

NATIONAL PHONOGRAPH COMPANY
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

COPY.

Mexico City, March 24th, 04.

Mr. Walter Stevens, Manager Foreign Department,
National Phonograph Company,
No. 83 Chambers Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Miller stated during one of our conversations that it would probably be of assistance in our work down here if he could hear some of the Columbia Mexican records, and following out this suggestion, I yesterday sent you by Wells-Fargo & Co.'s Express, 18 records selected from among the first consignment made by the Columbia people, and which I obtained from Mr. Alcalde, fearing that you might not be able to secure them in New York immediately.

The Following are the records sent:

B A N D

- No. 40047- Descriptive Polka "El Ferrocarril"(The Railroad)1st.Artil-
lery Band.
40006- March "Emblema de la Paz"(Emblem of Peace) " "
40049- "Sangre Española"(Spanish Blood) " "
40051- "Moraina" " "

The first artillery Band, which played for the above records, is the best in the country, as I have previously stated. For making the records the band was trimmed down to thirty instruments. I have as yet been unable to obtain the instrumentation, but would state that the band here tend a great deal more to reed and less to brass than in the U.S.

O R C H E S T R A.

- No. 40046- "Baile de Sèrpresa" (Surprise Dance) Lerdo's Typical Or-
chest.
40033- "Anerosa" " " "
40032- "Alborada Primavera"(Spring Festival) " " "

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All the records taken from this orchestra by the C.P.Co. which I have heard are really too weak to be considered commercial. This orchestra, known as the Orquesta Tipica Lerdo de Tejada, is one of the finest and most popular in the Republic, and is composed of the following instruments; 1 Zither; 1 Salterio (similar to a Zither but larger) ; 3 Mandolins; 1 flute; 1 Guitar; 1 violin; 1 Cello; 1 Bass-viol. Unless we can obtain better results than the Columbia people have, I believe it would hardly be worth while to try to get records from this band.

POPULAR SONGS :

- No. 40017-"Amigo Amigo" (Friend, Friend) Rosales & Murille-duet
- 40018-"Flores del Pasado" (Flowers of the Past) ditto.
- 40036-"Cante á la Patria" Patriotic song M. Rosales.
- 40001 "Aires Nacionales" (National Airs) Rosales & Murille-duet
- 40035-"El Huerfano"(The Orphan) pathetic M.Rosales.

Rosales and Murille, the singers of the above, are Espinosa's men and though perhaps better voices can be secured, their repertoire is the most extensive here. These records I believe are the best the Columbia has. I would remark that very nearly one-half of the records we take down here will have to be of this class, and any suggestions for obtaining the best results from the Guitar accompaniment will be very valuable.

PRINCIPAL THEATRE ARTISTS.

- No. 40027-"El Morrongo" by Soledad Alvarez.
- 40026- Couplets "El Terrible Perez" by Ursula Lopez & Chorus
- 40030-"La Carcerola" " Misses Alvarez & Iris & Mr. Romero.
- 40024- "Los Cocineros" " Ursula Lopez & Chorus
- 40022-"El Caramelo" " " " "
- 40023-"Los Negritos" " P. Pastor & chorus.

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The above records could hardly be considered highly satisfactory, as they are very confused and far from distinct. I am informed that better (though perhaps less popular at the moment) talent can be procured for this class of work, and I am on the track of same.

The Columbia people have also taken other records, of which as yet none have arrived, such as mandolin solos, and a well known Quintette. This Quintette is composed of 1 Piano; 1 Harmonium; 1st and 2nd Violins and 1 Cello.

I trust the above information, as well as the records forwarded, will be of service to Mr. Miller with regard to the record taking plant to be sent here, and beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

R. Cabañas.