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## The Detroit News

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#### STUPIDITY IN A CONSULATE.

We should like to hear some good reason why whoever is responsible for the questioning of Prof. Albert Einstein at our consulate in Berlin should not be summarily removed from his job, and then asked for proof that his mental state is not idiocy.

The statute says: "No immigration visa shall be issued to an immigrant if it appears to the consular officer, from statements in the application, or in the papers submitted therewith, that the immigrant is inadmissible to the United States under the immigration laws, . . . nor shall such immigration visa be issued if the consular officer knows or has reason to believe that the immigrant is inadmissible to the United States under the immigration laws."

It is no crime to be unfamiliar with who Prof. Einstein is, or with the place he occupies in the scientific world; but to inquire as to whether he is an anarchist or a communist, with the inference that if he were he would be a person dangerous to the Government of the United States, is an evidence of stupidity such as this country can not afford to permit in its representatives abroad.

The statute speaks for itself. If Hans Schmidt, who is unknown to the consular authorities, applies for a visa, not only must his papers be in order, but the consul may investigate his record. But if Prof. Einstein, the most famous scholar in all the world, his life an open book, a previous visitor to this country, and now an invited guest of a great scientific institution, asks permission to enter, such an examination as was given him not only stultifies the examining officer, but makes this great nation ridiculous in the eyes of the world—not of Germany alone, but of "the Cannibals that each other eat, the Anthropophagi, and men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders."

Nor can Secretary Stimson himself escape censure, for forwarding the absurd complaint of the Woman Patriot Corporation to Consul-General Messersmith at Berlin. There was but one sensible thing to do with that document—file it in the waste paper basket and forget about it. The laugh then would have been on the corporation, if it had chosen to create an issue. As it is, the ridicule falls on all of us. We are exhibited to the world as a nation of captious fools because a consular officer exercised no more discretion than might be expected of a moron.

A head should fall, and a public apology to Prof. Einstein should be made by the State Department. Until these things are done, we stand disgraced.

—The author of "The Problem of the World" We were