

## SANTA'S TOYLAND IS A GAY PLACE

Old Fellow's Mail Bag Already  
Crowded With Letters  
From Children.

EVERYTHING TO PLEASE.

DOLIES THAT TALK, BEARS  
THAT PERFORM, EELS THAT  
WRIGGLE AND CATS THAT PUR  
AMONG MANY NOVELTIES.

Santa Claus' pack will be heavier than ever this Christmas, for his first aids, the toy makers are hard at it turning out playthings for the youngsters.

The jolly old fellow's mail bag is already bulging with letters from his young constituents, unpunctuated and misspelled epistles, with the letters crawling uphill, but Santa will manage to decipher them, and indications are that there will be no unfilled stockings this 25th of December.

Every toy shop in the city is ready to rush orders. It won't be the fault of "the man behind the counter" if every boy and girl in Richmond doesn't have a merry Christmas. It won't be the fault either of the toy-makers in Germany and France who have sent over here shiploads of fascinating toys, mechanical dolls, performing bears, boats that sail on bathtub seas and cats that really meow.

The mechanical toys this year will delight the youngster who can't be satisfied with a doll unless it says "mamma" or "pappa" or who hasn't any use for the dog that can't emit some sort of a bark.

"Straight from Paris" have come some wonderful creations. There is a trapeze performing lady, who needs only the impetus of a shove to start her turning flipflops in midair which outdo the evolutions of a neonine of the sawdust ring. Then there are small black bruisers that wiggle their haunches and kick up their feet in a gleeful frenzy, and a teddy bear that has been fitted up with spiral insides that put him in a frolicking mood and make his heels lighter than his head.

It is really true about the cat that says "Meow." She purrs delightfully when you pick her up, and if you rock her gently from side to side she makes such a realistic noise that the humane thing seems to be to get her a saucer of milk. There is another puss that has real fur and a snow white tom cat with a mouse between its paws.

The imported animals are more numerous and elaborate this year than ever. Paris has contributed bull dogs and toy spaniels, poodles and terriers that would draw prizes at any dog show. The Taft elephant and the Bryan donkey will be favorite gifts, and puss-in-boots, one of the newest arrivals is sure to make a tremendous hit.

Of course, there are old toys that can never be supplanted. No one has been so rash as to try to replace the Noah's ark or even to modify it, and Noah and his wife, the animals painted gray and brown with yellow spots just as irresistible, tempt little mouths as they did years ago, when the paint tasted so good.

There is an endless variety of water toys, whales that spout, eels that wiggle their tails as they squirm along, motor boats and hydroplanes and a fascinating lady in a gaudy bathing suit who seems like a life saver.

You can't begin to recount the toys that there are for boys—drums and fifes and steam engines, clowns and sailors, soldiers for mimic warfare and the humpty-dumpty circus with its unlimited possibilities for fun.

For the baby there are blocks ad infinitum and rattles, balls and rubber toys that can't be swallowed and, of course, picture books galore. There is no falling off in the demand for dolls and the small girl of today has the maternal instinct just as fully developed as her grandmother had. Bisque and china doll babies an endless variety of rubber and rag infants. French dolls with elaborate toilets and the ever popular "celluloid" doll are here waiting to be claimed by their prospective owners. Doll houses and furniture trunks for the doll's wardrobe and many accessories of dress for the diminutive lady have been provided in unlimited variety at prices to suit the fattest and the leanest pocketbook.

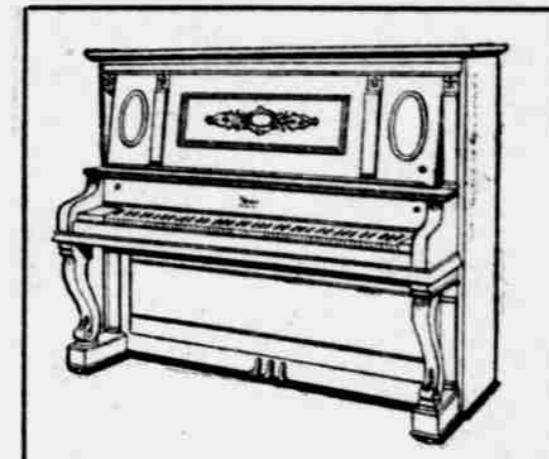
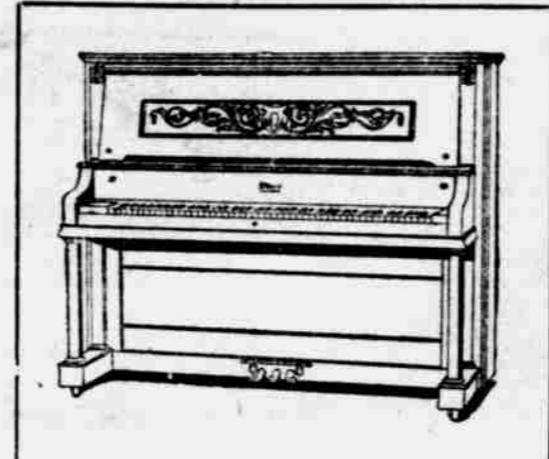
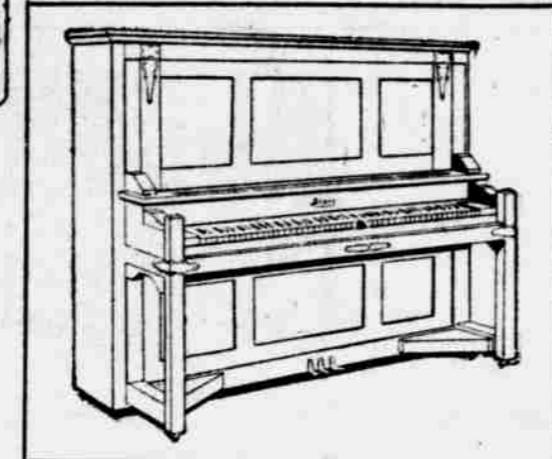
The vogue of the "celluloid baby" is greater than ever this year—and the reason for this is, of course, that soap and water ablutions don't mar her smiling countenance and that no amount of bathing will decrease her chubbiness.

Domestic instincts of the embryo housekeeper are encouraged by tin kitchens, dining room sets of dishes, cooking utensils and household implements with which the busy make believe housewife lightens the burdens of her home-making duties.

The toy department of one of the big department stores is presided over these holidays by Mrs. Katzenjammer—the poly-poly Dutch woman of comic supplement fame. "Mr. Jigger" is another prevailing genius of the domain of toys who can make things German art toys are more attractive than ever, and an innovation is the game of Russian jack straws which consists of hooking up diminutive toys of every shape and variety.

**The Twilight of Life.**  
The muscles of the stomach in old age are not as active as in youth and the old people are very subject to constipation and indigestion. Many seldom have a bowel movement without artificial aid. Many also, however, have difficulty in getting rid of the stomach after eating. All this can be avoided by the use of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Peppermint which stimulates the bowels so that the passages come naturally, and also stimulates the stomach that food is digested without difficulty. Druggists sell it at 50 cents or \$1 a large bottle.

## The Home Comforts Are Not Complete Thanksgiving Day Unless You Have a Piano



*The Acme of Musical Excellence*

## The STARR PIANO

*The Yard Stick of Commerce Can Not Be Used in  
Making a Piano of Art*

HERE is something in a piano besides wood and metal. There is a soul which gives it an individuality and a timbre. To the eye all violins may look alike, but placed in the hands of a master, the strains of a real Stradivarius bespeak that indefinable art that has entered into its construction. The same is true with a piano. There is something to be attained even after the mechanical possibilities have been exhausted and the rules of the most scientific construction have been carried out in detail.

The Starr Piano not only represents the highest type of piano construction, but it is also acknowledged to possess that "unseen" quality which makes it a work of art instead of a piece of machinery, which has commended it to prominent musicians.

### Additional Facts For Richmond People

In addition to the general qualities of durability, tone quality, constructive details and artistic designs and finish, people of Richmond should bear in mind that in THE STARR PIANO they have an instrument that saves them the large middleman's profit. It is sold direct from the factory to you. No shipping expenses, no agent's commission, and agency's expenses. The Starr Piano Company is a home concern, and the Home people get the benefit. Come in and see our splendid collection for Thanksgiving and Holiday trade. Our prices are right, and you can pay for any piano on our floors, by using our easy payment plan, you choosing your own way.

### The Musician Who Cannot Play

The greatest boon of the times is the player-piano. It enables those who are lovers of music, but who cannot play, to sit down and enjoy a classical, sacred, operatic or rag-time piece of music, and by our careful study in making these instruments, the effect is almost the same as played by the composer. We invite every citizen of Richmond and surrounding territory to come in and try the latest pieces on our player-piano. We keep a nice library of the latest music in our parlors and want you to feel you are welcome at all times. If your piano is not used as much as you would like to hear it, we suggest that you change it for one of these instruments.

## Special Sale of Used Pianos

*We have on our floors a few STARR used pianos. They are only slightly worn, and we will dispose of them at remarkably low prices, and on terms to suit you. See them. Also organs in the very best condition will sell cheap.*

You are always welcome to call at our factory and witness the making of a STARR from its inception to its completion.

Why not buy it for Christmas now? Our stocks were never more complete, both in Pianos and Player-Pianos. Beautiful veneers in the natural woods—mahogany, walnut, oak and ebony. At any rate, do not fail to call at our salesrooms, inspect our goods, and learn our terms before you buy.

*And we save you the agent's commission.*

*Direct from factory to you.*

**STARR PIANO CO.**  
Warerooms, 10th and Main