

THE DUMBA LETTER

Possibly the worst has not been made public yet in regard to what an American journal calls the "rat-hole diplomacy" carried on by Germany and Austria in the United States. But the Dumba letter, published yesterday, is a climax to the revelations that have been made to date.

Commenting on the series of exposures made by the New York World, which, it says shows the "clumsiest and dirtiest propaganda" ever carried on in the country, Collier's in the present week issue adds:

No one knows to what extent German official representatives are implicated. That will be ascertained and prompt diplomatic action taken.

Now the nation has before it the complete text of a letter, written by no less a personage than the Austrian ambassador, in which he tells his chief at Vienna how steps have been taken, by the expenditure of large sums of money, to bring about strikes in American factories that are engaged in the manufacture of munitions.

This will surely prove the last straw. It makes absolutely plain what has for some time been suspected that the accredited representatives of the Teutonic powers have been directing a thoroughly organized conspiracy to demoralize legitimate American industry. It has already been shown how the Berlin and Vienna governments have distributed money for the purpose of corrupting the press.

The man who was conveying this letter from Dumba to Burian, Mr. James F. J. Archibald, and among whose effects it was found, is one of the American magazine writers whose articles of praising the kaiser and all his works have been scattered broadcast throughout this continent during the past year and referred to as representative of intelligent American opinion on the war.

When the news of Mr. Archibald's detention was cabled last Friday, the New York Herald sought information regarding him from his friends. The following appears in the issue of that paper of that day:

They contended that Mr. Archibald knew that he was under surveillance and would have realized the folly of attempting to act as a dispatch bearer, even if the German officials here were so desperate as to seek his services.

That Mr. Archibald might have had letters regarding German affairs among his effects was not questioned by his friends and associates, who admitted that he was thoroughly interested in the German cause and unequivocally its supporter in so far as it affects nations now at war against the kaiser's forces. They declared, however, that any one who had ever read an article by Mr. Archibald, heard him lecture or known him at all would realize that he was a patriotic American and above taking advantage of American passports unfairly.

Well, the public knows what to think of this "patriotic" American now and it also

knows what ought to be done with Mr. Dumba and the other conspirators who have abused so shamefully the privileges accorded them in a neutral country.

The Dumba letter also gives great interest to a reply which was published at the close of last week from Samuel Gompers, now and for many years the able and trusted head of the American Federation of Labor, to an invitation extended to him to give his support to the so-called "Friends of Peace" movement. He pours the hottest kind of shot into the ranks of its leaders, who he says have been seeking to influence union workers in favor of "one side of warring nations as against others." Then he goes on to make what must be regarded as an immensely important declaration, considering the position he occupies.

It may not be uninteresting, he says, to call attention to the fact that paid emissaries of your "friends of peace" have gone from city to city and by insidious and false representations attempted to financially corrupt a large number of representative men among the union workers of the United States. That so many have proved incorruptible is due to their intelligence, to their honor and to their integrity. That a number of workers have been cajoled into the belief that by attending your meeting they want peace, they are friends of peace, as is every humanity loving man and woman of our country, but the false pretence will disclose itself to them not only by your meeting, but by that which will inevitably follow.

Now that this and other movements have been definitely linked up with the German and Austrian governments, they become a matter of more than domestic interest. The situation that results promises to overshadow even that arising out of the policy of submarine frightfulness.