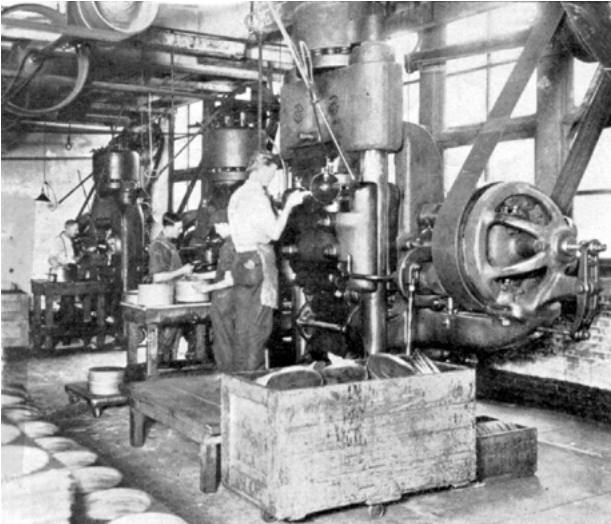


begin with, a taper tone tube looks like a brass cup with no handle. It goes into the first draw press about three and one-half inches in diameter and about the same in height. It comes out elongated to about five inches and with the diameter correspondingly reduced. The tapering of the tube is another wonderful operation. But then there is so much to wonder at that you soon get to the point that you believe anything to be possible in this amazing plant. Perfectly straight tone tubes are passed through tapering machines, and they come out tapered with mathematic precision and with the original smoothness of surface retained to the utmost.

Talking of massiveness, the machines which stamp out and press the turntables make a profound impression. They are - immense. Three different machines are required for the three major operations. First, long sheets of steel are fed through a press which stamps out seven twelve-inch turntables from each sheet. Nip, nip, nip-all day long it goes, and every "nip" means one more turntable.



The next press is even more massive, and it needs to be, for it has to turn over the edge of the turntable and do it evenly and smoothly. Just one movement of the press and it is done. An operator stands at the press feeding the round pieces of steel into it while an assistant close at hand smears them with oil. Next they go into a similar punch press, which, operating under still more power, the center die is pressed for the purpose of stiffening the center of the turntable.

To see pile after pile of these bright, new, oily turntables carried off to a finishing machine is to wonder what on earth is to become of them all. There is still another process-the finishing-where the turntables, two at a time, go into a lathe, where the edges are turned and polished to a perfect smoothness.

Anything from a turntable to a needle arm is stamped out on this one floor. At one point I noticed a press stamping out the door hinges for the Victrola IV. A long "ribbon" of brass, wound on a spindle, was gradually being fed through this stamping machine. The hinges are stamped out and the screw holes, too, all in the one operation. That "ribbon" of brass may have been anywhere from 75 to 150 feet in length. Certainly it was not less.

I thought at first that they were making two parts on the one press, so I called my guide's attention to queer shaped pieces of brass which were dropping into a barrel at the