

return was discontinued. The understanding was that I was to have the greatest liberty in my work, and that the garden was glad to have me here as long as I cared to stay but could not pay me much of a salary. On the other hand, I was free to leave any time I could improve myself. When it now looked, as if the Montreal Garden project would materialize and I would be called there, a movement started - which originated with the board of managers - to keep me here. For years the horticultural staff of this garden has been rather inefficient, and the intention was to reorganize it and to put me in charge. Naturally, I felt very much honored by the confidence placed in my ability and, as much as I should have preferred to come to you and to start a new garden, I could not afford to say "no", as long as you hesitated. Now this scheme has been voted back and forth, and after much deliberation the board of managers has come to the decision that under the present financial conditions it is impossible to do as much as they should like to do, but they have given me the official title of "Arborist" and have given me charge of the woody plants of the garden which at present are in a particularly bad shape. With this appointment goes an increase in my salary, but not as much as was at first contemplated. The hope is that I will stay here until times get better and my position can be still farther improved.

Since, for the time being, this is the best chance I have, I must, of course, make the best of it, and I can not afford to show too much that I am still playing with the idea of going away eventually. Besides, I feel really very much under obligation for all the good will which has been shown to me here. On the other hand, I am quite sure that, in spite of the wish to keep me here, there would be no ill feeling, if I should accept a superior position elsewhere which would give me the chance for which I have been waiting.

And now something else.

I am rather worried about the plants which you are to get from the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and as much as I should like to help you with these plants, I really do not know how much I can help without imposing upon the New Y. Bot. Garden. Through this new arrangement I shall be rather busy here in the spring, and I am afraid that it would not be fair to this garden, if just at that time I would suggest to spend a week or more on the sorting and packing of your plants at the B.Th. Arboretum. As far as I can see there are only two possible ways out.

I told you, and I still stick to it, that, at any time you see your way free to employ me for the organization of your Bot. Garden, I will drop ~~any~~ ^{every} thing else and come to you. So, if within 6 or 8 weeks you see a chance of giving me an appointment, perhaps with a temporary budget of \$ 10000 - I do not believe that we should attempt to start with much less - , perhaps beginning April 15. or May 1., I would terminate my position here and before leaving would supervise the packing of your plants.

If you find that it is impossible to employ me this spring, I should suggest that you send a copy of the list which I left with you to the Boyce Thompson Institut, tell them that these are the plants you want and ask them to send them to you at your expense around April 15. They will then pack the plants with their own men and charge you for the time it took. I feel confident that they would do that quite well, since the propagator of the B.Th. Arboretum is a very able and conscientious man, and I am quite sure that not all of the \$ 300. which the city granted, you will be required to cover the expense of handling and shipping. I would then try to come to Montreal for at least 2 days to sort the plants and put the men to work. You could send me a wire

as soon as the plants arrive. My expenses for the round trip and two days stay should hardly exceed \$ 40., and I am quite sure that that much will be left of the \$ 300.

I believe that you should now, right away, take the necessary steps to get the Government permit for the importation of the plants. Although this may be only a formality, you can not do without a permit, and I know from experience that it usually takes about 6 weeks before you get it, after having applied. You should send the importation papers to the Boyce Thompson Institut when you send them the list. In case I should find it altogether impossible to come to Montreal even for 2 days, I promise to work out detailed instructions which you can hand to the man who supervises the planting of the plants.

Hoping that by now you have perfectly recovered from your illness and that I shall hear from you soon

I am as always

faithfully yours

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