

**RECENT EXPLOSION  
IN GERMAN PLANT  
MOST SEVERE BLOW**

**Destruction of Huge Chemical Works Comparable to Serious Military Defeat.**

**AFFECTS ALL CONCERNS  
Will Greatly Impair Enemy's  
Poison Gas and Explosive  
Supply.**

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Via Reuter's Ottawa agency—in connection with the report of November 22, that large chemical works at Griesheimlektion, near Frankfurt, had been destroyed owing to an explosion, it is authoritatively stated now that it is certain that the explosion completely destroyed one of the greatest production factories in the world, and through which Germany suffered a disaster comparable to a very serious military defeat in its effect on the issue of the war. The factory covers over 54 acres, and was of prime importance as a source of synthetic nitrates. It also played a leading part in the production of poison gas, tear shells, and poison shells, of which it is the greatest centre of manufacture in Germany, producing nearly 600,000 cubic feet of poison gas daily in 1916. The factory also supplied large quantities of electrolytic hydrogen for the inflation of zeppelins and possessed three reserve gasometers with a total capacity of over 300,000 cubic feet. So important was it in this respect that the zeppelin sheds usually containing two or three airships, were erected close to the works. It is reported to have been the only factory turning out sulphate for the manufacture of black powder which is produced at the rate of a thousand tons daily. It supplied five nitro-glycerin and dynamite factories and two powder works, one at Rottwell, one of the most important in all Germany, with all soda nitrates and concentrated sulphuric acid they required. It also manufactured large quantities of the explosive, trinitrotoluol.

The disaster affects every concern in Germany, both by cutting off supplies which many of them drew from Griesheim, by necessitating making good the loss of those supplies from a plant already working at maximum and by the deaths of scores of trained workmen and specialists in the factory. This will make the task of coping with this deficit all the more difficult. Even if the material could be replaced, the problem of collecting miscellaneous quantities of explosives and acids from various quarters and conveying them over greater distances thus made necessary, is bound to increase Germany's transport difficulties, which already are most pressing. The works cannot be reconstructed in war-time, and sooner or later Germany must show on the fighting front the effects of this staggering blow.

**SEVEN ARRESTED AS  
ALLEGED MEMBERS  
OF BIG "DRUG RING"**

**Toronto Police Make Big Halt  
—Drugs Believed To Be  
Stolen.**

TORONTO, Dec. 12.—After an investigation of over ten days' duration into the workings of a so-called "drug ring" here, police officers today placed under arrest the last of seven men alleged to be connected with the "ring." Following the arrest the police made the largest seizure of noxious drugs ever made in Toronto. This consisted of a large child, filled with morphine, cocaine and heroin. Not one of the men sought by the police evaded arrest.

The department believes also that it has solved the mystery surrounding the burglarizing of several drug stores in the city during the past few weeks. In each case nothing was touched but morphine, cocaine and heroin.

Evidence was secured by the police, it is said, to show that one of the men, James "Heavy" Taylor, did a large importation business in drugs from Montreal. Three others, Albert Lebarge, William Palmer, and John L. Phillip, are believed to come from Chicago. Peter Henry, John Parker and Charles Evans gave local addresses.

**U. S. CONGRESS HAS  
OPENED AN INQUIRY  
INTO WAR MATTERS**

**National Defense Act Inadequate, Says Gen. Crozier.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Inquiry by Congress into the general conduct of the war was begun today with investigation by the Senate military committee of the war department's work in arming and equipping the American forces.

Major-Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, said an obstacle in the way of work was that the military policy defined in the national defence act of 1916 contemplated a force of 1,000,000 men to be raised in five years.

"It is apparent," he said, "that the original program for 1,000,000 men did not contemplate our participation in the war. We compressed the five-year program into one year when it immediately became apparent that the one million program would not do."

"One obstacle," he continued, "was that many manufacturers did not care to spend money or could not secure loans in advance of actual appropriations. There were also delays under the abnormal purchasing system necessary, without time for competitive bidding, in many cases."

"Some manufacturers would not take fixed price contracts at all," Gen. Crozier said. "They would not take the risk except with a profit on a percentage basis. They had had their fingers burned. No orders for rifles were made at a fixed price; manufacturers would not take the risk."

Upon inquiry by Senator Wadsworth, Gen. Crozier said that early in the war the president had allocated \$2,000,000 of his \$100,000,000 emergency fund to the war department, and that emergency orders for material had been given.

**RUSSIA OPENS COURTS  
TO HANDLE PLOTTERS**

PETROGRAD, Dec. 10.—Announcement was made today that revolutionary courts would be established throughout the country on December 20 to assist in carrying on the struggle of the Bolshevik government against counter-revolution and to stop brigandage, sabotage and speculation. Members of the courts will be revolutionaries chosen by local Councils of Soldiers and Workmen's Delegates. According to the announcements, the courts will have free choice of means of dealing with those who disobey the orders of the revolutionaries.

**Starr  
Phonographs**

Are not assembled as others are, being manufactured from the castor up to the top lid, including the motor, sound box, tone arm, plate, case, etc., in the factories of the Starr Company, which covers 35 acres of land, being one of the oldest, largest and wealthiest manufacturers of musical instruments in the world, and have a most enviable reputation for quality, value and service.

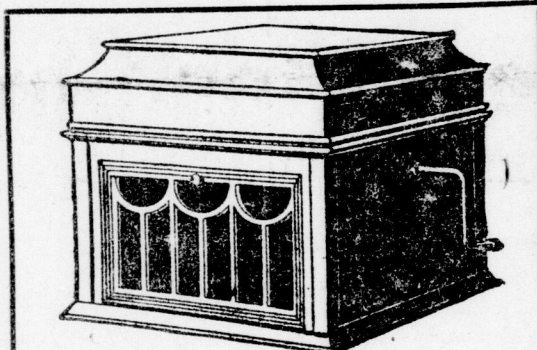
DIFFERENCE IS IN THE TONE.



**Silver Grain Spruce**  
—the Master MusicWood

It would be impossible to estimate the time devoted in determining the comparative acoustic properties of substances. It would even be unwise to guess how many years silver grain spruce has been accepted peer and best of all sounding boards. It is fundamentally right that it should be used in tone-producing parts of a phonograph, where the vibration must be greatly amplified. The sounding boards horn of the Starr hangs free, with an unrestricted vibration from the smallest end of the graduated neck to the widest flare of the horn; there is not a joint or metal connection which will retard the magnificent tone. Yet this is not wholly responsible for the unequalled Starr tone; it is in this connection with other special features which we would like to demonstrate to you.

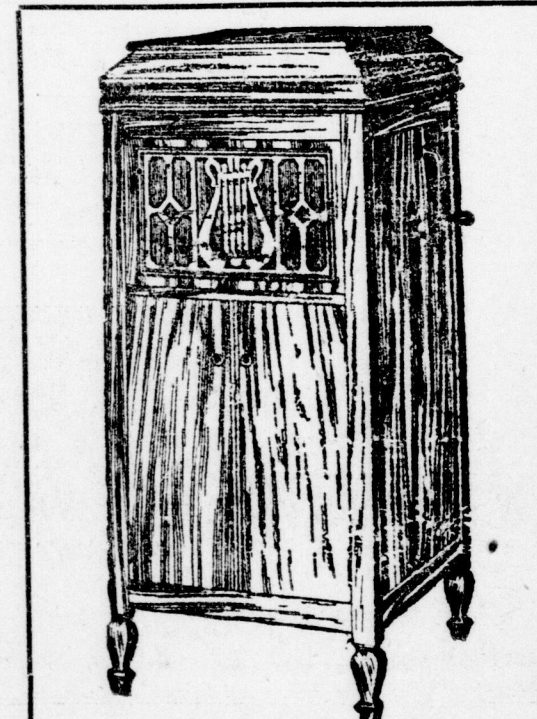
DIFFERENCE IS IN THE TONE.



**\$71.50 Model**

In mahogany or oak, with tone modifier, powerful double spring Starr motor, speed regulator, 12-inch turntable famous Starr sound box, excellent finish and design, and plays all makes of records perfectly, including Starr, Victor, Edison, Columbia and Pathe. Our price is only \$71.50 and, compared with other makes, is more like \$90 to \$100 value.

PLAYS ALL MAKES OF RECORDS.



**\$145 Model**

This is without doubt the best value ever offered in London, and can only be compared by others selling at \$175 and more. It is classical and artistic in design, in either mahogany, walnut or oak, and beautifully finished like a piano with sweet, rich, singing quality of tone. Plays any make of record perfectly.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is our great pleasure to announce that we have secured the exclusive selling rights for the Dominion of Canada, both wholesale and retail, of the famous

**Starr Phonographs**

THE CROWNING TRIBUTE IS THEIR

**MARVELOUS TONE**

An all-wood singing throat and sound horn of the finest quality Adirondack Silver Grain SPRUCE, colors the overtones until you have a reproduction of unrivalled purity and naturalness of tone that is much sweeter and much more musical than any other made, and revealing the hidden beauty of tones in records better than any other Phonograph.

Plays  
All Records  
Perfectly

Some sound boxes diaphragms reproduce high notes very well, but are poor on low notes. The Starr reproducer handles all tones equally well.



**Tone Arm  
of Brass**

Short travel and few turns for sounds. Brass least affects sounds. Powerfully pure tones, untinged, undiminished thus travel onward.

**Grand Prize, Blue Ribbon and Gold Medal**

were awarded to the STARR PHONOGRAPHS at the Panama Pacific Exposition, over and above every other Phonograph.

There Is Beauty---There Is Quality---There Is Tone

Why  
Haven't  
YOU a  
Starr  
Phono-  
graph?

You get better VALUE when you buy

**Starr Records**

You get Records with Music on Both Sides.

85c —Each side plays nearly five minutes. You get records that do not scratch.

\$1.00 —You get the best music which great artists can record.

\$1.25 —You have a good variety from which to choose selections.

**Starr Records**

for dancing are the kind that your friends will want you to repeat again and again. They play nearly five minutes on each side. The time is just right—put on a lively one, step, a two-step, fox-trot or waltz and let joy reign supreme, for music is the life of any gathering. It pervades the whole atmosphere, instilling in the merry-makers a wholesome joy in a light-hearted laughter. Let this joy be unconfined through the matchless tone of the

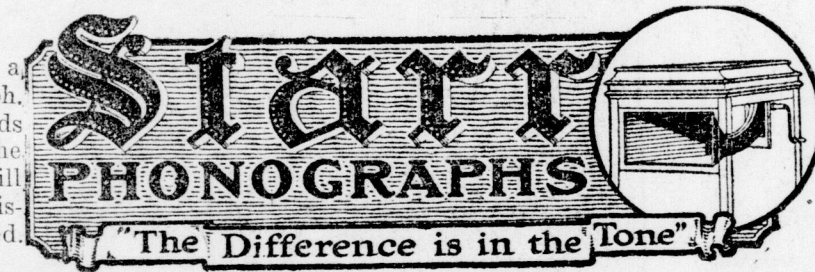
**Starr Phonograph**

Play at home each day the inspiring military music to which your boys and mine are marching. Be with Canada's blue-clad and khaki-clad heroes in spirit through the melody of.

**Starr Records**

CHOOSE YOUR RECORDS WHEN YOU LIKE

so long as they are discs, as the Starr Phonographs will play all makes of records, including Starr, Victor, Columbia, Edison and Pathe perfectly, and more than that the Starr Phonograph will reveal the hidden beauty of tone in a record better than any other make.



ELEVEN DIFFERENT STYLES AND DESIGNS.

Prices: \$71.50, \$110, \$145, \$190, \$215, \$250, \$290, \$325, \$350, \$400 —EASY TERMS—

We are offering to the music lovers of London the very latest and most wonderful development among all talking machines made. Because it is fundamentally right in construction, the tone of the Starr is free from that rasping, seraping, nasal and metallic quality of tone so common to all others. If you are familiar with other types of phonographs you will understand why we say the difference is in the tone. There are many distinctive features in the Starr, as it is the only phonograph made with silver grained spruce singing throat and sound horn, and the Starr has been designed and developed to play every make of disc record, including Starr, Victor, Columbia, Edison and Pathe perfectly.

We will consider it a pleasure to demonstrate this most wonderful and complete instrument for you, either at your home or our warehouses, and cordially invite you to call or write us concerning this matter.

**The Canadian Phonograph Supply Company**  
J. A. Croden W. D. Stevenson

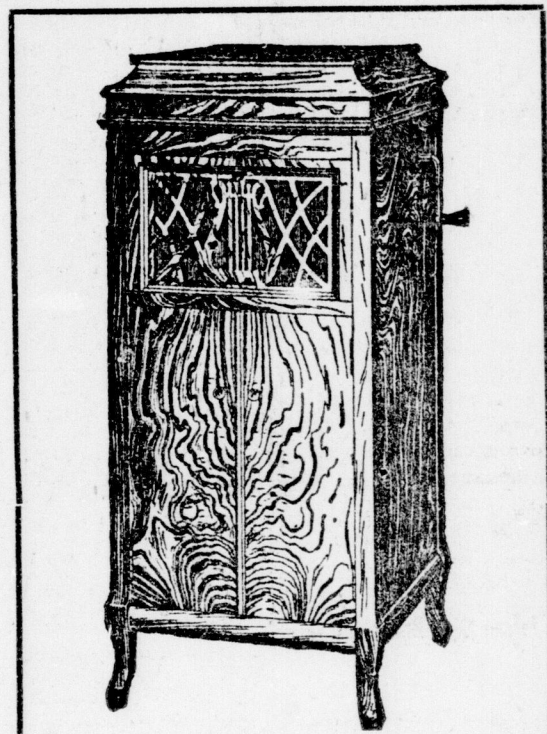
**Starr  
Records**

SELL AT

**85c, \$1.00 and \$1.25**

and all play nearly five minutes, or as long as any 12-inch \$1.50 record. We have accomplished what no other record maker has done so far, namely, eliminated "all noise" and surface scratching.

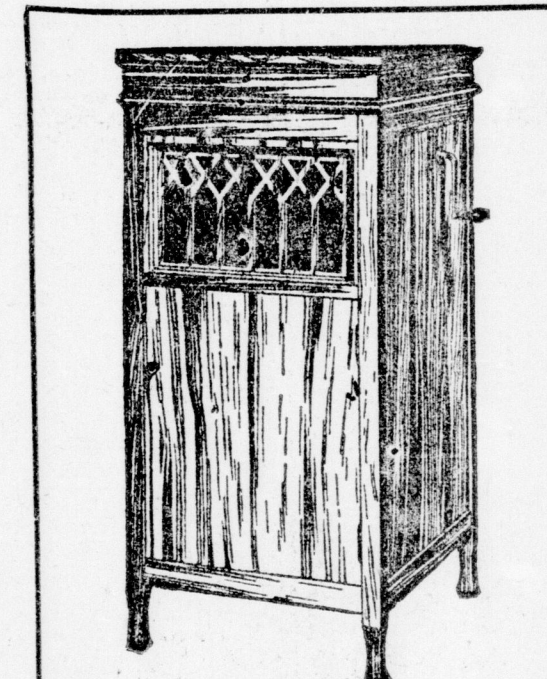
DIFFERENCE IS IN THE TONE.



**\$190 Model**

A most artistic instrument in every respect with a beautiful quality of rich resonant tones, finished in very handsome mahogany and American burl walnut and oak, with every known improvement on phonographs.

PLAYS ALL MAKES OF RECORDS.



**\$215 Model**

This model must be seen and heard in order to appreciate the high-grade quality of it in every respect. There is not an instrument on the Canadian market that can approach this model for quality of tone, beauty of design, and finish and excellent workmanship throughout. Finished like a piano, in Spanish mahogany and American burl walnut, with oxidized brass trimmings throughout.

DIFFERENCE IS IN THE TONE.



**Enjoyment for All!**

**261 DUNDAS STREET, London**