

JARDIN BOTANIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

4101 EST, RUE SHERBROOKE  
MONTRÉAL, CANADA



MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

4101 SHERBROOKE STREET EAST  
MONTREAL, CANADA

F. MARIE-VICTORIN, D.Sc., M.S.R.C.  
Directeur - Director

HENRY TEUSCHER  
Surintendant et horticulteur en chef  
Superintendent and Chief Horticulturist

July 1938

Dear brother Victorin:

I received your cheerful note from Washington which made me happy, since it seemed to indicate that you are feeling better.

As everybody here I hope with all my heart that this trip which you are now taking will help to restore your health and that you will return to us as your usual self. The Botanical Garden needs you yet for many years.

Everything is going well here, and Professor Ponsseau, who has now taken his new duties over with his usual energy, is getting ready to take the reins when I leave. I am very glad to be able to leave everything in such competent hands, with his clear brain behind them, and I feel confident that no serious trouble will mar the progress of the work during my absence. No new work will be started while I am away, and the various projects which are under construction have been carefully lined out so that I am not afraid that any serious mistakes might be made.

I have made a design for a park south of Sherbrooke str.

725-Marie-Victorin, Fr.

between Desjardins st. and P<sup>te</sup> IX<sup>e</sup> b<sup>ou</sup>l. and I believe that it is a good design. Certainly it is very different from any city park so far existing in Montreal, and I hope that it will be carried out, as I have designed it. We are making a plastilene model of this park which, because of the formal nature of the layout and the interesting changes in levels ought to be quite impressive.

The wall near the pergola in the display garden which had been built too high will now be taken down and be brought to the right level. I can be frightfully persistent if I want to, but Mr. Keroak has bested me so often, and as I feel not to the advantage of the garden, that I had firmly made up my mind not to give in in this case and not to let him defeat my purpose again. I suppose you heard that the beavers on the fountain in front of the pavilion will not be taken off. Mr. Tremblay likes them very much. But that does not matter. As soon as we get our charter and are independent we can get the beavers removed at small expense. With the wall it is different. After the garden is all finished it would be very expensive and cause much unfavorable comment in this gossipy town, if we would tear it apart again.

Meilens and Baril are busily gathering seeds for our exchange list and have brought back from their trips some very

desirable things, among these *Polygala senega* which is so much in demand and which we never managed to get before.

We are also watching *Convolvulus spithameus* of which we hope to get a good supply of seeds and somebody is waiting for us a fruiting colony of *Panax quinquefolium* which he has discovered.

But that is Meillens good work, of whom as always I can report nothing that is not favorable. We discussed the other day whether it might not be a good thing to publish our general map in our next seed list and everybody seemed to be in favor of the idea. What do you think of it? Most of our correspondents so far do not <sup>at</sup> all realize what a big and ambitious undertaking this garden is and the maps would give them a better idea than anything else.

We got it photographed now, and I am sending you a print of it. We intend to distribute these prints to the newspapers next week.

The government movie photographer was here three times this week and has taken pictures of all the important works. I have always gone with him myself to make sure that nothing would be forgotten. Yesterday we were lucky enough to catch a class of girl scouts, whom Racine was giving a demonstration and instructions in the potting of plants. This ought to make an interesting scene in the movies.

Prof. Roussier is going to ask Minister Tremblay to give or sell us a copy of this film which should prove to be an extremely valuable record for us later on. If on the hundredth anniversary of this garden the film of its construction is shown on the screen, my

My European address will be: GENERAL SEKRETARIAT, XII. INTERNATIONALER GARTENBAUKONGRESS  
BERLIN N.W. 40, SCHLIEFENWEG 21, Germany

ghost is sure to sit unseen in the audience to watch it.  
I have received my cheque for \$1000. from the government and am all set to go now. I am leaving on the 15<sup>th</sup>. on the Duchess of Bedford, going first to Belfast (interesting greenhouse with tropical ravine in Botanical Garden) then to Glasgow (empire exposition), then Edinburgh (Botanical Garden), then London (Kew Gardens, Wisley gardens of the R. H. S., Hampton court park), then Brussels (new greenhouses at Botanical Garden) then Paris (on Sunday in Versailles and one day at Jardin des Plantes to see the new greenhouses there which according to Dausseaux are a brilliant example of how greenhouses should not be built; but that will be particularly interesting) then Essen (national garden show) then Bonn (Botanical Garden, very good new greenhouses), then Leipzig (to visit the workshops of Germany's leading greenhouse builders) then Quedlinburg (national institute for horticultural plant research) then Berlin (international congress). After the congress I hope to go to Copenhagen and to Göteborg provided that my money carries me that far, which I am afraid it might not. If everything goes as planned I shall leave from Hamburg on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of August after having spent a couple of days in Hamburg visiting its famous city parks (among the best in Europe) if I can afford it I shall also spend a day in New York before returning to Montreal which I should reach at the latest on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. I am taking a dozen film packs for my camera with me and hope to take a lot of pictures for a series of interesting lectures next winter. Enclosed find a few recent pictures from our gardens which I thought you might like to have to show to friends. With all good wishes and the assurance that I shall think of you wherever I am  
your faithfully devoted friend and disciple H. Tenster