

BEATRIX FARRAND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
~~124 EAST 40TH STREET~~
~~NEW YORK~~

Valley Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara, California

January 5, 1942

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss,
Casa Dorinda,
Hot Springs Road,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dearest Mildred:

Evidently increasing pressure is going to be brought at Dumbarton Oaks on plant reduction and cost, as a letter from Professor Sachs has just come, speaking pleasantly of their wish to maintain, as far as possible, the care and replacement of the trees and shrubs, and then adding "it seems to me that, we must review with care and thought each time the question of new planting of flowers comes up. It is naturally my hope that as few changes as possible will have to be made, but until this emergency is over we may have to curtail our activities in many ways which we do not like."

It would seem as though Harvard expected each and every annual replacement in the gardens to be discussed before carrying out the usual summer flower program. I cannot think this is necessary at the moment, and I also feel certain that economies are being made at the expense of the garden in order to leave further funds free for the scholastic and library work. It is proper that the scholars should have the main proportion of income and facilities given them, but it surely is not right to so cut down the gardens and their upkeep that only trees, shrubs and lawns are maintained, as the whole of Dumbarton is a unit, out-door as well as indoor, and the out-of-doors and the indoor plants should, to my way of thinking, not be sacrificed until it becomes a patriotic necessity.

Obviously, the pressure on Mr. Thacher is desperate and has been increasing steadily.

A letter has just come from good Mr. Russell, saying that Miss Sweeney has come into his office, quite keen and enthusiastic about her job and feeling that she is being of use. This is also confirmed by Professor Sachs.

She reported to Mr. Russell, however, that Bryce was unhappy and disturbed as he felt his own position none too secure and Ralph has apparently been detached from his former place and made library messenger.

Bryce is doing his very best. I wish he were not so badgered by the "heads" and their pressure on Mr. Thacher. It has made him unhappy and naturally, but perhaps unnecessarily, apprehensive.

The Botanic Garden addition plans for the Director's Office and further future study rooms are likely to be ready for you to look at before the meeting on Thursday. They will not be discussed at the meeting, but it seems to both Miss Riggs and me that you should be given some idea of what possible future developments were being considered.

A slight cold in the "machinery" keeps me in bed for a day or two, where it is nice and warm and where good Max plays his games of patience alongside of me.

Yours ever and always,

Trix