

#38. (I)

1925, Dec. 18

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
CHARLES S. SLICHTER, DEAN
157 BASCOM HALL

December 18, 1925

Dean H. L. Russell
American Club
Shangnai, China

My Dear Russell:

Glow

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation was duly incorporated about six or seven weeks ago. As you have undoubtedly heard from Morrison things have been standing still ever since because of certain activities of some of the dairy people in the state. Morrison has become very much excited over the matter and has stirred up President Frank. Granger and other dairy people do not see the point at all that we are really putting ourselves in a strong position to protect their interests by protecting the discovery by patent. Steenbock told me yesterday that if there was too much difficulty in the matter, he felt the only course open to him was to secure the patents in his own name and make such use of them as he could in case he was successful.

As the matter lies in my mind, I think the following procedure is safe and desirable.

First - To proceed to make a contract with Steenbock and ^{also} prosecute the application for a patent as expeditiously as possible.

Second - To make contracts with pharmaceutical companies for the manufacture of anti-richtic oils.

Third - To await word from you concerning the contract with Quaker Oats.

Fourth - To reserve entirely until your return any possibility of contracts or other action that would affect the use of the discovery in oleomargerine.

In explaining the above it seems to me:

First - that the value of the discovery in anti-richtic oils is so great for growing children that we should not delay in putting a suitable certified substitute for cod liver oil on the market. It looks to me as if this is almost a duty to humanity.

Second - The contract with the Quaker Oats people would undoubtedly have to extend over a minimum period of five years. Personally, I believe we should proceed with such a contract, but I would like to receive a confirmation from you by cable or otherwise.

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Third - The opposition of the dairy people in this state seems to me could be taken care of if we should assure them that nothing affecting their interests will be undertaken until they can discuss the matter with you.

It seems to me that the dairy people are taking a position which is not the best for their own good in this matter. We have a responsibility to the dairy interests of this state and also other dairy interests throughout the country. I think we could be justly criticised when a discovery of this kind is made if we did not take steps to make the use of it in competing products a matter subject to contract. The only possible way of doing this, as far as I can see, is to secure "letters patent". Personally, I have no doubt if this could be understood and left to a vote of the dairy interests in general that they would approve such a course. A few of the individuals who are now intensely interested in the matter have started wrong. They are taking a position quite different from that taken by Hoard, who always thought we had made a mistake in not patenting Babcock's device. These people should have in mind the fact that if this discovery is thrown open to general use, that the oleomargarine people are powerful and well organized and they will be able to secure patents almost as good as base patents on the mechanism of radiation that will give them protection and may even make it difficult to use the same method for legitimate dairy products-except by contributing in royalties to the oleomargarine manufacturers.

I think it is agreed by Mr. Morrison and others that there should be no delay in protecting the discovery by application for the patents. A slight difference of opinion arises when we reach the point of making contract with the Quaker Oats people. It will be very difficult to hold over that matter until your return, but of course, we will do exactly as you desire in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Dean

Copy - being sent to
Manila Hotel
Manila.