

P-C- *wire*

OLMSTED BROTHERS  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, BROOKLINE, MASS.

JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED    FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
JAMES FREDERICK DAWSON    PERCIVAL GALLAGHER

OLMSTED BROTHERS	
REC'D MAR 23 1911	BY
ACK'D	BY
ANS'D <i>Mar 30</i>	BY <i>WKB</i>
READ BY	

23 March, 1911.

Mr. Harold Hill Blossom,

620 Timken Building, San Diego, California.

Dear Blossom:

I have received your letter of March 16th, for which I am obliged.

I am greatly disturbed about Cumming not making good and I do not object at all to Allen letting him go on account of his being inefficient. I do feel disturbed however over Allen taking on Sessions in such a hurried way without giving me a chance to comment on it. You realize that the Commission as well as ourselves have been criticised by a lot of local people for employing people from the east and not using the people in San Diego. Deliberately firing Cumming and hiring a local man without *plants-propagation at large and* knowing how much he knows about carrying out plans, (which I believe is very little) is practically an acknowledgement that these criticisms on the part of those who make them are correct. As soon as I received Mr. Olmsted's letter in Louisville I wired that I was going to get into communication with other men, which I did immediately, and the man, Rementer,

was a man I had in mind before we decided on Cumming. In weighing the various men I was thinking the most important man to get was the man who had the best planting<sup>and landscape</sup> knowledge, as I felt that all the grading and construction work, etc., had better be handled by Allen any way, as it was at Seattle, even the ploughing. We went ahead with this particular ploughing because Allen did not have his outfit there. Of course this was no fault of his. When I telegraphed to Seattle to see if I could get Rementer I felt, as I wrote Mr. John C. Olmsted, that we would get him down there on the ground and, if Cumming did not make good shift in such a way as to avoid comment. Please use every possible effort to keep down criticism which might arise from this change.

When my attention was called to Cumming by Fohn so strongly I made it a special point to stop at Colorado Springs on one of my trips and look him up. At the time I found him <sup>in</sup> the midst of a large piece of <sup>private</sup> work, carrying out one of Oglesby Paul's plans for walls, terraces, etc., The work was not under contract and there was a large force of men on the place. At the time Cumming seemed to be hustling around giving instructions from different detailed plans, building a drive, grading and planting all at the same time. He struck me as being wide-awake and seemed to me to be a specially valuable man for our work. I thought so well of him that I even had in mind getting him into the office to use as an inspector. Constantly I had letters from Fohn

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recommending Cumming as an unusual young man with energy and knowledge of landscape work. Fohn had ~~been~~<sup>said</sup> such a good man at Thorne's and always seemed to be so efficient and active himself in all-around landscape work that I am certainly disappointed in him and felt this disappointment before I left San Diego. I had two or three talks with Cumming and tried to get him to braoden out and keep more intelligent track of the cost of the work. This matter of keeping track of the cost of work is not such a laborious one as he seemed to think, as it is not necessary to keep a check on every minute portion of the work. What I wanted him to do was to keep track of the cost of ploughing, under certain conditions, per acre, and the same with harrowing, cultivating and planting trees.<sup>etc</sup> He could have done this himself in a very short time when he was on different parts of the work, and also had his time keeper keep a check on it.

Yours very truly,

James D. Dawson