

Frère Marie-Victorin
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July 15. 1932

Dear Professor Victorin :

I received your letter of July 7. and beg to advise you that September would be as convenient a time for me to come to Montreal as any other. I shall now count on the 10th. of that month and shall hold the following 3 weeks open for you. If for any reason you should be forced to change this date, I should appreciate it, if you would let me know as early as possible. September is still a pretty good month for your purpose, but I believe that it would be rather unfortunate, if you should have to postpone my coming to a much later date. I should like to make some tests of the soil and subsoil, and, if you have no topographical survey of your grounds, I should like to take at least a few shots with a surveying instrument, to get a general idea of the elevations. I should also like very much to see the native flora of your grounds before the first frosts kill it, even if there is not much more than weeds, since it would enable me to draw important conclusions as to the condition of the soil.

As to the plants from the Boyce Thompson Arboretum which I mentioned to you in one of my previous letters, I wonder, if it would not be a good thing, if you could mention them also to the city authorities at the first opportunity you get and find out how they feel towards them. It seems to me that there is such a unique chance for you to start your collection that you can hardly afford to overlook it. The plain facts concerning these plants are as follows :
There are about 4-5000 plants which you can get in at least 1000 varieties of trees and shrubs, gathered from all corners of the world and including many new and rare species and varieties. All of them have been grown in pots which would assure their safe travel and easy establishment. After 2 years growth in the nursery most of them would be large enough to be planted out in the garden. The market value of these plants would be from 50¢ to \$ 1. a piece, though only very few of these varieties are in the nursery trade and most of them can not be bought at all. The expense to you to get these plants I would compute to be about as follows :
You would have to pay the express which I would judge should not amount to more than \$50 or 60.
The careful listing, labelling and packing would take about 2 weeks, hardly less. The wage for one man as a helper for 2 weeks at the rate of \$ 5. a day - which is still the current wage for a gardener here - would amount to another \$ 60.

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Tsuwakuhan, H. to Marie-Victorin, B.

If you employ me I should, of course, want to supervise the packing myself, otherwise the propagator of the arboretum would have to supervise it. I do not know, whether the Boyce Thompson Institute would ask you to refund his salary too, but, even if it would, the expense of everything together should in no case exceed \$ 300. Compared with the marketvalue of \$ 2000 or more this certainly constitutes an extraordinary bargain. Besides these plants have complete records as to origin, age etc., while nothing that you buy from a nursery ever has a record. I have asked the arboretum not to destroy any plants for the time being, so they are still there. If you could have made a start with your garden this fall, I should have suggested that you get these plants this fall, winter them over in a frame, and plant them in the nursery next spring. It now seems quite evident, though, that you will not get going until late this year at the best, so the plants will probably best remain here for the winter, to be shipped to you in the spring. If you can not take them by then, however, they will have to be destroyed, since the room they occupy is needed. Please give this your most careful consideration.

I am so persistent in urging these plants upon you because I am sincerely interested in your project, and because I know these plants and their value. If I should get a chance to lay out your garden, I should forever be sorry, if you would miss the opportunity for a flying start which these plants offer to you. With the help of these plants you could make a big showing in your garden within 3 years, while without them you could hardly have anything worth looking at for at least 6 years. Quite a few of the varieties contained in this collection you may never be able to get again.

I should be very glad to have the groundplan which you mention in your last letter, and also the provisional map of the corner where the building is to be erected.

Very sincerely yours

H. Teuscher

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