

Frère Marie-Victorin
Directeur de l'Institut Botanique
Université de Montréal

Aug. 5. 1932

Dear Dr. Victorin :

I have of late worked on transforming my notes to a program of which I sent you a copy into an article on "Ideas to the laying out of a modern botanical garden". It is not finished as yet, but the thought occurred to me that it might be of interest, if I would give a public lecture along these lines when I come to Montréal. Please, tell me what you think of this idea in principle. It might be good advertisement for you as well as for me, and I should gladly be willing to send you my concept for revision some time in advance, to make sure that I do not say anything you do not want me to say. I should be very glad, indeed, to deliver the lecture free.

The more I look at the design of the architect for the beautification of the grounds around the building, the more it amuses me. How pretty that looks on paper, and how pretty it would look from a balloon, but can you visualize how absolutely horrible it will look, if you stand right in the midst of it? You will get the most atrocious perspectives, no matter from which point you see it.

I do hope so much that you can still prevent the greenhouse and heating-plant from being built where they are marked on the map. It would be a very serious mistake to put them there, since it would mean to treat the whole rest of the garden as backyard.

The conservatories, if any are built, must absolutely be combined in one block, and the heating-plant must be as close to them as is feasible. If you scatter the greenhouses in the way the architect suggests, you are bound to have such an enormous loss of heat, that your fuel-bill will be more than twice as big as it should be. And, believe me, that is a very big item. I realize, of course, that you do not intend to build any conservatories for some time to come, but, firstly, this point serves to stress the utter impracticability of the whole design of the architect, and, secondly, if you locate the heating-plant, you must by necessity also locate the conservatories which are to be served by it, no matter whether you build them now or later. You can not get away from the necessity of designing the whole garden in one piece without making serious mistakes.

I am as always

very sincerely yours

H. Teuscher

H. Teuscher
170 Truman Ave.
Nepera Park, New York

21-
Truman Ave., H. to Marie-Victorin, B.