

MUSICAL AMERICA

Vol. XXXIII. No. 19 NEW YORK

EDITED BY

John C. Freund

MARCH 5, 1921

\$3.00 per Year
15 Cents per Copy

GALLO ARRANGING TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE MANHATTAN

Strenuous Efforts to Save Hammerstein House for Music Expected to Culminate in Leadership for San Carlo Impresario — Associated with Mrs. Hammerstein in Management of Manhattan Since September — Legal Arrangements Now Under Way — Plans to Devote House to Musical Offerings of Character Intended by Founder — Operatic Leases Assured

HEROIC efforts on the part of a number of individuals are being made to save the Manhattan Opera House for the purposes of music to which it was dedicated, and which have been recently threatened by a series of events leading up to a serious financial embarrassment of Mrs. Hammerstein and the possible sale of the property.

According to late reports, however, two men, Sol Blum and Fortune Gallo, had each made offers to effect a deal whereby the famous structure might be maintained for musical and theatrical enterprises. Various mortgages and suits pending have complicated matters, which makes it probable that there may be some delay in reaching a final disposition of the difficulty.

Whatever the outcome of the present situation, there will be no immediate change in the position of the Chicago or San Carlo operas, inasmuch as their leases extend over a period of years.

Mrs. Hammerstein, who has been indomitable in her efforts to maintain the house as a memorial to her late husband, has been seriously handicapped by the large amount of money it has been necessary to expend to refit the structure for the production of grand opera, and also by the fact that judgment is about to be entered in favor of her two step-daughters for a share of their father's estate in conformity with the finding of a referee. It is understood that advance rentals from the San Carlo Opera Company and from the Chicago Opera Association amounting to some \$70,000 enabled Mrs. Hammerstein to continue her hold on the theater last fall. More than two-thirds of this was spent for repairs, leaving little to meet obligations which are now due.

Mr. Gallo, manager of the San Carlo Opera Company and of Pavlova, has been associated with Mrs. Hammerstein in the management of the house since she came into possession of it last September. By their partnership arrangement, he has controlled all bookings in the opera house and prior to their taking possession he arranged with the Chicago Opera Association for their occupancy for annual seasons in January and February for a term of years.

Gallo Arranging Legal Details

"The only question now," said Mr. Gallo, "is whether I am to take complete charge of the Manhattan, releasing Mrs. Hammerstein from any responsibilities or activities other than those of owner and lessor. We are busy now on the



Photo by F. Gino

CARLO GALEFFI,
Baritone, Who Has Made a Profound Impression Through His Work with the Chicago Opera Association. (See Page 8)

many legal arrangements, and it is my belief that we shall complete the negotiations in a few days.

"If I am to become sole lessor of the Manhattan it is my intention to devote it as far as possible to musical offerings of the higher class, such as Mr. Hammerstein had in mind when he built the house, such as the Chicago Opera, Anna Pavlova and her Ballet Russe, the coming Spring Festival of the Oratorio Society conducted by Walter Damrosch, the annual seasons of the San Carlo Grand Opera Company at popular prices, and other similar organizations. We are also booking recitals and concerts for such weeks as may not be booked solidly with opera, ballet or spectacle, and for all Sundays.

"The future of the Manhattan under my management is amply financed, but even if we should not come to this arrangement, and if a sale or receivership should become necessary, this will not affect the leases of the Chicago Opera and my own leases for the San Carlo Grand Opera and the Pavlova Ballet Russe, and these attractions are assured housing in the Manhattan for several years to come, regardless of any other changes."

At the time MUSICAL AMERICA went to press the deal had not been consummated, but it appeared quite certain that Mr. Gallo would make satisfactory terms with Mrs. Hammerstein which would give him control of the famous home of opera.

CARUSO, STILL FIGHTING FEVER, GAINS STRENGTH

Crisis Passed, but Physicians Guard Against Another Relapse — Patient's Appetite Improves and He Rests Well — Passes Forty-Eighth Birthday Without Celebration — Voice Declared Uninjured by Illness

As MUSICAL AMERICA went to press Caruso underwent another operation. On Tuesday afternoon the five attending physicians announced:

"Mr. Caruso has had a slight secondary collection of pus in the flank which has been successfully evacuated. He is now resting comfortably."

It was declared that the operation had greatly relieved the patient and that his speedy recovery was anticipated.

STILL fighting fever, but apparently gaining strength and partaking better of the food brought to him, Enrico Caruso entered another year of his life last Sunday, the day being the forty-eighth anniversary of his birth. There was no celebration and he saw no visitors in the suite at the Vanderbilt Hotel, where he has been ill of suppurative pleurisy since Christmas day.

Flowers were sent to his rooms in great numbers, and telegrams and letters of congratulation came from many parts of the world. Every care was taken, however, to avoid exciting the patient.

Due to an error in various biographical sketches of the tenor, many of the congratulatory messages for his birthday were sent to arrive Friday, Feb. 25. Even some of those closest to the tenor were mistaken with regard to the date until Bruno Zirato, secretary to Caruso, mentioned the matter to him and Caruso told him his birthday was on the 27th and not the 25th. Among the communications received was one from the tenor's brother, Giovanni Caruso, en route from Italy on the Caronia. Since learning of his brother's coming, Caruso has expressed the wish that he might be strong enough to return to Italy with his brother. Tentative plans still contemplate that the patient will be taken to Atlantic City for a few weeks as soon as he is strong enough, and then go either to Italy or the southern part of the United States.

Bulletins of the last week have sounded a hopeful note, without ignoring the fact that Caruso is still a very sick man. The pleura has been reported healing, but inflammation is still present. The fever has been high at times, but on Monday was reported somewhat lower.

Wednesday of last week the following bulletin was issued:

"Mr. Caruso has had no change in his favorable recovery. His condition is satisfactory."

Thursday's communication was as follows:

"Mr. Caruso is progressing slowly, but in a satisfactory manner. His condition is improving in every way."

[Continued on page 2]

IN THIS ISSUE:

In an Old-Fashioned Musical Workshop	17
"Riding Lyceum" in Shut-In Towns	44
Shortage of Musicians in Film Theaters	44
New Psychologic Tests in Music	45