The Self-Playing Piano

By HOWARD L. RANN

THE self-playing piano is a musical instrument whinh was invented for the benefit of people who never learned to play on anything but the board of trade. Thousands of people who were obliged to cultivate corn while others were cultivating a musical taste now have the satisfaction of sitting down to a piano player and mauling long streaks of melody out of the Tannhauser overture, in the presence of fatigued guests who are too polite to attempt to escape.

Nobody knows why the man who devised this deadly implement called it a self-playing device, inasmuch as it requires at least 32 horsepower to keep it from lying down and expiring with a deep sigh in the middle of the Moonlight sonata. A series of careful tests reveals the fact that it places a greater strain upon the leg muscles of the operator to drive a self-playing piano through the finale of the William Tell overture than it does to climb the Washington monument.

The average self-player consists of an upright piano equipped with a suction pump, which draws the music out of the interior and throws it around the room in large melodic hunks. This is accomplished by feeding a roll of pre-digested harmony into the machine and then working both feet up and down until the operator is seized with cramps and the audience with a nervous chill. Every once in a while the roll will get off the track and start a new piece which nobody is interested in, when the machine has to be backed up and placed on the rails again.

All player pianos are fitted with a handy arrangement known as the re-roll, which helps people to forget the music by hiding it as fast as possible. After a man has pumped through a roll of music 300 feet long and is about to rub the kinks out of his right biceps, he is confronted by the necessity of speeding up the re-roll, by which time he is usually too exhausted to tackle anything for several minutes. There would be more demand for the self playing piano if it consisted of nothing but the re-roll and a speedometer.

Germany Staggering Under New Estimates

Sixty Million Dollars to be Added to War Chest—Foreigners Must Pay War Tax.

BERLIN, March 31.—The official announcement of the details of the forthcoming increase in the army and the war tax that will be imposed in connection with that increase has been received by the press and public with mixed resignation and criticism. There is little enthusiasm anywhere. There is a feeling that the increase must be made but there is chagrin over the necessity for it. There is a fear that the tax will drive the movable capital out of Germany to avoid the taxation, as well as having a stagnating effect on business generally.

It develops that the proposed law provides that foreigners earning a livelihood in Germany must pay the war tax and in connection with this and the other provisions of the law the Tageblatt demands that, as the Jews are amongst the heaviest of people making sacrifices for the Fatherland, in justice the Reichstag should remove the present obstacles in the path of Jews who would become army officers.

The Socialist newspaper, Vorwaerts, terms the war tax and the increase in the army as an orgy of militarism, which Socialists will oppose with all their power.

Tripling the War Chest

The most surprising fact in the army increase is the addition of $60,000,000 to the "war chest" in the Julius Tower at Spandau. The "war chest" hitherto has been $30,000,000. Half of the 200 per cent addition will be half gold and half silver, to be secured by withdrawing gold from circulation and substituting paper for the small silver. It is claimed that there has long been a shortage of paper for business purposes. Some of the newspapers express fear that the withdrawal of gold, when it is already scarce, will tend to further the gold stringency.

There is also amazement over the fact that instead of $5,000,000, the large amount of $19,750,000, according to the official Military Gazette, has been asked for the development of military aviation, in addition to which the North German Gazette says that the naval budget will contain an extra request of $12,500,000 for naval air craft.

It is stated in Parliamentary circles that if the international situation continues threatening the increase in the army and the war taxes will probably proceed through the Reichstag quickly under the pressure of danger to the Fatherland. However, should the international situation clear, strong opposition will develop.

Reports sent to the newspapers of the capital show that there is much resentment in many places throughout the empire over exempting only property under $2,500 from the war tax instead of property under $5,000, as was expected.

The Aerial Fleet

A bill providing for the appropriation of $750,000 as the first outlay on the Admiralty's aerial fleet was introduced into the Imperial Parliament to-day. It calls for 10 naval dirigible balloons of the largest size, of which eight are to compose the active fleet and two to be held in reserve. Fifty-four double revolving balloon halls, into which the dirigibles will be able to enter regardless of the weather are to be erected and another two to be kept as a reserve. A total of fifty aeroplanes, of which 36 are to form the active fleet and 14 the reserve, are also to be built, and these are to be manned by a special corps of 1,452 officers and men.

The appropriations for this fleet to be spread over the years 1914 to 1918 comprise $8,750,000 for dirigibles and $2,250,000 for aeroplanes, while $1,500,000 is asked for in connection with the pay and maintenance of the crews.

The life of the new airships is estimated at only four years each.

The New Army.

After the passage of the Army Bill the land forces of Germany on a peace footing will comprise 33,800 officers, 661,176 privates, and 15,00 one year volunteers. The balance of the total of 870,000 will include medical, veterinary and pay officers, artificers, the hospital corps and other non-combatants.

The sum of 52,500,000 is assigned for the construction of new fortresses.

Thinks They Are Necessary.

Herr Arthur von Gwinner, the head of the Deutsche Bank, and also a director of the Imperial Bank, in an interview on the extraordinary was taxes in Germany, said that they were necessary. The scheme of taxation on the whole was good, he said, but it was to be regretted that the exemption was placed so low as to compel payment on proerty amounting to $2,500. Herr von Gwinner said that it was regrettable that the burden was placed on inheritances, corporations, and companies of limited liabilities, the latter of which was unjustifiably placed under double taxation, and he considered the taxation of reserve capital as proposed, nothing short of penalizing sound business policy.

Herr von Gwinner said he welcomed the trebling of the "war chest" from $30,000,000 to $90,000,000. "The prosperity of the nation has so grown and the conditions have so changed, that we can readily lay the additional sum into the Julius Tower at Spandau for the purpose for which it is intended," he said. Gold would not be withdrawn from circulation at one time, the head of the Deutsche Bank pointed out, and hence he did not believe that the war taxes would affect the gold market. He placed the value of the aggregate property of the empire at $75,000,000,000 and the total annual incomes at $10,000,000,000—a half per cent of which would bring in $375,000,000.

"It is possible, added Herr von Gwinner, "that some property will escape taxation. Perhaps some collateral has already fled to Switzerland and Belgium, but the German people are rich, and comprise an honorable nation. They will do their duty to the Fatherland."

Quotes a Few Figures.

Privy Councillor Schwarz, who is the chief financial adviser of the Ministry repudiates the charges in the French and English newspapers that other countries will be forced to follow Germany's example in the unprecedented expenditure of money for armaments. Taking the budget of six powers for 1912-13, he shows that Germany is second to Russia, but the proportion of population to expenditure is less than that of England and France. Statistics of expenditure in the thirty years from 1881 to 1910 show that France spent $500,000,000 more than Germany, and England appropriated three times as much as this country. England and France together spent twice as much as Germany, although the combined population of these two countries is not twice as great as that of Germany. The Triple Entente in these thirty years spent more than $18,000,000,000 and the Triple Alliance $11,500,000,000. According to the budgets of 1-912-13 the German expenditures for armaments will be $5.90 per capita, and that of France $7.50.

QUICKLY CURES THE WORST BACKACHE

Makes Kidney Troubles, Bladder Disorders and Rheumatic Pains Vanish.

It is no longer necessary for any one to suffer with backaching, kidney trouble have disagreeable bladder and urinary disorders to contend with, or be tortured with rheumatism stiff joints and its heart-wrecking pains, for the new discovery, Croxone, uickly and surely relieves all such troubles.

Croxone is the most wonderful remedy yet devised for ridding the system of uric acid and driving out all the poisonous impurities which cause such troubles. It is entirely different from all other remedies. It is not like anything else ever used for the purpose. It acts on the principle of cleaning out the poisons and removing the cause.

It soaks right in through the walls, membranes and linings, like water in a sponge, neutralizes, dissolves and makes the kidneys sift out and filter away, all the uric acid and poisons from the flood, and leaves the kidneys and urinary organs clean, strong, healthy, and well.

It matters not how long you have suffered, how old you are, or what you have used, the very principle of Croxone is such, that it is practically impossible to take it into the human system without results. There is nothing else on earth like it. It starts to work the minute you take it and relieves you the first time you use it.

If you suffer with pains in your back, and sides, or have any signs of kidney, bladder troubles, or rheumatism, such as puffy swellings under the eyes or in the feet and ankles, if you are nervous, tired, and run down, or bothered with urinary discorders, Croxone will quickly relieve you of your misery. You can secure an original package of Croxone at trifling cost from any first class druggist. All druggists are authorized to personally return the purchase price if it fails in a single case.

KING CONSTANTINE
The new ruler of Greece, from a picture taken while he was commanding the Greek army before Saloniki.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Any person wishing to become a member of the Brantford Horticultural Society and requiring shrubs, please send in your order to the secretary, 136 Dalhousie street, previous to April 5th, a s orders for shrubs must close on that date. If you have not received a premium list, apply to the secretary. The premiums given costs the society over $1.00, which is made up by the Government grant, Take advantage of this and make your home beautiful at small cost. Note also the extra prizes to be given for lawns on certain streets. Send your order and $1.00 to the secretary, at once.

TRY! SAYS SAGE TEA DARKENS AND BEAUTIFIES FADED, GRAY HAIR

Mixed With Sulphur Makes Hair Soft and Luxuriant and Removes Dandruff.

The old-time mixture of Sage Tea and Sulphur for darkening gray, streaked and faded hair is coming in vogue again, says a well-known downtown druggist. It was our grandmother's treatment and hundreds of women and men too, are again using it to keep their hair a good, even color which is quite sensible, as we are living in an age when a youthful appearance is of the greatest advantage.

Nowadays, though, we don't have the troublesome task of gathering the sage and the mussy mixing at home. All drug stores sell the ready-to-use product called 'Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Hair Remedy" for about 50 cents a bottle. It is the most popular because nobody can discover it has been applied. Simply dampen a soft brush or sponge with "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur' and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time. Do this to-night and by morning the gray hair disappears and after another application it is restored to its natural color.

What delights the ladies with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur is that besides beautifully darkening the hair, they say it proudces that soft lustre and appearance of abundance which is so attractive; besides prevents dandruff; itching scalp and falling hair. Hhere, you gray-haired folks, get busy; look years younger.

SANTAL-MIDY
Thirty Capsules are free to all users without accompanying afections in which Copaiba, Cubeb and Injections fail. MIDY

Labor Report

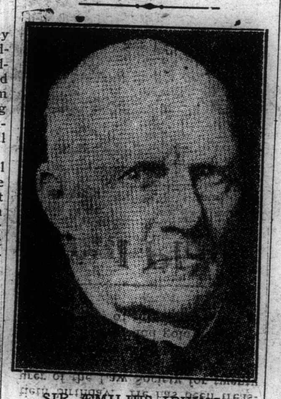
Correspondent J. C. Cole of Brantford Has Interesting Budgets.

The Ottawa Labor Gazette contains the following report from its local correspondent ,Mr. J. C. Coles:

Little change took place in the condition of labour during the past month. The weather becoming more severe a number of outside workers had to cease work, noticeably the men employed by the city authorities in laying sewers. February was, however beter for labour generally than the coresponding month last year. The factories were actively working, one or two departments having worked extra time during the month. The supply of labour was equal to the demand and a number of outside workers were idle. The new Brant County Sanatarium for the treatment of tuberculosis is nearing completion, as is also the new nurses' home in connection with the Brantford General Hospital. During the month the contract has been let for the new Federal buildings which are calculated to cost from $240,000 to $250,000. A steady trade was done and no industrial unrest was reported.

Agriculturists had little to do besides the work around the buildings. The manufacturing interests are all in good condition, especially the iron trades, moulders and machinists being particularly busy. The clothing trades were fairly well employed. The textile workers were busy and there are still opportunities for employment. The factories employing wood workers were all active.

Paris—Conditions in Paris continue good. The manufacturers are all actively employed. Lttle outside work can be done at present.



SIR EMILIUS IRVING
The oldest lawyer in Canada, who on Easter Monday celebrated his ninetieth birthday. He has been treasurer of the Law Society for twenty years, and on his birthday he was presented with a complimentary address in a silver and gold casket by the Benchers of the Law Society at Toronto.

Foul Play

Is Suspectsd in Connection With Death of Woodstock Man.

The following despatch from Woodstock refers to one who was well-known in this city and who was a client of Mr. M. W. McEwen:

Foul play is strongly suspected in the death of Fred Beemer of Blenheim Township, whose farm is four miles east of Drumbo village. His death took place on Tuesday last, but it was only yesterday it became known that there was anything peculiar in it.

On Saturday, March 22, Beemer took a dose of medicine, and soon afterwards went into convulsions. A doctor was called and Beemer was treated. Sunday he had partly recovered and Monday was well again. On Tuesday he took a dose of salts, went into convulsions and died in the evening. Wednesday evening Coroner Andrew McKay was notified, and on Thursday he went to the farm to investigate. The physician in attendance, Dr. Wolner of Ayr, had refused a death certificate, and the coroner forbade the funeral, which was to be held Thursday.

Yesterday he again went to Blenheim, empanelled a jury and had a post mortem examination made. he inquest was then adjourned until Friday, April 11, and the deceased's stomach and liver have been expressed to the Provincial Analyst, Toronto, strychnine poisoning being suspected.

No Suspcion of Suicide.

There seems no reason to suspect suicide, as Beemer showed eevry anxiety to recover after the first attack, and was intensely keen to have a doctor summoned immediately when taken ill on Tuesday. He is survived by a wife and eight children, the eldest being thirteen. His wife was his own niece, being a daughter of a brother. He owned a 200 acre farm now heavily encumbered, but no one has seen any signs of respondency or worry in him, and if the analysis shows strychnine , mystery will surround the circumstances.

PILES Do not suffer another day with Itching, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. No surgical operation required. Dr. Chase's Ointment will relieve you at once and as certainly cure you. 60c a box; all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 2c stamp to pay postage.

A Cure for Fever and Ague—Disturbance of the stomach and liver always precede attacks of fever and ague, showing derangement of the digestive organs and deterioration in the quality of the blood. In these ailments Parmelee's Vegetable Pills have been found most effective, abating the fever and subduing the ague in a few days. There are many who are subject to these distressing disturbances and to these there is no better preparation procurable as a means of relief.

THE RUUD

Instantaneous Automatic Water Heater

Only burns gas while you are drawing hot water, and owing to its very large copper coils is a very economical gas user.

For sale by the trade, and

Brantford Gas Company

Per H. H. POWELL, Pres. and Mgr.

The Best of the Berry

You remove all the skin and core of an apple, when you want the most delicious sauce.

We remove all the skin and fibre of the wheat berry so that you may have the finest flour.

Wheat has *five* skins. It has fibre which corresponds to the core of the apple. It has an embryo germ, where sprouting begins. It has a small crease in which a tiny quantity of dirt hides.

Every one of these things is removed from Rainbow Flour. Then we refine and refine until only the most vital elements of the wheat berry remain.

We carry this process so far that Rainbow Flour positively has no equal in quality. One baking will prove this to you.

RAINBOW FLOUR

MAKES GOOD BREAD

At your grocer's. In 7-lb., 14-lb., 24-lb., 49-lb. and 98-lb. bags and in barrels.

Canadian Cereal and Flour Mills Limited, Toronto, Canada
Makers of Tillson's Oats—Rainbow Flour—Star Flour

BANISH THOSE GRAY HAIRS!

Kill the Dandruff Germs—Stop Hair Falling

Thousands of mothers are looking younger.—Their gray hairs are gone. The natural color has come back, and with it a new growth of soft, glossy, luxuriant hair. Why should you look old before your time, when you can look years younger by using

WYETH'S SAGE AND SULPHUR HAIR REMEDY

Dandruff Cured

Three applications removed all the dandruff and left my scalp clean, white and smooth. Wm. Crook, Rochester, N. Y.

Restores Gray Hair to Natural Color

If other "so-called" Restorers have failed, don't give up hope, but give WYETH'S SAGE AND SULPHUR HAIR REMEDY a trial. You run no risk. If it is not exactly as represented, your money will be refunded.

PROFIT BY OTHERS' EXPERIENCE

Gray Hair Restored

My hair was getting quite gray and falling out rapidly and I was troubled with a terrible itching of the scalp. My head was full of dandruff, which fell upon my clothes and kept me continually brushing it off. While on a visit to Rochester I heard of your Sage and Sulphur for the hair. I got a bottle and used it. A few applications relieved the itching, my hair stopped falling out and gradually came back to its natural color. It is now a nice dark brown color, soft, glossy and pliable. Several of my friends want to use it, and I want to know what you will charge me for six bottles of it.

MISS E. A. ROSS,
Sharon, Mercer Co., Pa.

Grew Hair on a Bald Head

For two or three years my hair had been falling out and getting quite thin until the top of my head was entirely bald. About four months ago I commenced using Sage and Sulphur. The first bottle seemed to do some good, and I kept using it regularly until now I have used four bottles. The whole top of my head is fairly covered and keeps on coming in thicker. I shall keep on using it a while longer, as I notice a constant improvement.

STEPHEN BACON,
Rochester, N. Y.

50c. and $1.00 a Bottle—At all Druggists

If Your Druggist Does Not Keep It, Send Us the Price in Stamps, and We Will Send You a Large Bottle, Express Prepaid

Wyeth Chemical Company 74 CORTLANDT STREET New York City, N.Y.

FREE A 25c Cake of Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Toilet Soap Free to anyone who will send us this advertisement with 10c in stamps to cover cost of wrapping and mailing the soap.