

STARR PIANO CO. IS BIG INDUSTRY

**Employs Many People, Develops
Business in Many Parts
Of World**

From a single one-story building in which a mere handful of men were employed, to the present huge plant which houses a working force of 4,100, the growth and development of the Starr Piano company has been one of the factors which has had much to do with the building of Richmond since the company's incorporation in 1872.

From its very beginning the Starr Piano company has had back of it men who were skilled piano makers. They knew the business as an art and fully understood the fundamental principles underlying piano manufacture.

George M. Trayser, who was the father of the piano industry in the middle west, began his manufacturing career in Indianapolis in 1849. In 1869 he went to Ripley, Ohio, and organized a company there. In 1871 he moved his plant to Hamilton, O., and the following year came to Richmond. The business was incorporated with James M. Starr, president; Richard Jackson, secretary and treasurer; and Mr. Trayser, general manager.

This was the beginning of the industry which has proved to be one of the greatest in the middle west. The company's products are known throughout the world and are recognized as being unusually high in the musical instrument field.

In 1892 John Lumsden and Henry Gennett, of Nashville, Tenn., visited the local factory. They had been engaged in selling the Starr product and were so impressed with the possibilities and condition of the trade that they offered to purchase a half interest in the plant. Mr. Lumsden became president, Mr. Gennett, vice-president, and James Starr, secretary and treasurer.

Since that time Mr. Gennett and his sons have had active control of the business. The father died two years ago and the sons have carried on the work with the same high ideals that characterized the business in earlier years.

At present, Harry Gennett is president; Clarence Gennett is treasurer, and Fred Gennett is secretary.

There are 35 acres in the company's grounds. The plant has a dry kiln capacity of 2,000,000 feet of lumber and 5,000,000 feet is kept on hand constantly to meet the increasing demands of the business. The company's 31 buildings have a floor space of 500,000 square feet.

In this modern factory every part of the Starr pianos and Starr-made pianos is completed from the basic material, including the player mechanism in its entirety.

Distribution of the Starr products is in every part of the world. In competitive exhibitions the local products have won many honors, among them being awards at the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition in

Airplane View of Starr Piano Company Plant



This view of the Starr Piano company's factory, taken from the air, gives an unusually good idea of the extensive nature of the local plant. Stretched along the east bank of White Water river, the company's buildings have floor space which reaches into the hundreds of thousands of square feet. Adequate railroad facilities are at hand as may be seen in the picture.

Neff-Nusbaum Store Has Constant Growth

With a constant and healthy growth since its opening day, August 19, 1906, the firm of Neff and Nusbaum is one of the city's most popular shoe stores.

The store has been in its present location, Seventh and Main streets, for almost 22 years. It was opened originally at 710 Main street.

One of the partners, E. D. Neff, was in the employ of J. W. Cunningham from 1889 to 1906 and thus became thoroughly acquainted with the shoe business. Neff and Nusbaum bought out the Cunningham store when they started in business.

Almost two years ago Neff and Nusbaum placed the store on a co-

operative basis with the employees who have an equal share in the profits of the business. A number of employees have been with the firm for many years.

Efficiency and courtesy on the part of employees has always been insisted upon. Quality in merchandise together with fair prices and honest dealings are other factors which have had much to do with the success of the business.

And after 25 years of progress, "The Shoe Corner," as the Neff and Nusbaum building is known, has come to be one of the best known spots in Richmond.

'PHONE COMPANY BUSINESS GROWS

**Work Of Improving Service Is
Well Under Way At Heavy
Cost**

The Richmond Home Telephone company, with its automatic phone service, has been one of the big factors in the development of Richmond during the last 25 years.

A local company in every sense of the word, its interests and aims are exactly parallel with the interests of the city and surrounding territory which it serves.

At present the company has more than 5,800 phones in operation, hav-

ing connection with independent exchanges as well as with the Bell and Central Union company's toll lines everywhere.

Constant improvements are being made by the local company in order that better service may be given. Recently a large addition has been built to the building, 25 North Ninth street. In the last year or two a great amount of work has been done to place cable lines underground where they will be unaffected by fire and storm. This feature of the company's development has done much to add to the city's beauty since it does away with many unsightly poles.

It is the plan of the company to place all possible lines underground in the near future and to replace the majority of present telephones with more up-to-date equipment as rapidly as the work can be done. To this end expenditures totaling \$250,000 will be made to bring the company's equipment and service to an even higher plane than it is operating on at present.

The Richmond Home Telephone company was incorporated February 10, 1898. Its present officers are: J. M. Lantz, president; E. H. Cates, vice-president; L. E. Browne, secretary-treasurer. Directors are: J. A. Carr, B. W. Gaar, E. G. Hubbard, L. E. Browne, P. W. Smith, H. R. Lantz, J. M. Lantz, E. H. Cates, A. C. Lindemuth, Gath Freeman, C. A. McGulrre and W. C. Hubbard. Thomas Swann is manager, L. E. Browne is office manager and cashier, and Miss Alice L. Maley is bookkeeper.

WINDMILL TO CROSS SEA
BLARICUM, Holland, Nov.—The windmill here, one of the oldest in Holland, is reported to have been purchased by a New York lawyer. It will be removed to the purchaser's estate at Rhinebeck-on-the-Hudson.

WOMAN BI

**Develops
To A**

From one of antique value at 100,000 dollars worth of furniture and record of store during the 19th century in Richmond.

The story proprietor most like a hind it long honest deal.

It was in Weiss, with a second-hand business in northwest Main street amount to.

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years the V-panded until necessary arrangements have been or lease.

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There is a floor covering to stores, and a department are made to countless oth

In addition floor space in Weiss has a