

May 15, 1941.

Mrs. Max Farrand,
Reef Point,
Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Farrand,

Your letter of May 13th makes me realize that I have been very neglectful in not writing to you in regard to Mr. Root's decision (for your information, his full name and address are: Irving C. Root, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, Washington, D. C.)

Four or five days after we talked with him, he rang me on the telephone and said that his colleagues would be delighted to have a Dumbarton Oaks Park Committee to consist of: 1 Bliss, 1 Harvard, 1 Farrand, and himself. He suggested that we wait until the four of us are able to have a meeting before deciding on the fifth member, which sounds to me very sensible. He said that he would be delighted to have the services of the three old men to work in the park under the supervision of their foreman. I can quite understand that they would have to be responsible to the park foreman, but in actuality, they would be working under Bryce's guidance, as apparently the park foreman turns to Bryce constantly for guidance and advice. I have written all this to Mrs. Bliss plus a suggestion of Bryce's and my own to the effect that we wondered whether inasmuch as the park seems to be doing very well on its own in regard to maintenance, whether it wouldn't be wiser to wait until the autumn before giving them this additional help. I am always a little fearful that organizations will grow lax in their own responsibilities if they know that they can depend upon outside help. By autumn or next spring, I should think that we could tell much better just what assistance the park may need. Bryce tells me that the Blisses have no objection to these three old men. Since writing this to Mrs. Bliss, I have had no word from her. If I have said the wrong thing, please do not hesitate to scold me, but in any event, I do not believe that Mrs. Bliss will take any suggestions from me about garden matters very seriously!

There has been a lull in the activities of the schools in regard to the gardens, but I am stimulating them now and I hope to have more definite news for you soon. Something must be done about it so that we can discuss Miss Sweeney's future. Unless we have an unexpected decision in our favour from the Tax Commission, I fear that we shall not be able to increase our budget sufficiently to take care of Miss Sweeney.

The poor oak has been pruned and is looking extremely sad and pathetic with its great bare limbs stretching up against the sky like a gargantuan scarecrow.

It must be a great relief to you to be home again and I hope that you will now feel rested after your arduous travels. Do you think there is any chance of seeing you again at Dumbarton Oaks this year? I expect to be here until late in June, so anytime will be convenient for me excepting over the weekend of Decoration Day.

With all good wishes,

Yours ever sincerely,

P. S. Your letter of May 14th has just been received. Do you think I should call up Mr. Root and ask him what should be done in order to make the committee official?