GERMANY'S DOG MEAT MARKET

Consumption of Canines and Horses Is on the Increase.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Consul George N. Ifft, in reporting that high-priced meat has greatly increased the consumption of horse flesh and dog meat throughout the German Empire, especially in the densely populated industrial centres, writes from Annaberg:

"During the year 1906 there were slaughtered for food in the Kingdom of Saxony (which constitutes one thirty-sixth of the area and contains about one-thirteenth of the population of the Empire) 12,922 horses and 3,736 dogs. This is an increase of 224 horses and 133 dogs over the year 1905. In all Germany during the year 1906 there were slaughtered for food 182,000 horses. This is an increase of about 20,000 over 1905 and of about 47,000 over 1904.

"Complete figures in regard to the slaughter of dogs for food in the German Empire I have not been able to secure, but fragmentary statistics indicate that the total number was about 7,000—probably more, rather than less.

"Horse flesh is very generally advertised in the German newspapers, especially in those of the large industrial centres, and most German cities have at least one market which makes it a specialty, claiming for it a higher percentage of nourishment than that of either beef, veal, mutton, or pork. Neither is it unusual to find advertisements of dog meat or for the purchase of dogs for slaughter.

"Nor is it possible to read the German newspapers for any length of time without coming to the conclusion that a great many dogs are killed and eaten that do not give up their lives under official inspection. News items detailing the arrest, trial, conviction, and punishment by fine or imprisonment of men charged with killing and eating dogs that belonged to others, sometimes valuable animals or cherished household pets, are not infrequent.

"Quite recently such an item told how the police at Cassel, a city of Hesse-Nassau, while searching for a lost dog, for whose recovery a reward was offered, located a private dog slaughterhouse and arrested four men who were apparently making a regular business of stealing and killing dogs. Several live dogs, several freshly slaugthtered carcasses, and evidences of the slaughter of dozens of other dogs were found on the premises."

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