

**CAPITAL WILL BE \$1,000,000.**

The Bailey Piano Co. Increase Capital and Will Absorb the American Player Piano Co.

The Bailey Piano Co., 138th street and Canal place, New York City, have increased their capital from \$60,000 to \$1,000,000, and absorbed the American Player Piano Co., which will hereafter be operated as one concern. The control of the latter had been in the hands of the Bailey Co., and therefore no change will be made in the present executive staff, namely: W. L. Bijur, president and general manager; Walter B. Craighhead, treasurer; A. H. Kayton, secretary. Last year the company had an output of nearly 7,000 pianos and player pianos, and indications are that 10,000 will be the figure reached for 1907. The expansion of the business of this enterprising and progressive concern is one of the marvels of current trade history; but a strong organization and well equipped plant and an aggressive sales department have accomplished wonders. Their policy will remain unchanged, excepting in the way of betterment and improvement, both as to their product and general management. Their present quarters are altogether inadequate, and the erection of a new and far more commodious plant in the neighborhood of Whitlock and Leggett avenues, the new piano manufacturing district of the Bronx, is steadily developing.

**BANJOISTS' CONVENTION BUSY.**

Important Business Is to Change Mandola from Tenor to Baritone.

(Special to The Review.)

Philadelphia, Pa., March 21, 1907.

Banjoists, mandolinists and guitarists from all over the country arrived in the city yesterday for the annual convention of the American Guild, which opens this morning in the Walton Hotel. In the ranks of delegates are some of the most prominent players in the world, as well as the best-known manufacturers. Every man has at least one instrument with him, and for the next three days there will be music galore.

At the convention this morning one of the most important things will be an attempt to convert the mandola, from tenor to baritone. This instrument is a sort of an overgrown mandolin, and the musicians want the tuning changed from tenor to the tune ranks of the viola. Another thing that will be attempted is to get all the banjo makers to have the frets on their instruments made alike.

This evening the whole crowd of string ticklers will give a concert in Witherspoon Hall. Friday there will be more convention and a banquet, and Saturday the delegates will visit the interesting parts of the city.

Myron A. Bickford, of Springfield, is president of the guild, and Thomas J. Armstrong, of this city, is chairman of the executive committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Bentel, of Pittsburg, Pa., have sent out invitations to the marriage of their daughter, Pearl Genevieve, to Edwin Earle Natcher, which will occur on the evening of March 27 at their home, 311 Elysian avenue.

It demands a broad-gauge argument at times to convince advertisers of the value of advertising. They learn more, however, when in a fit of false economy, they discontinue and find themselves wondering "what's the matter with trade?"

**SUES FATHER'S ESTATE.**

Colonel Gray's Son Wants Title for a Patent Used in Connection With Piano.

(Special to The Review.)

Philadelphia, Pa., March 21, 1907.

Justus Gray, a son of the late Colonel Henry W. Gray, former president of the Schomacker Piano Co., instituted equity proceedings in Common Pleas Court yesterday against Marie L. Gray, executrix of his father's estate, in a dispute over a patent for an upright piano.

Colonel Gray died last month after a receiver was appointed for the Schomacker Co. in proceedings instituted by his son. Justus Gray was vice-president of the company, and he was said to have been at odds with his father regarding the management of the company. He contends in the present suit that in 1898 he invented an upright grand piano, and on the suggestion of his father he permitted the patent title to be made in the latter's name as a matter of business policy. His father, he said, agreed to transfer the title when a demand was made, but he died with the title remaining in his name. Gray now sues to compel the assignment of the title to him.

**FLOODS RUIN PIANOS.**

Many Thousand Dollars Worth of Instruments Damaged by the Floods Which Have Visited Wheeling, W. Va., and Locality—Over a Thousand Pianos Hauled to Places of Safety.

(Special to The Review.)

Wheeling, W. Va., March 18, 1907.

Many thousand dollars' worth of pianos are reported ruined by the floods which swept this city last week. The flood came so unexpectedly that many residents of the Island and South Side sections had no opportunity to have their instruments sent to places of safety, and as a result the flooding of various parlors ruined from 100 to 300 pianos. Some pianos may be repaired, but the majority are hopeless cases. The various piano houses have rented special rooms in which to repair the many damaged pianos before they are too far gone.

The piano dealers had busy days and nights last week when the flood came up. They used all their own wagons and horses and hired all the wagons available in order to take care of the pianos hauled from the South Side and the Island. The piano stores were converted into storage houses and were unequal to the demands made on them. All the piano houses rented floor space in the high places. Over 1,000 pianos were hauled to places of safety, many being taken out while the water was entering the parlors.

**NORRIS NOISELESS AXIOMS.**

No. CLIV.

It has well been said that "Art and knowledge bring bread and butter," and so does the use of the Norris noiseless pedal actions in the piano bring bread and butter. They increase the dealer's trade, because they remove the one great cause of complaint existing to-day, namely, the squeaking, nerve-racking, patience-trying pedal mechanism which has brought so many pianos into ill favor. The Norris noiseless pedal action, made by the Norris Noiseless Pedal Action Co., Boston, Mass., makes the piano a perfect whole, and it cannot be overlooked by any progressive manufacturer desiring to be up to date.

Adam Nickel, of Wessell, Nickel & Gross, of 457 West 45th street, and wife and Karl Fink, of the American Felt Co., accompanied by his family, will spend Easter week at Atlantic City, N. J.

**FREIGHT RATE ADVANCES.**

Trunk Line Officials Meet Here to Consider a General Increase.

Traffic officials of the railroads in the Trunk Line Association territory were in conference in this city Thursday on the question of freight rate advances, which it is proposed to have go into effect on May 1. Some advances have already been announced by the Eastern roads, but the advances now under discussion cover a much broader field, according to the statement made by an official of one of the most important members of the Trunk Line Association.

At the offices of the association yesterday morning it was said that no decision regarding freight rate increases had yet been reached, but it was admitted that some of the roads had such advances under discussion.

The establishment of higher freight rates wherever this can readily be done has been accepted as a policy by a number of the large systems. The advance in the bituminous coal rate was in keeping with this policy, and so also are the proposed advances in a number of commodities which were under discussion Thursday. Railroad officials point out that the higher scale of wages and the increased cost of materials have added so much to the cost of operation that increases in freight rates have been practically forced upon the railroads. So far the movement has gained more headway in the East than in the Western States, but in the West as well there is agitation among railroad officials in favor of freight rate increases.

**SILAS MAXSON, JR., TAKES HOLD SOUTH.**

Silas Maxson, Jr., son of Silas Maxson, secretary of the Foster-Armstrong Co., East Rochester, N. Y., and who is one of our bright young and resourceful piano men, has taken charge of the Southern interests of that great corporation, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. He was in New York last week in consultation with his father, who is in charge of the Eastern wholesale interests.

**A BUSY PIANO MANUFACTURER.**

The Henry & S. G. Lindeman player-piano is proving to be one of the greatest successes of this concern, and they are making every effort to meet the demand that is coming their way. Their regular styles of uprights and grands, also continue to be prime favorites, and no better form of appreciation could be noted than the way dealers are reordering.

**SICKESZ SCORES GREAT SUCCESS.**

Jan Sikesz, the Dutch pianist, who is to play the Mason & Hamlin piano on a tour of the United States next season, scored such a great success at his Munich recital that he was at once engaged to play the Liszt Concerto with the Keim Orchestra under the direction of Stavenhagen.

**STARR PIANO CO. EXPANSION.**

A Richmond, Ind., paper of recent date publishes the following pleasing information regarding the plans of the Starr Piano Co., of that city: "With the completion of the proposed addition to the plant of the Starr Piano Co. about 400 employes will be added to the pay roll, making the total number of employes in excess of a thousand. Plans for the new building are now in course of preparation."

Retail trade in pianos in New York was stimulated this week by the arrival of spring-like weather.



**LESTER PIANOS**

Upright and Grand. High Grade, Great Durability, Fine Tonal Quality The Price is Right.

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