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\$250,000 DEFICIT FORCED NATIONAL SYMPHONY TO JOIN THE PHILHARMONIC

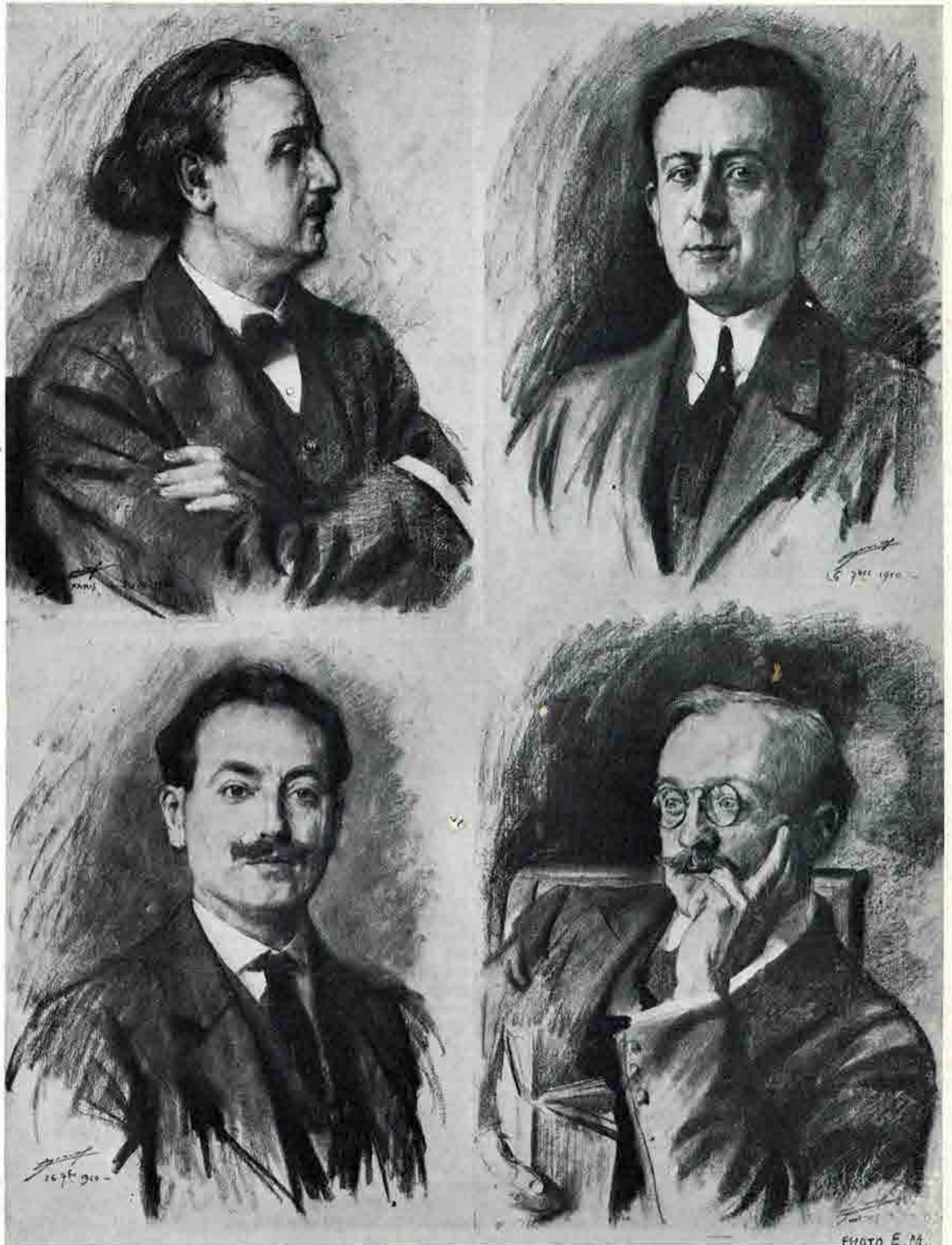
Growing Debt and Abundance of Concerts are Causes Given for Merger of Two New York Forces—Philharmonic Personnel to be Maintained with Few Additions from National Forces—Stransky and Mengelberg to Conduct—Bodanzky to Lead Some Concerts—Philharmonic May Combine with Metropolitan Opera in Spring Festival—Kahn and Krech Added to New Board of Directors—Rumor of Merger Between New York Symphony and Boston Symphony Denied by Engles

A CONSTANTLY growing deficit which threatened to engulf the National Symphony, and the plethora of orchestral concerts far beyond the demand of the city, are said to have been the causes for the merger of the National Symphony and the Philharmonic Orchestras, which was announced exclusively in MUSICAL AMERICA last week.

Last summer the National Symphony, under Artur Bodanzky, reorganized its forces, recruiting many first musicians from the leading orchestras, increasing its schedule for the coming season, and engaging Willem Mengelberg as guest conductor. The season, however, has not materialized as expected, and the orchestra, facing what seemed a losing struggle against the older Philharmonic and New York Symphony Orchestras, early was threatened with financial difficulty.

It is understood that meetings between various factions of the two organizations were held as early as last year for the purpose of bringing about amalgamation, but it was said at that time that the directors of the Philharmonic would not accede to the demands of the other faction that the name of the Philharmonic be discontinued and that Mr. Stransky be eliminated from the conductor-

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THE FLONZALEY QUARTET

Sketches of the Famous Personnel: Above, Adolfo Betti, Alfred Pochon; Below, Iwan d'Archambeau and Louis Bailly, Made by the French Painter, Lucien Jonas. This Season Finds the Quartet Filling Its Largest List of Engagements Throughout the United States. (See Page 2)

Galli-Curci Engaged by Gatti

AMELITA GALLI-CURCI, the most popular coloratura soprano of the day, for six years an idol of the American public, will sing at the Metropolitan Opera House next season as one of Giulio Gatti-Casazza's stellar artists, as well as in Chicago with the Chicago Opera Association. Rumor, which has been linking the soprano's name with the Metropolitan for months past, has it that she will receive a salary equal to that paid Enrico Caruso.

Announcement of the engagement of Mme. Galli-Curci was made by the Metropolitan on Monday night, when it was disclosed that a contract had been signed a year ago, as rumored at that time and reported in MUSICAL AMERICA. Subsequent denials, for the most part of

an indirect nature, failed to quiet these rumors, and they have persisted with increasing evidence that they were not without foundation, although Mme. Galli-Curci and her managers, Messrs. Evans and Salter, guarded the secret as carefully as it was kept at the Metropolitan.

It was stated at the Metropolitan Monday that the intention had been to reserve the announcement until the close of the season, when Mr. Gatti-Casazza will give out his preliminary announcement with regard to next year. The growing insistence of the many rumors, as mirrored in these columns, with the necessity of either affirming or denying the reports, led to a decision to make

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Polacco Appointed Chief Conductor of Chicago Opera

Giorgio Polacco is to be chief conductor of the Chicago Opera Association for the remainder of the present season and next season, according to a statement made on Feb. 8. The contract was said to have been signed with Mary Garden at 11 p. m. on Feb. 7. Mr. Polacco, however, is to be released for the coming summer to conduct at the Colon. Edith Mason has also been retained by Miss Garden to sing leading rôles with the Chicago company next season. As Miss Mason was engaged by a contract signed with Herbert Johnson, the same contract is to hold good and she will make her appearance with the Chicago forces next season. Gino Marinuzzi, when spoken to over the telephone late Monday afternoon, said there was no change in his status with the company.