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Letter with attachment: H.D. Russell to Thelma Wolfe, December 21, 1932

Russell, H.D.

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Dear Miss Wolfe,

I am sending to your employer something I don't know what to call it. I am an egotist enough to think it contains many facts and much truth all jumbled together.

I believe it contains material sufficient for a good story letter. As I never was within your 60 years of the Grant door of a College, you can understand am in class of my Colored Friends knew lot of good words but didn't know just what they belonged to. Present my apologies with the Jumbled with hope she will find something that fills a line.

With the best wishes for you and yours for the present and coming year, I must not disappoint you by not getting your best...

Yours...

Theodore Russell
I am greatly interested in the crucial problems facing American business? What is the matter?"

1st. Ignoring the fundamentals of the founders of our Republic, "Equal rights for all, special privileges for none."

2nd. Special privileges for a favored few, again completely ignoring the great principles of the immortal and spiritual Lincoln, "Government of the people, for the people and by the people."

Again substituting government of special interest for a favored few by strongly intrenched greedy and selfish groups acting under the protection of laws made by the servants of this same small but powerful minority called Congress, at enormous expense of the great majority of 80 to 90% of our people.

Briefly, this mismanagement of government affairs is clearly evident by the results, viz: Great overwhelming surplus of money worth less than 2% in hands and under control of this same small group and favored few, while untold millions are suffering from cold and hunger - as Dr. Bradley, Christian and humanitarian remarked, "Great poverty amidst great plenty." What is the matter?

Our state and other departments have so managed or rather mismanaged our foreign affairs as to alienate the friendship of at least twenty or thirty foreign nations who will buy goods of Uncle Sam when they cannot get what they want anywhere else. What is the matter? Just one illustration: Our short-sighted selfish treatment of our splendid neighbor, Canada (at the dictation of this same few) has cost us untold millions and they as the others, did not "turn the other cheek". Now England, our best buyer takes her wheat from Canada. Our farm products, the cornerstone of our foundation, we still have. What is the matter?

This same Uncle Sam, through his Agricultural Department presided over by Mr. Hyde, has poured untold millions into the hands of ignorant men and men ignorant of the job they assume - "Would a wise man take a Swiss watch to a blacksmith or carpenter to be repaired?" These men have spent directly near a billion dollars in actual money, and God only can comprehend the indirect cost in the absurd idea of teaching the farmers their own business. In short, this department of Uncle Sam is a racket manned by racketeers who would make Captain Kidd and Al Capone and his gang of gunmen look like 27 cents. What is the matter?

These blood-suckers are protected and within the law. Uncle Sam pays all the loss, and the farmer sells his farm to pay his taxes to be able to pay Uncle Sam that he may retain these blood-suckers at $5000, $10,000, $15,000, $20,000, $25,000, yes, $50,000 a year (Utterly useless) on his payroll. What is the matter? All this to help the farmer. What a burlesque, what a farce - called the Farm Board, and yet that great farm leader Senator Capper of Kansas and Secretary Hyde had the nerve to tell the farmers what wonderful things they had done for them, and what is yet to come.
The President of the United States in a most vigorous speech from St. Paul, center of this great industrious hard working people, did his very best to ram down the throats of the suffering men and women what he and his friends have done for them, and worse, warned them what might happen if they should dare to make a change from his policies and method. A great effort, mostly cold bluff and hot air. What is the matter?

It was the boast and policy a few years ago of men in charge of our affairs to say "Let us build a fence or wall so high our neighbors cannot even see over. We are sufficient unto ourselves." We can dispose of all we produce to ourselves, to our own consumers, and let the outside world go where the life of the snowball is short." What is the matter? The world has taken us at our word and they are supplying their wants elsewhere.

I should like to say something to show that Uncle Sam left the straight and narrow path, viz: The foundation of rock advocated by Samuel Tilden and others and has been building since that time (with few exceptions) upon quick sands and much worse. It surely will require a wise head to see and point the way out of this mess; one must go way back and make clear to the American people the cause, yes, the cause. To accomplish this one must use adjectives not ladylike, but meaning "Hit with an axe". Millions of good, honest, intelligent citizens don't know what it is all about. What is the matter?

Hoover, Capper, Smoot, Moses, Watson, acting as messenger boys for a bad system have been discharged. This will help by dumping this excess baggage and will lighten the burden of Uncle Sam's Ship of State. When the greatest engineer in America sits in a group of what should have been the wisest and highest characters, while these fellows-members steal the Teapot Dome, what is the matter? He must have been tongue-tied and worn blinders to keep out the sunlight of truth. A little later, two or three of the outstanding and leading U.S. Senators, headed by the old time Senator Smoot, ordered to investigate, could find nothing wrong. (They must have worn blinders).

When an obscure senator, ignoring courtesy took matters in hand and showed up and convicted the most daring corrupt gang operating right at the head of our great government, THAT IS WHAT'S THE MATTER.

As a boy in good old Vermont, I often watched mother take the rich yellow cream from a pan of farmer sweet rich milk. I never saw her set this same pan of new sour milk back and expect more cream, but Uncle Sam has had his cream -- and like the young man of olden times who secured his share of the estate from a generous indulgent father, had a heck of a time with wine, women and song and finally was glad to return and accept crumbs from his father's table. Yes, Uncle Sam, or his clerks, and children under poor and worse management, have had a heck of a time, and not wishing to separate his blood-suckers and racketeers from their salaries is borrowing money and arranging for sales tax, etc., (as the fidler must be paid) to save Uncle Sam from going off the gold standard. Also the Farm Board must be paid. That is what's the matter.
Yes, we still have the plan advocated by Jefferson, Lincoln, Samuel Tilden, Grover Cleveland, Teddy, Wilson & others, but greatly distorted by this same selfish few. Cleveland believed and taught, "Public office a sacred trust," Cleveland's method was changed to read "Public trust private snap 'A la Teapot Dome". THAT IS WHAT'S THE MATTER.

If we continue, we may yet be playing second fiddle to Russia as did Rome to the northern barbarians. What is the matter? What must be done? Clean house, especially the rotten foundation, which has been substituted, also clean out and keep out the powerful and selfish few who have dominated and directed and prevented the policy of assailing of 80 to 90 for the benefit of the favored few, which policy has prevailed with few exceptions for the past fifty years.

The waters of Niagara and mother's cream have gone never to return. By my vote, I feel guilty of assisting in a small way in turning over to Dr. Roosevelt, a patient with one lung gone and the other badly afflicted, troubled with Bright's Disease and other ailments and broken, and then because the doctor can do but little for him hear the exclamation "I told you so." Why? Because they will not reason from cause to effect and consequently don't know what is the Matter.

However, the change will prove of good benefit provided the new Doctor succeeds in cutting all expenses, all salaries of all kinds including Judges, Members of Congress and all the way down to Janitors, Carpenters, etc., etc., in the middle, yes, in half and induce the people to give up their extravagant ideas and come back to earth.

However, not much use or help to lock the barn door after 2/4 of the choice stock has disappeared, as well as funds to buy more.

True, the Golden Rule is still in use with the new interpretation "Do some one before they do you."

The new President March 4th, will find Uncle Sam in similar condition to Humpty Dumpty after his fall. All the kings' oxen, etc.

What is the matter, and what must be done?

The same searchlight as was thrown on and used on the policies and practice of Standard Oil many years ago, only with four times more vigor.

"The Spiritual needs more correction than the Industrial."
When a Ward Machine politician gets to be a member of Pres. Cabinet because of his ability to control votes his importance is such he has to have a plug that is then a 500 or 6000 act to match the hat. The bill is paid by Uncle Sam & the Department. President offers by Chris. Sick hat is behind hundred millions. What is the Mattox? We are on to bigger things. 

Fred