

March 5, 1942

Mr. Phillip H. Roland,  
432 Malden St.,  
Revere, Mass.

Dear Phil:

I just returned from a trip through the middle west, and found your wire of the 28th awaiting me here. Conditions here are in extreme turmoil, but I judge that there will be considerable clarification of the Japanese situation in the next sixty days. Eventually the production of cut flowers by the Japanese will be practically entirely eliminated, and it is going to be impossible for American growers to take over and maintain the volume of production that has existed heretofore. The government is giving the Japanese a limited time to dispose of their holdings and move inland, where, of course, it will be impossible for them to grow flowers.

Many of the Japanese places will be taken over by white growers, but there will be a definite decrease in the production of flowers here on the coast for at least a year or two, and there will be a severe reduction in the amount of chrysanthemums grown, which will, of course, inure to your benefit in the east but has the shippers here worried sick because they definitely will not have the volume to ship east this coming year that they have had in the past. Various ones will, of course, attempt to grow their own. Such firms as E. W. McLellan Company will, I judge, go heavier into the growing of chrysanthemums, but I question very much the ability of the American growers to produce even a fraction of the amount that was grown last year.

As you are aware, I have many customers among the Japanese and am very much interested in how this situation is going to work out. Within a month or more I feel I will be able to give you quite an accurate picture of what we can look forward to as far as production for this coming year is concerned. In laying your plans for the coming season, I feel that it would be well for you to figure on the basis of no "mums" being shipped from here to Boston. I am going to Los Angeles in a couple of days and expect to collect further information there, and if anything specific comes up I feel will be of value to you, I will drop you a line at once.

My stock plants are in good shape and you can look forward to receiving first class stock from me at Easter.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

PE/mk