

The Clansman

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Price 2d

GARRISON THEATRE OPENED WITH BRILLIANT PLAYS

The Garrison Theatre was opened on Monday evening of last week—and while we had been expecting something really good, we were hardly prepared for what they had to offer. We had heard of the plan of the Navy & Army Canteen Board to take over the amusement houses and convert them into theatres for the production of first-class plays and we had kept an eye on the reconstruction of the local Cinema, but it was not until well after the opening day of the local house that we were really convinced. In the opening bill, "The Merry Widow," a cast of thirty-five people was presented—and they were not amateurs. For the second half of the week "Gipsy Love" held the boards and made a decided hit with those in attendance. This week we have the official vaudeville company and its success is assured by the reception it gained last evening. The program consists of nine musical numbers and six "turns." with a complete change on Wednesday evening.

Next week will see the official light-comedy company in "Jane" and "Niobe", two shows well worth visiting, while on the following week we shall see "Seven Days' Leave" as it is now running at the Lyceum Theatre in London. Other features equally good, among them "The Man Who Stayed at Home", which many of us remember as "The White Feather" in Canada, have been booked for coming dates.

At every performance an orchestra of

twelve pieces is heard, and this orchestra is chosen from the best musicians of the camp. It fills in the intervals, the opening waits and the closing period with bracing music which makes you sit at attention in perfect enjoyment.

The taking over of the local theatre by the Army & Navy Canteen Board is but a part of the move started some months ago. Since that time nine different houses have been commandeered and rebuilt, while three more are now undergoing the necessary alteration. The work of rebuilding is done by men of the respective camps and the stage hands are chosen from the lines which each theatre serves.

The prevalent idea that the people appearing on the respective casts are amateurs is a mistaken one. They are people who, in civilian life, followed the same work and many of them drew salaries far in excess of what they now receive. Among them will be found several stars—and more than a few of the men have seen their share of the service at the front. All have been used to the large stages of the city, where every convenience was at their command. To make the sudden change to the newly built theatre of the military camp required an effort and, while they have not yet become accustomed to their new surroundings, it is certain that they shall do so shortly—and then we shall have our "entertainments de luxe" even as they have in London.