

THE DAILY NEWS

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PATRIOTIC FUND

In the discussion on the Patriotic Fund at the city council Monday night, Alderman Casey took the right line when he said that this fund was something with a degree of permanence which demanded more than voluntary contribution, which, at the best, is only an uncertain thing. He pointed out that the producers of copper, shells and munitions generally are making millions out of the war, and that those who are benefiting so tremendously from the misfortunes of the nation should be called upon to provide funds to take care of those who are suffering.

The people of Canada generally, and of Prince Rupert particularly, have done wonders in the way of subscribing to the various funds, without a murmur. No one grudges what they can spare to the dependents of those who are offering all they possess in the struggle, and doubtless the men who are making millions from the war are helping with the rest, but the fund should be relieved of any uncertainty and put upon a basis of permanency and certainty. It is only fair that those who are making millions in shell contracts, etc., should be called upon, by taxation of profits, to provide for those who are making the sacrifices. Such a tax should be retroactive or it would fail largely in its object. The millions which have been made, and not only the millions which will be made, should be taxed. It is gratifying to find that there has been a most hearty response to the request for subscriptions in this city and, in the meantime, the Patriotic Fund will be comparatively healthy. However, Ald. Casey's idea included a most important

matter, which is not being taken care of as it should: Provision for returned wounded soldiers. A fund raised from the taxation of war profits could be utilized to help provide for the men who have been temporarily or permanently disabled as a result of the war.

It is not a question of charity. In presenting a sum of money to a man who has dived into the harbor and rescued a fellow being, there would be no such question, and the cases are very similar. The man who has offered his life for his country, and has been rendered unfit as a consequence, can never be looked upon as a fit object for charity, any more than the pension which goes with the Victoria Cross can be looked upon as a granting of charity. The whole question is one of the partial liquidation of a debt, and a debt which can never be paid in full.

FINEST DRAMA EVER FILMED IS "THE SPOILERS"

"The Spoilers," the nine-act picturization of Rex Beach's famous novel which appears at the Westholme on Thursday and Friday, is certain to draw crowded houses at every performance. The Vancouver press was loud in its praise of this famous masterpiece, the scenes of which are laid in Nome, Alaska, during the days of the big gold rush. All who saw this great drama in the south described it as the finest which had ever been filmed. In spite of the action of the censor, which was over-ruled by the attorney-general, there is nothing objectionable in any detail of the film. There is a good deal of gun-play, but this was just in keeping with the character of this northern mining camp in these days of excitement and rush for wealth.

NO ALUM



SOCIAL GATHERING OF PORT SIMPSON INDIANS

Last Thursday, the Indians of Port Simpson held a most successful social gathering. There was a table for each month of the year, each tastefully decorated and each guest sat at the table representing his natal month. The entertainment, which realized the sum of \$136, was suggested and carried out entirely by natives.

The program opened with an orchestral selections after which vocal solos were rendered by Mrs. E. F. Dudoward and Charles Dudoward and violin solos by Wm. Pollard and E. F. Dudoward.

A historical sketch of the growth of Christianity in Port Simpson since the days of Mr. Duncan was thoroughly interesting and enjoyable.

The toast of "Our King and Country" was proposed by Wm. Dudoward and followed by an enthusiastic rendering of the National Anthem.

Speeches were also made by Herbert Wallace, Math Johnson, Moses Johnson, Mark Green, R. B. Young, E. S. Grant, D. A. Johnson, Henry Pierce, William Pollard and Mark Luther, which were replied to by Math Johnson, Wm. Musgrave, E. F. Dudoward, Dr. Spencer, Chief Kelly, Andrew McKay, Joseph Offlett and R. T. Tait. The entertainment was eminently successful in every way.

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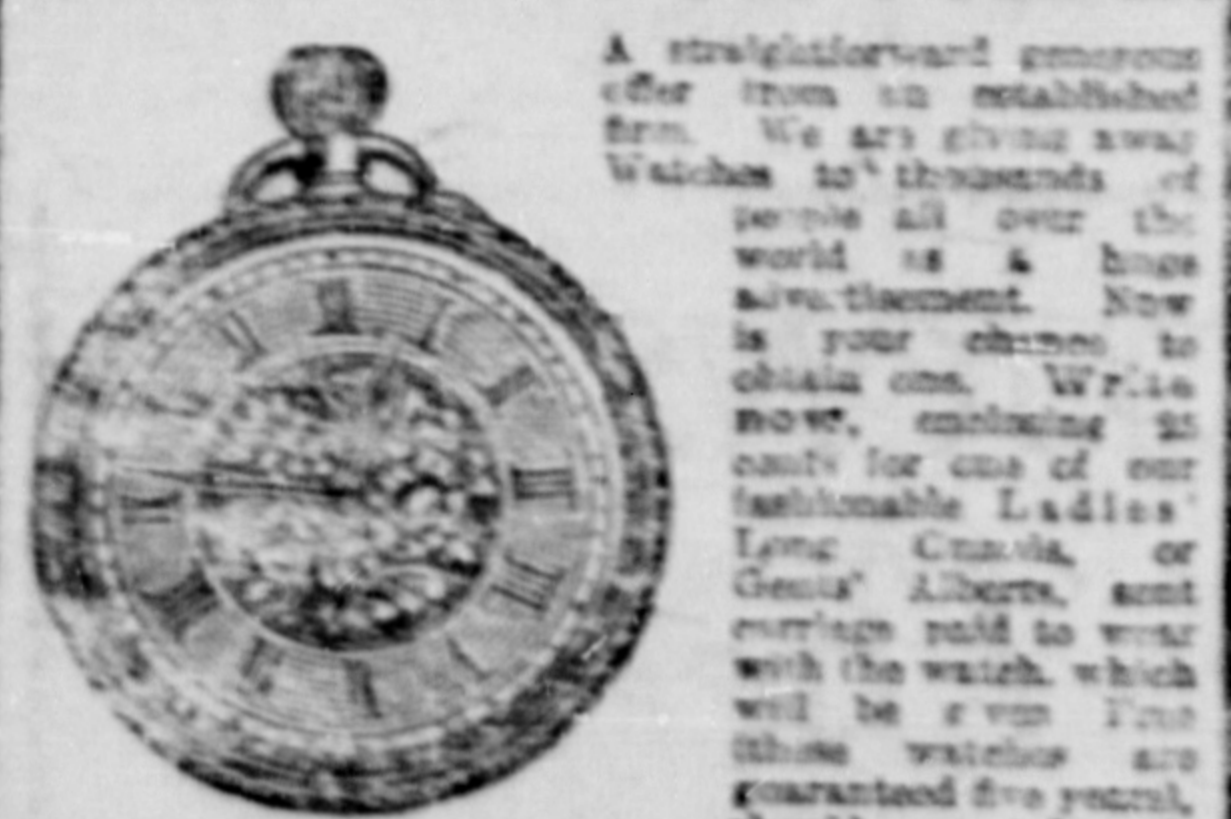
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Miss Beattie Lytton in 'The Spoilers' at the Westholme Theatre next Thursday and Friday.

GERMAN SOLDIERS COMMIT SUICIDE

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—Another epidemic of suicide is reported among the German forces in the vicinity of Dvinsk, by prisoners captured in that region, according to the Birzbeviya Vedomosti, an afternoon daily paper. Nine officers, including the commander of a battalion, are said to have ended their lives within a period of twelve days. Cold and hardships of the campaign are alleged to be the cause.

Vladimir and Volinsk are being hurriedly fortified with trenches for a radius of seven miles, apparently in anticipation of a Russian offensive.

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