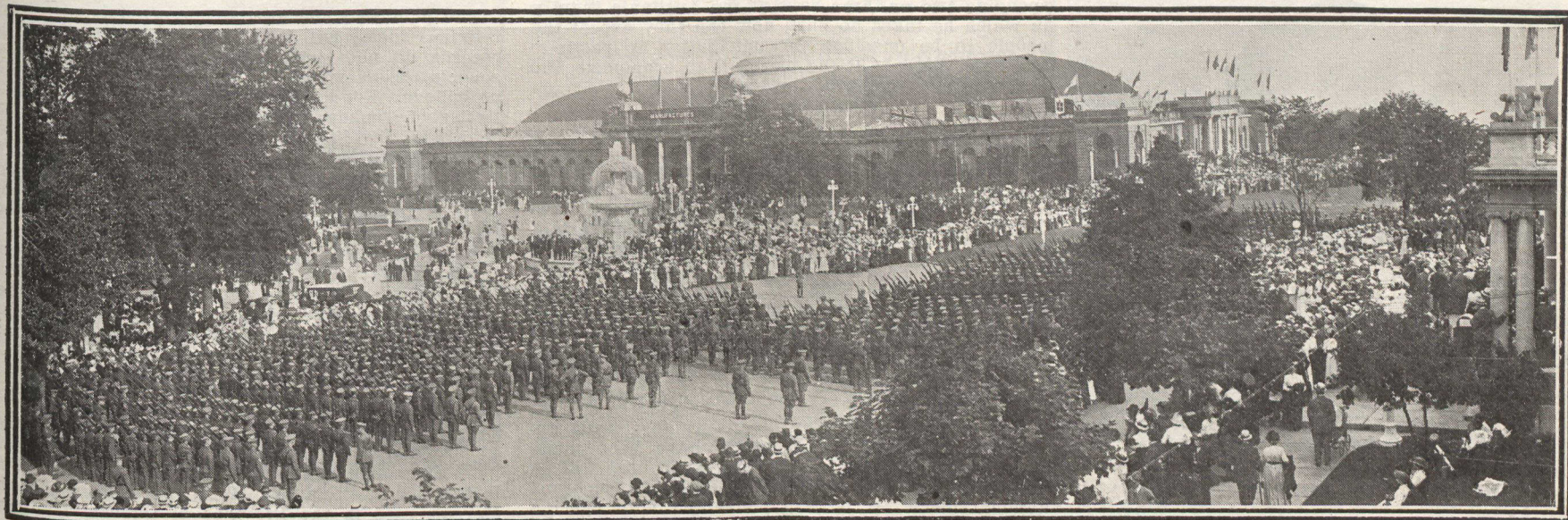


ONCE AGAIN THE GREAT FAIR

Canadian National Exhibition Illustrates Vividly a Year of War

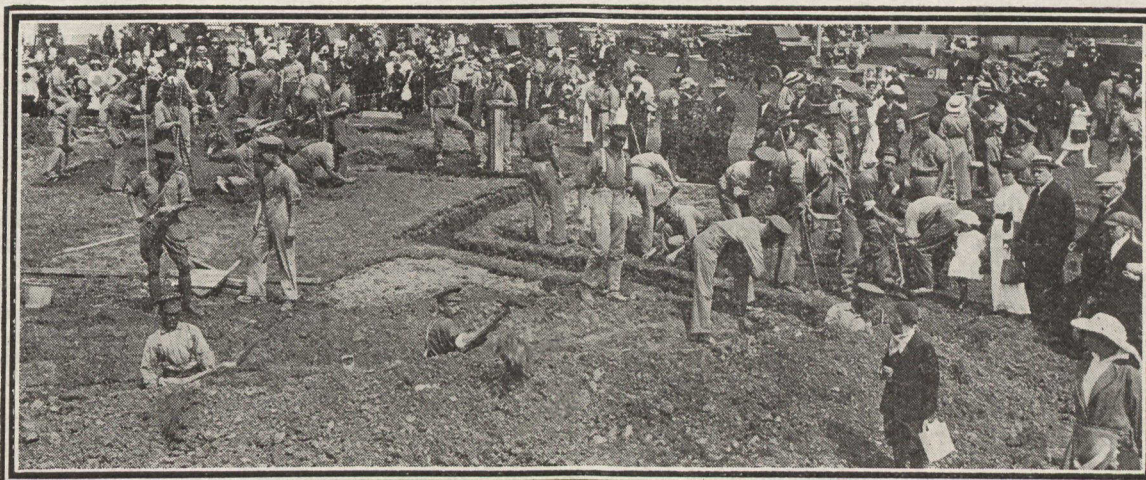


35th and 37th Battalions from Niagara lined up in the Plaza to be reviewed by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught.

NOWHERE in Canada has the progress of a year been so vividly pictured as in the great Fair, which opened on Monday of last week at Toronto. That might be true of any year. But the truth is oddly emphatic this year. Last year the Peace signs at the Fair were feebly contrasted with one war sign. But the people at the Fair tried to make themselves believe that the war would soon be over, and that no great change would happen to the country in the meantime.

This year the war spirit and the fact of war dominate the Exhibition. The pictures on this page are a few of the new pictures of the events during the first part of the opening week, when no matter what people thought of the manufactures, the animals, the grand stand show, and the woman's building, they turned out in a crush to see the march past of the troops on review day. Every day some band plays as usual from morning till the last fireworks at night; but all the tunes seem to suggest war. Every day soldiers drill on the campus, march round the Plaza and give exhibitions before the grand stand. Sentries march crisply up and down the lines of the camp that for the first time in the history of the Fair looks and feels like war and not at all like a parade.

WHEN the Fair opened, many people said it would be a drab exhibition compared to other years. The same people went to see how dull it would be. They found that it was anything but dull. They found everybody bent upon a real holiday. Though war was on hand at almost every turn, the people were as cheerful as ever. When the newsboys came hawking the evening papers, they handed out coppers faster than usual to see what Russia might be doing, what was happening to the German submarines, how Washington was feeling about the note from Germany, what the Allies might be beginning



Troops illustrate Trenching operations as they have it in Europe.



The Swedish Drill of the troops is one of the most inspiring spectacles.



In this interesting picture may be seen H. R. H. the Duke, Sir Henry Pellatt, Sir John Eaton, President Oliver, Mayor Church, directly behind him, and others who took part in the Review.

to do on the western front, and what was happening at the Dardanelles. There was less news than usual. It didn't matter.

To and fro to the lilt of the band and the click of marching feet, the "hot-dog" bawlers along the curb and the unwearied spicers on the Midway, the crowds went over the holiday ground of the great annual exhibition. Those who got tired of the open, went to the cat show and the picture gallery; and even the pictures brought up the phantom of war.

ART, as represented by pictures, is the only industry known to mankind that seems to show past, present and future all in one room. In the Exhibition gallery of art may be seen samples of the work done after the manner of the Victorian era, along with ultra-modern, splashy productions that come as near the post impressionist and the cubist as possible without being ridiculous. The general effect is about the same as showing the old treadle loom in the same room as the modern weaving machine. You never have to be told the history of painting. There it is before you in all its styles, modes and fads, facts and fallacies, the fantastic story of a hundred years. That's the way it has been at the National Exhibition ever since pictures were brought from other lands to mix with the Canadian work of Canadian artists.

The odd thing about it is that the more modern the picture the nearer it seems to approximate to the style of the cave man or the ancient Egyptian. A canvas that is plastered over with trowel gobs of raw paint as lurid as a patch from a bill-poster's picture gallery along the street—is sure to be 1915 or the year before it. A picture that is lavishly worked out into a mellow maze of mixed and blended colours, with all the nice, comfortable details invested with a haze of Indian summer light is very likely to be set down by the connoisseurs as a picture done after the manner of the old school.