

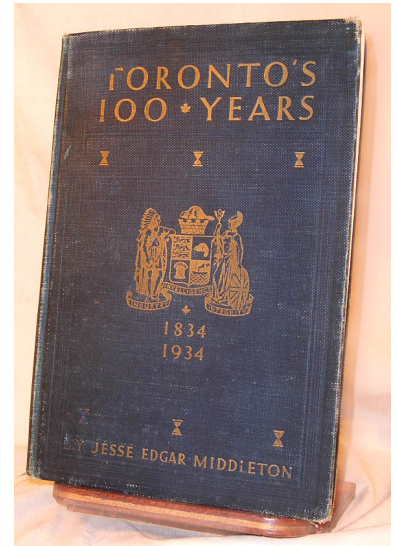
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Toronto's 100 Years

1834 - 1934

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TORONTO'S
100
YEARS



by

JESSE EDGAR MIDDLETON



THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
TORONTO
1 · 9 · 3 · 4

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from among the community leaders and the King sent them a Lieutenant-Governor, a Chief Justice, an Attorney-General and other officials to organize the Government.

Colonel John Graves Simcoe who had commanded the Queen's Rangers during the war and had retired to his rural estate in Devonshire, was chosen as Lieutenant-Governor. He reached Kingston in the Summer of 1792, issued the writs for the first election and came on to Niagara, the temporary capital of the Province.

But the frontier of an enemy State was an unsuitable place for a capital. Colonel Simcoe would have preferred the Forks of the Thames, but at the insistence of the Governor of Canada, Lord Dorchester, he inspected the north shore of Lake Ontario. On May 2nd, 1793, he found the site of Toronto well-adapted for the seat of government. A sandy peninsula gave shelter for shipping, the Humber for many years had been on the trade-route to the Upper Lakes, and the land in and about the region was fertile.

More than forty years before this the French had established a fortified trading-post at Toronto to intercept the Indians from the Upper Lakes country on their way to the English fort of Oswego. Indeed the recent researches of Percy J. Robinson show that the Sieur Douville built a post here in 1720. Governor the Comte de la Galissonnière, who served from 1747 to 1749, had planted two forts in Acadia and one on the St. Lawrence at Ogdensburg, and it was long accepted as a fact that the Toronto post, called Fort Rouillé in honour of a French Minister, was established under his direction in 1749.

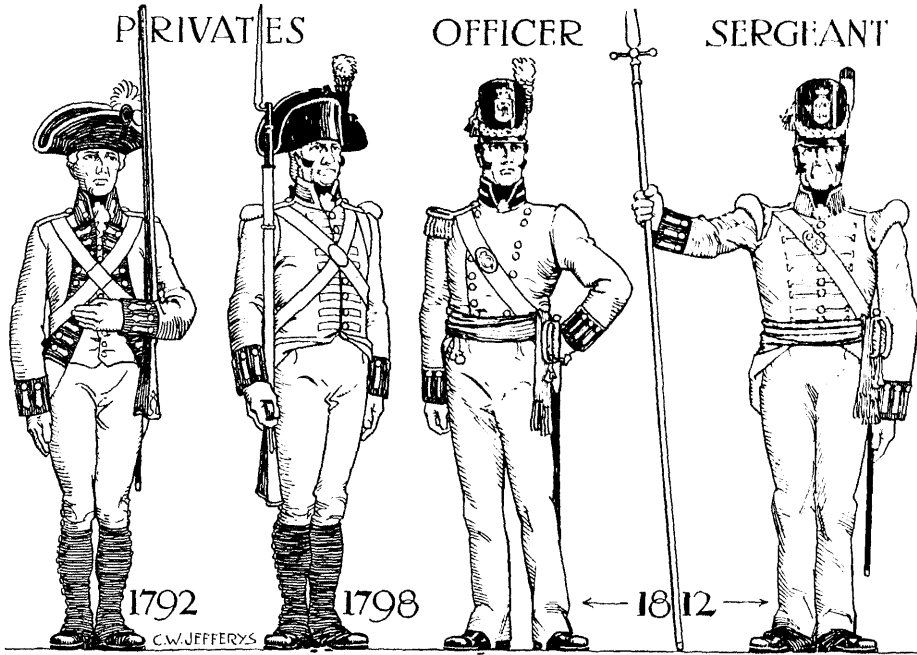
In 1933 Mr. E. Z. Massicotte, archivist of the Montreal District, discovered some legal documents showing that the fort was built in 1750 under instructions by De la Jonquière, the succeeding Governor. On May 20th, 1750, the Chevalier de Portneuf with a sergeant and four soldiers left Montreal and on his arrival at Toronto erected a stockade and a small house, where he remained until July 17th. In the following winter a dozen workmen were sent to build a proper fort, with a double oak stockade, with quarters for a military guard of from twelve to fifteen men, a house for the store-keeper, Lefebvre du Chouquet, a warehouse and a bakery.

On April 23rd, 1751, the Chevalier de Portneuf, the first commander of the new fortified position, arrived and took up his residence.

In the troubles of 1759 when Fort Niagara was threatened by the English under General Prideaux and Sir William Johnson, the French garrison at Fort Rouillé evacuated and burned the post and withdrew to Fort Niagara.

Colonel Simcoe had brought from England a special two-roomed tent, or canvas house which he had purchased from the estate of Captain Cook, the circumnavigator. He resolved to set it up as the nucleus of the new capital, and with his family to establish himself there during the summer. Accordingly on July 20th, 1793, one hundred men of the Queen's Rangers, a new corps with the old name, crossed the Lake, landed somewhere near the southern end of Bathurst Street and went into camp. On July 30th Mrs. Simcoe arrived on the schooner *Mississauga* and selected the site for





BRITISH MILITARY UNIFORMS, I.

or in part. On the long march from New York to Upper Canada they fell away one by one and Willcocks arrived in York on July 5th, 1796, with no followers but his family, one son and four daughters. Miles charged three shillings to move his effects from the lake shore to his house.

William Berczy, artist, architect and colonization agent, is mentioned by Miles. He brought from the Genesee country in New York State seventy-four German families and settled them in the Township of Markham. He himself lived in York and supervised the building of the first St. James's Church.

Isaac Weld published in London in 1796 a *Book of Travels*. He said that on Lake Ontario there were three King's ships of about two hundred tons each, carrying from eight to twelve guns. The uniform of the naval officers was of blue and white, with large yellow buttons stamped with the figure of a beaver and the word Canada. Concerning York he said: "To remove the seat of government to a place little better than a wilderness would be a measure fraught with numberless inconveniences to the public and productive apparently of no essential advantages whatever."

The wilderness was filling, though slowly. In 1799 Sheriff Macdonell made a New Year's resolution to keep a diary; and maintained it for nine days. Humanity changes from generation to generation and remains the same. The Sheriff gives a picture of York that is as clear as it is quaint. Its special value is in an account of the celebration of Admiral Horatio Nelson's victory in Aboukir Bay, August 1st, 1798. The news reached



COSTUMES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY II.

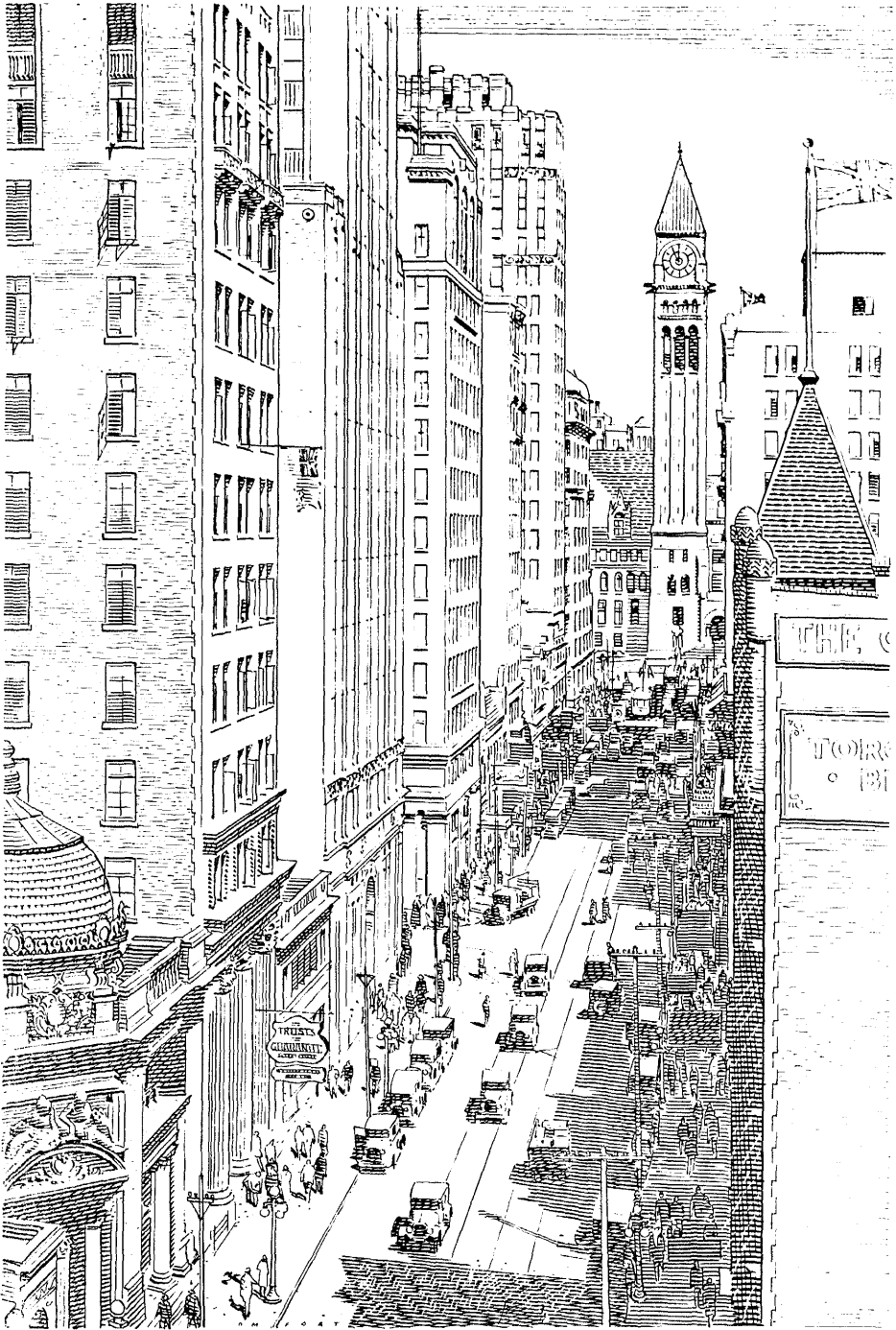
Again, these American settlers worked with their hired servants. Comrades in labour, they were also comrades at table; thereby scandalizing some English gentlemen new to the country.

When a hardwood forest had to be cut down there was no time for questions of precedence. The best chopper was the best man; he might or might not be the owner. If he were not, he might marry the owner's daughter and take up land for himself.

All this may have been "demnition republicanism" to the Mantalinis of the day, but to intelligent administrators, especially those who had fought through the Revolutionary war, it was common sense; the custom of the country which was to be accepted. They knew that these settlers were as distant from the cult of republicanism as it was possible to get.

So the American Tories, naturally enough, were not mild in their faithfulness to Lord North's royal master, dull, honest, well-meaning Farmer George. As for the vociferous patriots of Philadelphia, the pseudo-statesmen of every cross-road, the sacrilegious Tom Paine, and the devilish Frenchmen who had dragged their young King to the guillotine and were hitching up the tumbrel for Marie Antoinette; any one of these groups made the Upper Canada Loyalist red in the face and caused him to mourn the poverty of the English vocabulary for purposes of sustained vituperation.

Of course the southern Irish gentlemen of the Plantation, such as Mr. Russell and Mr. Willcocks could understand perfectly the Loyalist point-



BAY STREET AND CITY HALL TOWER, 1934



DR. FREDERICK G. BANTING

in Clarke Township in 1800. He had served for a year in the Navy before taking his course at Edinburgh University, was a young man of education, taste and energy, and when medical practice in York held out no great promise, became a lawyer as well.

He drove his professional tandem with easy grace. Once while pleading before Mr. Justice Willis he was summoned to an urgent case. Court was adjourned until his return with the welcome news that mother and child were doing well. He married Phoebe Willcocks and their son was Robert Baldwin, Premier of Canada.

In 1816 Dr. Christopher Widmer began practice in York. Trained in London, he had served through the Peninsular War. While he had many of the surface faults of the soldier-surgeon he had keen intelligence, broad sympathies, and a fiery energy that made him the dominant personality in any company. He was one of the founders of the General Hospital, which at first was situated on King Street at John Street where the Arlington Hotel now stands. For lack of a Medical School in the early years of the century he accepted students as apprentices and was Chairman of the Upper Canada Medical Board from 1823 until his death in 1858. At the time of the incorporation of Toronto he was the acknowledged leader of the profession.

Dr. John Rolph, son of Dr. Thomas Rolph of Norfolk County, served during the war of 1812-1814 as Paymaster and after the peace went to



A RIFLEMAN OF THE ORIGINAL QUEEN'S RANGERS IN THE UNIFORM WORN DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR



A TORONTO SOLDIER IN FLANDERS, 1914-1918

Globe said: "There was an undertone of contempt in Mr. Woods's despatches particularly in those relating to the militiamen of Canada. Like many of his countrymen before and since he could not understand how ill-trained and awkward levies could be useful to the country. He could not grasp the incontrovertible fact that the spirit of a good soldier might be found beneath an ill-fitting and rusty tunic, and that an expert rifleman might not be able to keep step in column or in line."

The Trent affair of 1861 set every young man in Toronto a-drilling. Vacancies in the militia bodies filled rapidly, and independent companies sprang up on every side. Seven of these companies were concentrated on March 14th, 1862, into the Tenth Battalion, Volunteer Rifles of Canada, Lieut.-Col. Cumberland in command. The name was changed subsequently to the 10th Royal Regiment, and in 1880 to the Royal Grenadiers.

First active service of the Queen's Own Rifles was at Ridgeway in the Fenian Raid of 1866 when with the Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton it was manœuvred into confusion by some muddy thinker who gave the order Prepare for Cavalry. Before the error could be corrected, and the men disentangled from an alleged square seven were killed, two fatally wounded and twenty others hurt.

The 10th Royals were not in action, greatly to their disgust. The Toronto regiments had been sent to the front without proper field

CHAPTER XI

ARTISTIC LIFE

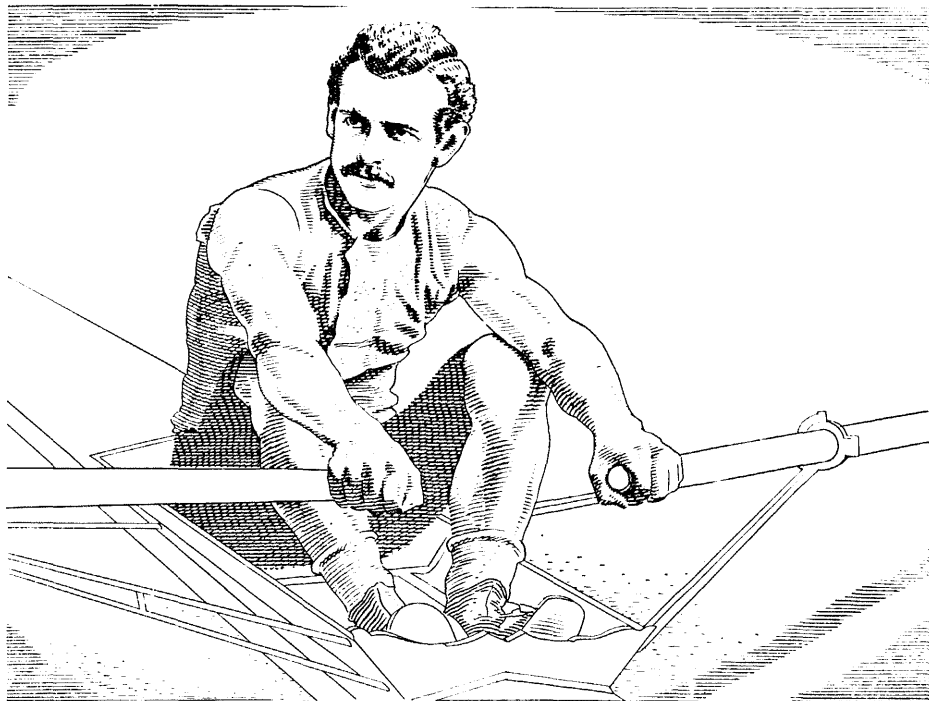
» » » **I**N a world without photography—and such a world is hard to imagine—freehand drawing was cultivated. The young girl at school devoting herself to embroidery, French and the use of the globes “took” drawing as a matter of course. Boys on the way to the military profession were taught to wield a pencil as well as a sword, for the accurate picture of a fort or a cliff or a watercourse on a prospective battlefield might be invaluable to the red-faced, buttoned-up general in command.

In these days thousands study the piano, and a few play with distinction. In the far yesterdays the artists emerging from the spate of competent draftsmen were not many but they were good. They studied the figure and produced likenesses in form and feature, leaving the depiction of landscape to those who were merely competent. While some men of genius, such as Constable, turned to the mighty rhythm and ineffable charm of Nature as a means of expression, the living of an artist was in portraiture. Gainsborough is remembered for his portraits, but some modern critics discover a finer grace in his landscapes, which he painted to amuse himself.

Mrs. Simcoe was not a great artist, but she drew well; even as a modern Society woman can play a simple piano accompaniment at sight; perhaps even at first sight. She was interested in the Province where “the Colonel” was supreme, and her sketches of Kingston, or Niagara, and of the Toronto region are historic documents. So were the drawings of Lieut. Pilkington, of Colonel Simcoe’s staff.

When Upper Canada College was opened in 1830 there was a teacher of drawing, Mr. Drewry, who appears once in history, as the instructor of Paul Kane, and disappears forever. The schools for young ladies in later years taught the social buds of Toronto to smudge-in the leaves of a tree, to have regard for perspective, and to make form-lines graceful and sketchy. So in the first Art Exhibition to be held in Toronto, exactly one hundred years ago there were a good many entries by “A Lady Amateur” or “a Gentleman Amateur”; pictures good enough to draw, but not good enough to sign.

The catalogue of this Exhibition by The Society of Artists and Amateurs of Toronto gives a list of 196 pictures. The first four named exhibitors were: Captain Bonnycastle of the Royal Engineers, who wrote a book on Upper Canada; Henry J. Castle; Charles Daly, who was City Clerk in 1835, and for thirty years thereafter; Charles Fothergill, Editor of *The Palladium*, who was said by a contemporary to be “a scholar and a gentleman, but so given up to the study of natural history and the practice



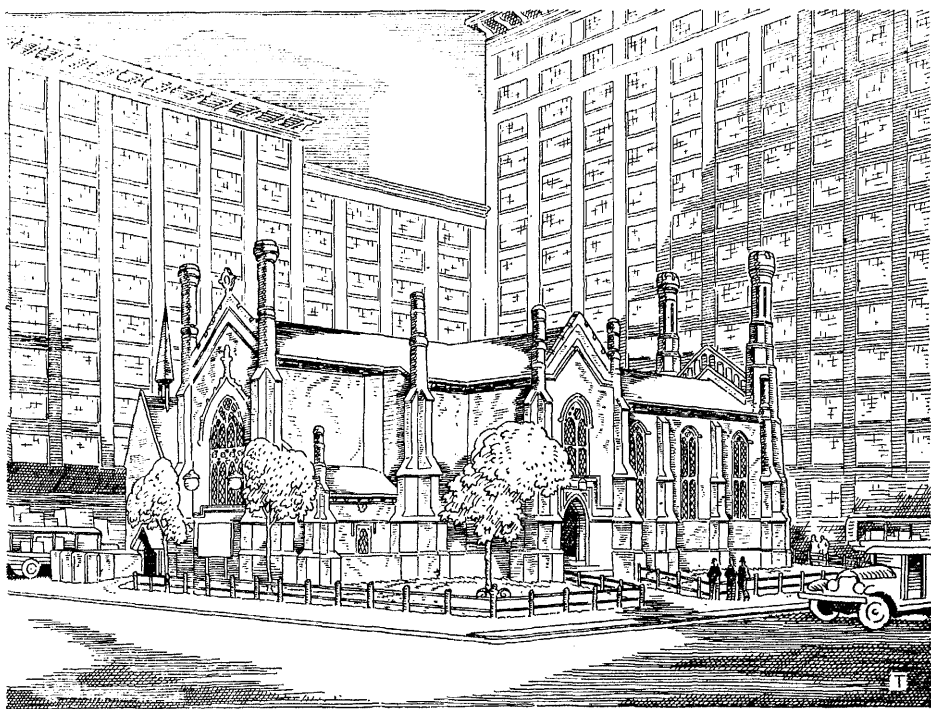
EDWARD ("NED") HANLAN, 1855-1908

He was the chief organizer of the Toronto Cricket Club, which has been bowling and batting for a full hundred years, and is likely to bowl and bat for another hundred at least.

Perhaps one reason for the persistence of the game has been in the fact that it never became a sport of the people as baseball or hockey did. So the devotees had to be in earnest about it. Perhaps the North American temperament, being mercurial, prefers a little more action. Perhaps the leisurely extension of two innings over two days, with afternoon recesses for tea is too "gentlemanly" for a populace which can see eighteen innings of baseball between half-past two and six o'clock and eat peanuts all the time without a recess.

There may have been an element of English patriotism in the minds of the early cricketers of Upper Canada. Indeed the Editor of *The Patriot* wrote on July 15th, 1836: "A cricketer as a matter of course detests democracy and is staunch in allegiance to his King." Even that muddle-headed comment was not enough to kill the game. Cricket is played because it is a player's game, not a spectacle. The bowling is swift and often wicked. The good bat needs a quick eye, perfect muscular timing, and such a store of patience as angels might envy.

Toronto and Guelph elevens had two meetings in the summer of 1835, both at Hamilton. These are the first completely recorded inter-city



CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 1847

manly, six-foot figure was welcome in any company. He died in 1839 while on a visit to Scotland.

Two years later the Diocese of Toronto was formed and the Rev. Michael Power of Laprairie, Que., was named as Bishop. He arrived in Toronto in June, 1842, and soon was seeking a site for a cathedral. He found it between Bond and Church Streets, north of Shuter Street and bought the property for £1,800.

In May, 1845, the corner-stone was laid, and the church was consecrated in 1848. But the Bishop was in his grave. In attending some dying immigrant stricken with either typhus or cholera he caught the infection and went to the rest of a brave man amid the respectful homage of all classes of the population.

Bishop de Charbonnel succeeded him in 1850 and to his persistent advocacy the Roman Catholics owe their Separate Schools. In his time the parish of St. Mary's Bathurst Street was delimited. The first St. Mary's was built in 1851. St. Patrick's dates from 1859.

Bishop J. J. Lynch came to Toronto Diocese in 1860 and ten years later was named as Archbishop of the ecclesiastical province of Toronto which included the Sees of Kingston, Hamilton and London. Archbishop John Walsh succeeded in 1888, and in his time St. Michael's Hospital was



freighters of different nationalities were docked in Toronto Harbour, and small though they were, their flags gave Toronto the air of an Ocean port.

"The construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway would enable large ocean freighters to reach the Great Lakes and Toronto would become an ocean port in reality."

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

The Canadian National Exhibition was founded in 1879 under municipal auspices, the City Council advancing \$75,000 for the construction of a suitable group of buildings which were completed in ninety days. The administration of the Fair was committed to an Exhibition Association which sought and secured incorporation. The Directorate of the Association as now constituted consists of the Mayor, seven aldermen, the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, eight representatives of manufacturing and the arts, eight delegates from the agricultural and live stock interests of the Province and all Past Presidents.

From the first the attendance was very large and in fifty-five years has steadily increased until the Directors can count upon at least a million and a half visitors in fourteen days. The admission fee is twenty-five cents. All kinds of manufactured goods are brilliantly displayed. Visitors may see the best live stock in Canada, an automobile show of the first rank, a picture exhibition, an assembly of the finest agricultural and horticultural products of Canada and the West Indies, a series of educational exhibits illustrating the work of the Federal and Provincial Governments in public health, farm and highway improvement, a mining display, a show of women's and children's handicraft from various Provinces, a railway show, a pageant and a night spectacle.

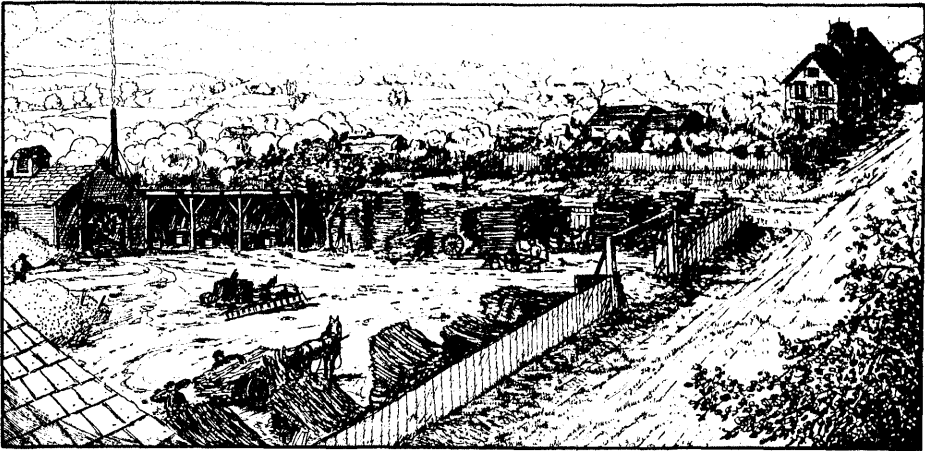
The exhibition offers a conspectus of Canadian diligence, invention, industry and sport, and it is perfectly situated beside the blue lake in a spacious park which is a very paradise of flowers and velvet lawns. The buildings are of steel, brick and concrete, well designed and roomy. The roadways are of asphalt.

The land, buildings and plant equipment of the Exhibition represent an investment by the City of Toronto of more than \$21,000,000. The Fair not only pays for its maintenance and provides prizes of over \$154,000, but returns an annual surplus to the city which carries the total investment and pays half the annual cost of maintaining Exhibition Park. New construction is financed on rental-contracts with exhibitors to cover a twenty-year period. Toronto has the most notable annual fair in the world, which has been created and maintained without cost to the taxpayers.

THE WINTER FAIR

Annually in November comes the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair which was founded in 1921 and is directed by an Association representing the City and all Canadian agricultural interests. Ministers and Deputy





TORONTO'S FIRST INDUSTRY

IT was in 1812 that Jesse Ketchum went into the business of tanning hides at what is now the south-west corner of Yonge and Adelaide Streets. There was at that time in the town of York a blacksmith, a wainwright, a candle maker, a clock maker, a hat maker and a cobbler, but Jesse Ketchum's tannery was the first extensive industry. At an early date he acquired all the property now bounded by Yonge, Bay, Queen and Adelaide Streets, which was then far remote from the town proper, and built for himself a home near the site of the present Ryrie store.

Since then the City of Toronto has become Canada's most important manufacturing and distributing centre, with more factories than any other Canadian city.

In the five years since it has been established, the Toronto Industrial Commission has co-operated with more than one hundred concerns who have commenced manufacturing in the Toronto area.

Toronto Industrial Commission

C. L. BURTON, *President*

H. B. KEENLEYSIDE, *General Manager*

CONCOURSE BUILDING

TORONTO





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