



Hon. O. N. Thundale.

**Harmony's Most Prominent Citizen Dead
After Long Illness from Tuberculosis.**

At his home in this village Saturday morning, November 22, about 5:00 o'clock there passed into eternal rest the spirit of our fellow townsman, Ole N. Thundale. More than ordinary regard is due his memory, because of his prominence and wide acquaintance. With a heavy heart we drop a tear to the memory of our departed friend—one of the truest friends we ever knew. Many others will say the same.

According to our view he was one of nature's noble men in its truest sense—generous, honest and manly. To him friends and friendships were sacred. He was a man of exceptional generosity and never did he slight a worthy cause. The last time the writer saw Mr. Thundale alive, not so long ago, he related how only a few months ago it had been his pleasure to help a promising young man secure a good position. He delighted in friendly and neighborly acts, but never bragged over them. He was a man of exceptional sound sense and his advice was always worth heeding. He had known adversity, enjoyed prosperity and reached positions of honor. He filled the various relations of life well and died respected by all who knew him. Briefly this characterizes the life of one who will long be remembered as a friend and useful citizen by all our people.

Ole N. Thundale was born in Voss, Norway, Nov. 30, 1864. He attained a high school education at an early age and in 1885 he came to seek his fortune in the land of opportunity, America. In Newburgh township, his first home here, he attended the public schools making the best use of every opportunity to become familiar with this country's customs and ways. Later he moved to Harmony. Here his native business ability asserted itself and he engaged in a small way in trade among the people in this vicinity. His business grew and soon he was compelled to use horse and wagon to care for his increasing custom. In 1890 he formed a partnership with his cousin, M. H. Hansson, in the mercantile business and in 1890 they consolidated with Johnson Bros. under the firm name of O. N. Thundale Co. For years this concern done the largest business of its kind in this part of the state. In 1907 the business was sold to Tollefson & Hellickson, and this firm continued in business until 1910 when Mr. Thundale again bought the business. In the fall of 1912 his health began to fail and the business was disposed of to the Harmony Mercantile Co.

Mr. Thundale's interest in public affairs began years back. Several times did the citizens of this village avail themselves of his services as president of the village council, member of the board of education and other local offices. In 1904 many of his friends thruout the county urged him to allow his name to go on the primary ticket as candidate for representative in the state legislature. He was nominated and elected and two years later re-elected with the highest vote ever given a representative from this county. His record in this legislature was excellent, as is well known to all our readers. Later he has served as member of the Republican state committee, congressional committee and county committee. In political affairs too,

he was influential and an ardent worker for what he considered right.

Although occupied with business cares, Mr. Thundale has always found time and opportunity to do things for the welfare and best interest of his town and vicinity. He has always been in the front rank in these activities. Public-spirited and generous he has done much to build up his town. Harmony was to him the best place on earth.

In 1893 he was married to Betsie Benson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Even Benson, and they have two children: Emma G. and Ruth E. His wife and two daughters survive him and feel the loss of a kind husband and loving father.

His last illness dates back a little over a year and was pronounced tuberculosis of the lungs. Last winter he spent several months at a sanitarium in Texas under treatment of experts, but nothing seemed to avail. He returned home in the early summer knowing well, as he expressed it, that his chance of recovery was only as one out of a thousand. He was up and around until a few weeks ago when he began to fail quite rapidly. His illness was accompanied by much suffering, at times almost unbearable.

The funeral occurred Tuesday and was one of the largest ever held here. The new Lutheran church was crowded beyond its seating capacity. Rev. Rasmussen preached a powerful sermon, laying special stress on the necessity of seeking citizenship in the Kingdom of God. The remains were placed at rest at the Greenfield cemetery.

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