

Our Great Christmas Offer

On an Edison Phonograph or a Victor Talking Machine



Nothing Down. We offer to sell you an Edison or Victor machine on the condition that you pay for the records only, and begin to pay for the instrument thirty days later.

We are the direct representatives of the factory and headquarters for both Edison Phonographs and Victor Talking Machines.

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There is nothing so good for the family as laughing. Anything introduced into the family circle which will increase the number of laughs per person per evening is a benefit to the health of the home. An Edison or Victor Phonograph is able to furnish good, hearty, wholesome fun. It is not always funny, but it can be made funny when you like it funny.

The first work of the Phonograph is to amuse. Some people are better amused by things that are not funny. Music, operas, hymns, ballads, old songs—whatever it is that you like best—that is what the Phonograph can give you best.

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Free Concerts Daily. December Records on Sale

The Victor Auxetophone \$500.00

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Aux-e-to-phon means big things, grand music. It means specifically an auxiliary power. It means that when the record starts the sound waves the Auxetophone principle gives them air to float out upon. The result is more music, sweeter and more pleasing tone. The factory has promised to have one on exhibition in our store the last of this week. We would be pleased to have our friends call and hear it play.

OUR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Nothing Down—We offer to sell you an Edison or Victor Talking Machine on the condition that you pay for the Records only, and begin to pay for the instrument thirty days later. **WE PREPAY ALL EXPRESS CHARGES on all RETAIL ORDERS.** Write for catalogue.

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RICHEST TOWN IN THE WORLD

Aristocratic Suburb of Boston Leads the Simple Life.

FEW MUNICIPAL TROUBLES ON HAND

Village System of Government Develops Much Wealth and Low Taxes—Big Tread in a Small Puddle.

Probably the most famous suburb in this country is Brookline, Mass. It is the richest town in the United States; town here meaning a community living under what is known as town government.

Going even farther afield, Brookline is said to be richer than any other place in the world having a similar form of government. It is a sort of cordon de luxe of a village. It emphatically prefers the role of big town in a little puddle to that of little town in a big puddle.

If the road simile is to be used, Brookline inevitably reminds one of that old traditional hopper with a diamond in its head forehead. For Brookline is a Croesus among towns.

Its wealth is not Brookline's only title to celebrity. As a suburb it is unique. Surrounded by Boston, except at a single point, it is like an island in an urban sea. It is the solitary instance of a fat fly safe and serene in the very midst of the spider's web.

For it need not be said that Boston casts a covetous eye upon this rich morsel. Time and again the fly has been invited to walk into Boston's parlor and feed the voracious appetite of Boston's tax list. But the invitation is always declined and one of the most interesting municipalities known keeps right on doing business in the same old way and at the same old stand.

The present population of Brookline is about 25,000. The statistics for this year

are not yet available, but in 1905 the total assessed valuation of property was \$90,582,400. This year it will be \$85,000,000.

The expenditures for last year were \$1,751,338.75; the tax rate was \$12 a thousand, which included state, county and special assessments. This year the tax rate dropped to \$9 a thousand. Just over the village boundary line, citizens of Boston pay more than twice that much.

Town Meeting Government. But the most interesting thing about Brookline is its form of government. It is not only the richest, but the largest community under town meeting control.

As a rule places become cities long before they reach the size of Brookline. When they do that their government is vested in a mayor and a board of aldermen. Only matters of special significance are submitted to the people.

In Brookline everything is submitted to the citizens. They may leave the details to the selectmen, but they vote directly upon every municipal question.

The annual town meeting occurs about the middle of March. A printed notice of this or of any other town meeting must be left at the residence of every legal voter at least seven days beforehand if practicable. In emergencies printed notices may be posted in twenty public places and inserted in a Boston paper twenty-four hours before the meeting.

These notices must contain a complete list of the questions to come before the meeting; what officers, if any, are to be elected; what appropriations considered, etc.

The first act of any town meeting, unless it be an adjourned one, is to choose a moderator. At the annual town meeting the next step is the opening with prayer, and old custom, which however, is dispensed with at adjourned and special meetings.

Even the town officers are elected at these meetings. Instead of the town being divided into districts, each with its own polling place, the constables are "required to notify and warn the inhabitants qualified to vote in elections to meet in the

town hall," on such and such a day, "at 6:30 o'clock in the forenoon."

Simplicity of Elections. The story of such an election day is rather interesting. Take the town meeting of last March, for instance.

Called to order at 6:30 a. m., the moderator was chosen, the prayer offered, the tellers and ballot clerks sworn and two or three votes on special business taken before twelve minutes of 7, when the polls were declared open. The town hall itself was fitted up as a polling place, with a tallied off space; eighty compartments for the convenience of voters, four ballot boxes and four entrances to the same, assigned alphabetically.

At the election thirty-five town officers were chosen and the question of license voted on. The result was announced at 6:45 in the evening.

Having disposed of the election, the town meeting came to order again at 7:30 p. m., chose the rest of the officers, accepted the jury list, authorized the town treasurer to borrow \$200,000, raised up the check lists and ballot boxes, ballots and tally sheets and adjourned at 7:45.

Two weeks later the town meeting reconvened and voted on every item of the year's budget, from \$300,000 for schools to \$200 for grading and planting a lot.

There are about 4,600 registered voters in Brookline and the first impression of the outsider is that a town meeting of 4,600 citizens would be a rather unwieldy body. As a matter of fact the town of Brookline is less than 1,600 persons and there is generally room and to spare for all who come.

Of course voters come and go when there is an election as they do at other polling places so that there are cast about 2,500 ballots during the day. But unless there is a question of unusual interest to come up the town meetings themselves are attended by not more than from 100 to 300 voters.

Absence Gives Consent. There is a provision, however, against the possible circumstance of the town hall being so crowded that not all the citizens who might wish to take part in

the proceedings would be able to get in. That very thing did happen a few years ago, so this solution was devised.

The hall is provided with registering "turnstiles." If a town meeting is attended by less than 700 voters, as shown by these turnstiles, the doors are kept open for the being that there was ample opportunity for the citizens to enter the hall and to take part in the discussion and voting. If they did not do so, it was equivalent to a consent to the action of the meeting.

But if the turnstiles register 700 or more, it is assumed that there may have been citizens unable, owing to the size of the meeting, to participate in the discussion. The acts of such a meeting therefore do not become operative until five days after it has taken place.

If within those five days a petition signed by at least 100 voters is filed with the town clerk, requesting that any one or more of the voters taken at the meeting be submitted to the voters at large. It must be done. This, of course, does not include votes for town officers or any vote required by the general law to be taken by ballot.

The candidates for town officers are all nominated at a citizens' caucus held about ten days before the annual town meeting, which means the annual election, and are selected from among what are called preliminary suggestions. Each of these preliminary suggestions must be made in writing, signed by at least ten voters and accompanied by the written assent of the person named. These suggestions are filed with the town clerk six days before the caucus and the list is published in the local papers.

Party Lines Abolished. In local politics there is comparatively little reference to party lines. There is a desire to see the best man for the place get it regardless of partisan success. Women vote for members of the school committee.

So far at least there has been no cry of graft to disturb the good old fashioned government of Brookline. In spite of the big sums which the town annually spends it is claimed that the citizens get a better return for their money than in any other place with the same expenditure.

There are a good many things in the survival of the old form of government that which seem strange today. The moderator, the sealer of weights and measure, the fence viewers, the field drivers, the pound keeper, the selectmen—somehow they seem by their titles, at least, echoes of another generation.

Two her citizens have voted on the question of annexation to Boston and each time they have rejected the idea with the emphasis of a big majority. Meanwhile the place grows steadily in population while its wealth increases by leaps and bounds.

Pittsfield, Mass., is about the same size as Brookline. In 1904 Pittsfield had 8,442 polls, while Brookline had 26 less. Yet the assessed valuation of Pittsfield was only about \$18,000,000 while that of Brookline was over \$88,000,000.

As things are at present the total wealth of the town averages over \$2,800 for every man, woman and child included in the population.—Philadelphia North American.

NOVELTY IN PHONETIC ARCHIVE

German Emperor's Voice the First Record Actually Taken for America.

One of the novelties of the last few years is the establishment of phonetic archives in which the voices of noteworthy persons are to be preserved. How important such collections will be for the future may be estimated by considering how few of today would appreciate them if they had been made by our ancestors. We shall never know how Shakespeare intended Hamlet to deliver his address to the players. He had his own notions concerning his plays, and undoubtedly instructed his actors by precept, correction and example, but the voice is lost, and all we have today are the mere printed words. In printers' ink and metal type we have nothing but the mummy of an author's thought. How much more to us would be Lounsfellow's "Psalms of Life," spoken by his own voice, than it can ever possibly be now? What would not the world give for record of the voices of Sophocles, Cicero, Charlemagne, Luther and Washington?

Though the past is gone beyond recall, we can save the present. We should pro-

ceed systematically to collect and preserve the voices of persons of historical, literary, or linguistic importance. Not long ago I began to collect American voices, and had a number of prominent men (statesmen, college presidents, writers, etc.) make lists that would include the most important ten living Americans. The selections were highly interesting, but, of course, cannot be made public. It was most unexpected to find that many of the referees had difficulty in selecting ten living Americans of more than temporary interest.

The first record actually taken for such a permanent archive in America was that of a European. Through the American ambassador, Charlesignac Tower, I applied for a "record of the voice of the German emperor, for preservation in durable material in Harvard university, the national museum at Washington and the library of congress at Washington. The record is to be kept as a historical document for posterity. The phonetic archives at the institutions mentioned are to include records from such persons as will presumably have permanent historical interest for America. The importance of the undertaking can be estimated by considering the present value of voices recorded by Demosthenes, Shakespeare or Emperor William the Great.

The emperor consented, and the apparatus was set up in the palace. I asked for four records, one for each of the institutions mentioned and one for my own scientific investigation. The emperor, however, made only two records, designating one for Harvard university and the other for the other purposes. The two records were made by a phonograph (with specially selected records) on wax cylinders. Such cylinders are of no permanent value, because they are often

injured by mold and sooner or later they always crack, owing to changes in temperature.

From each original "master record" a metal matrix was made by coating it with graphite and then salvomplating it. This wax "master record" was then removed (being destroyed in the process), leaving a mold from which "positives"—that is, copies of the original—could be cast. Durable positives were cast in a hard shellac composition and in celluloid. Some casts were also made in wax, and new metal matrices were made from these.—Century Magazine.

Another "Thad" Stevens Anecdote. One winter, when Thaddeus Stevens had come back to his Vermont home, says Harper's Weekly, he was the victim of a severe cold, and could not leave the house for many weeks. One of his callers was the late Lewis Clark, a man of short stature, and who in earlier days had been a playmate of the "Old Comedian," and was a near neighbor of the Stevens family in their Peacham home. Verriers had just begun to wear buffalo coats, and Mr. Clark arrived at the Stevens home almost lost in a coat which reached to the ground. His upturned collar completely covered his ears and face, while a fur cap completed the disguise.

"Is that you, Lewis?" asked Mr. Stevens, in an incredulous tone.

"Yes, Thad," he replied.

"Well, skin yourself and sit down," exclaimed the other.

During the interesting conversation which followed, Mr. Clark asked Stevens if he wouldn't come back to his Vermont home and live.

"No," replied Stevens, "you have but two seasons here—winter and late in the fall."

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