

Professor Marie-Victorin
Department of Botany
University of Montreal
Canada

April 2, 1932

Dear Dr. Victorin :

I wish to thank you again for having offered to me the position of Chief Horticulturist of the Montreal Botanic Garden. It has been a great pleasure for me to meet you, and I am certainly grateful to you for your trust in me. However, I have since given the whole matter some more thought and consideration and I have now reached the conclusion that I can not accept your proposition. I am sincerely sorry to disappoint you, but I will explain to you my point of view.

The task to design and to lay out a new botanical garden of worthwhile size, along entirely modern lines, and under avoidance of all the ever repeated mistakes of all the existing botanical gardens, besides that the prospect to work with you as my chief to whom I have entire confidence, attracts me very much. It seems to me that there might be a possibility to do some real great work, perhaps a chance to set a sample as to what a botanical garden really can be, if it is started right and if it is layed according to clear-cut ideas and aims. But, on the other hand, I find myself unable to become reconciled to the salary which you have offered to me. I agreed to it when I spoke to you last week because the vision which I had of your garden attracted me so immensely that I could hardly see anything else for the moment. But after I had cooled off, I realized that this salary was entirely too inadequate and too unattractive to induce me to give up everything I have here, to sell my home, to uproot my family and to start life anew in an other country. I could consider to do that only on a salary which would at least permit my family and myself to live in the moderate comfort to which we have been accustomed. Of course, I understand that you are unable to offer a better salary for the beginning, and that seems to settle the whole matter. You will have to find a younger man with less training and experience

21-
T. Swackhamer, H. & Marie-Victorin, P.

who is willing to start with you with a beginners salary.

I hope that you will understand my point of view and that you will not be angry with me for this withdrawal. You see, I was entirely unprepared for your proposal and so fascinated by its aspects that I even neglected to ask you for a little time in which to think it over.

If there is any other way in which I can assist you in your big task, perhaps by giving you some points from my long experience with botanical gardens, I shall be very happy, indeed, to do all I can. I would even be willing to make a design, or if you wish several different designs for your garden, provided that you can furnish me with a topographical survey of the grounds. Maybe that we can talk that over when you come here again in April, as you said you would. I believe that it would be of great interest and value to you to see the Boyce Thompson Arboretum and the work which has been done here.

If you come, -which I hope you will, even if we are not to work together, I should be obliged to you if you would advise me of your coming about a week ahead of the time. So, that I can make sure to have the day free for you.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you again

I am very sincerely yours

H. Tinsley

170, Truman Ave
Nepera Park,
N. Y.