very fine exhibit and pass on to the next booth where Jack Simpson was doing a roaring business at a bowling alley. The boys swarmed around this like bees - and such fun!

Now we arrived at a table presided over by Helen Bilokreli and Miss Chernopesky. This was the practical side of the bazaar. This was where you might buy fresh eggs and many other articles of food, as well as fancywork.

In the centre of the room a Bingo table was in full swing and was full most of the time. It was presided over by two lads of the school. And if noise had any bearing on the success of this booth the boys had it.

A fortune telling booth and a tapping table on the stage attracted many patrons. I would conclude that there was no places or anyone with weak nerves or a head ache in the evenings activities. But if you were out for a good time, you surely could have it. After lunch, dancing was indulges in until the wee small hours. The Red Cross netted \$85.00 as a result of this enterprise.-Fernie, Mrs, A. "Junior Red Cross Have Great Show"⁸⁴

In February, 1944 a second school carnival and dance was announced promising to be bigger and better. While there is no detailed description of the event, it was reported that it was very much enjoyed by the good sized crowd that attended.⁸⁵

Other Youth Activities During World War II

Although they are seldom mentioned in the Theodore news column much very valuable work was done by the rural youth of the Theodore area to advance the war effort. One rural school District that was mentioned in the news was that of Westbrook. Under the direction of Mrs. Wm. Suschinski, the teacher's wife, the girls many useful articles of clothing and knitted wear as well as a quilt for the Rd Cross. The boys, apparently, gathered salvage for the various collecting agencies.⁸⁶⁸⁷

In the Village of Theodore Mr. Ralph Peterson earning the praise of the community for his work as Cadet Instructor. The Cadets met in the town hall during the winter of 1943-1944, and in the spring were inspected by Captain P. C. Jardine, the district Cadet officer in Regina.⁸⁸

War Time Politics in Theodore 1940-1945

Like every other prairie community, Theodore had always had its share of political activity. The war year, however, presented several unique situations in Theodore. The first of these occurred in 1940 when a string of political meetings were held in the village in a matter of a few weeks. The local correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* described them as follows:

Residents of this town and district got their fill of politics last week when three of the four candidates for election to the House of Commons appeared in the town hall here on three consecutive afternoons. Mr. Castleden, CCF candidate spoke on Thursday afternoon and was followed by Mr. Hnatyshen, the National Government Candidate on Friday, who was ably supported by Mr. Frank Turnbull, of Regina, while on Saturday afternoon, Mr. T. G. McManus spoke to a rather well filled house as Communist candidate, his appearance was the first instance in which Communism has been represented by a speaker in Theodore. Each one of the candidate gave interesting addresses that were well listened to and it is safe to say that each political belief was presented at each of the meeting - this was especially true of Mr. McManus's meeting on Saturday, where one could pick out dyed in the wool Tories, CCFs or Liberals. However, little interest has yet been manifested by the voters here, and one could not make an intelligent guess as the outcome of the vote in this area.⁸⁹

The second interesting situation occurred in 1942 when two of Theodore residents were chosen to represent different political parties in the Saskatchewan election that was expected to take place that year. In the 1938 Saskatchewan election, William J. Patterson led the Liberal Party to a clear majority, and since it was the custom in Saskatchewan to hold an election every four years, it was widely expected that an election would be called in October, 1942.⁹⁰ Political parties in the province chose candidates to contest the election, and the Yorkton Constituency was no exception.

At the end of June, 1942, The Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF Party) held a nomination convention in Theodore's town hall, and Mr. Arthur P. Swallow, who had operated a hardware store in Theodore for nearly 20 years was given the unanimous endorsement of delegates.⁹¹ Mr. Swallow's political experience was limited to serving on the village council and serving as overseer of the village. The other Theodore resident to be chosen as candidate for the constituency was Mr. Alfred A Brown, the owner of a local garage. He too has experience as a village councillor and was currently serving as village overseer. Theodore had the unusual honour of being the home of two candidates representing different parties for the same election.⁹²

The expected election was not held in 1942. On September 12 of that year the premier of Saskatchewan, William J. Patterson, announced that the election would be delayed until the spring of 1943. M. J. Coldwell, leader of the Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF Party) accused the Saskatchewan Liberals of being afraid to call the election.⁹³ It appears that Mr. Coldwell was not alone in his assessment. John Bracken, the national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party predicted that the CCF would defeat the Liberal government in the next Saskatchewan general election.⁹⁴ Whether or not these assessments were correct, the fact remains that in early March, 1943, The Liberal government in Saskatchewan introduced and passed a bill to extend the life of the legislature until 10 July, 1944.⁹⁵ In January 1944, T. C. Douglas, Leader of the CCF in Saskatchewan said:

The present Saskatchewan government will scarcely have nerve enough to extend the life of the legislature another year. Its term really expired July 10, 1943. When the Saskatchewan election comes, we ought to win between 35 and 40 seats in a house of 53."⁹⁶

The bill to extend the life of the legislature was introduced by A. C. Stewart, MLA, for Yorkton. Two of the reasons given for the extension were the expense of an election in

wartime, and the need for unity in wartime. It was also claimed that many electors were indifferent to an election, and that some electors were even against calling an election. Finally, it was claimed that an election would disenfranchise members of the armed forces overseas and the possibility of Canadian taking part in a full-scale military offensive in the summer.⁹⁷

Theodore's two political candidates did not idly sit and wait for the premier to call an election. In October, for example the CCF held a convention in Theodore town hall to nominate a candidate for the upcoming federal election. Mr. G. H. Castleden, MP for Yorkton reported on the last session of Parliament in the afternoon, and in the evening there was a public meeting at which T. C. Douglas, Provincial CCF leader, was the chief speaker.⁹⁸ These two event were held on the same day that the United Church Ladies' Aid had booked the hall basement for their annual fowl supper, special mention was made that everyone was invited to the supper regardless his or her political affiliation.⁹⁹ A few days later the CCF held a pie social in the Creekside school.¹⁰⁰

In the same way the Honourable James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, and former premier of the province addressed a public meeting in the town hall in November. Liberal supporters hoped that people in Theodore would take advantage of the opportunity to hear Mr. Gardiner, and possibly get the other side of the story that the CCF speakers had made recently presented.¹⁰¹

A. A. Brown of Theodore opened his political campaign at Rhein in December 1943, but does not appeared to have done much until April of 1944 when he began a speaking tour that included Springside, Theodore, Willowbrook.^{102 103} One of his last campaign meetings took place in Yorkton just before the election when he addressed a crowd of about 2,000 supporters. From the various newspaper account of these meeting, it appears that much of his

platform consisted of telling his audiences that the election of the CCF would be disastrous for the province.

While Mr. Brown got his campaign off to an early start there is very little coverage of Mr. Swallow's campaign in the newspapers until May, 1944. Theodore's correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise* reported that both Mr. Brown and Mr. Swallow were "well occupied with meetings in various parts of the constituency as well as attending organization meetings all over the countryside."¹⁰⁴ As far as the Conservative candidate was concerned the correspondent stated that, "nothing has heard of him locally since his nomination."¹⁰⁵

Mr. Norman Roebuck a farmer from Waldron, was nominated as the candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party at a nominating convention in Yorkton on 25 April, 1944.¹⁰⁶ He did not hold a political meeting in Theodore until June 7th, about a week before the election.¹⁰⁷

The election was held on 15 June 1944 and both the CCF and the Liberals predicting a certain victory.¹⁰⁸ When the votes were counted the CCF had won 43 seats with 52.3 percent of the votes, the Liberals had 4 seats with 35.2 percent of the votes, and the Conservative had 0 seats with only 11.3 percent of the votes. Five seats were undetermined until all the ballots were finally counted and the CCF ended up with 47 seats and the Liberals 5.¹⁰⁹ This was a much better result for the CCF than Mr. Douglas had predicted. In the Yorkton Constituency A. P. Swallow received 2,675 votes, A. A. Brown received 2,174 votes and N. Roebuck received 933 votes. The local correspondent to *The Yorkton Enterprise*, wrote:

We hope that the result of the election will leave no ill will in the hearts of anyone, but that we may then return to the duties of every day life, taking up our respective jobs and working together for the successful ending of the war. We have all had more than enough politics to satisfy us for another four or five years.¹¹⁰

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