

# FEAR OF FAMINE

## APPALS AUSTRIA

### Charges of Cannibalism by Vienna Workmen Are Officially Hushed Up.

### PEOPLE JEER AT THE WAR

### German Promises of Victory Flouted—Soldiers Beg for Bread and Long for Peace.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 21.—A dispatch to The Daily Mail from Annemassee, on the Franco-Swiss frontier, says:

"I have just received from sources I must not reveal, but for the honesty and authentic nature of which I can personally vouch, a series of oral statements direct from Vienna and Styria recording observations made in Austria up to almost the end of April. My informant said:

"The great masses of the Austrian people are more than war-sick. No longer do they talk of their success or nonsuccess. They talk and think of nothing but bread. They want peace because it will give them bread. Their morale is so low that the Government is afraid of Bolshevism. I cannot tell you what we in Austria have suffered this last year, and of deeds done through hunger that are whispered about.

"One whole issue of the Arbeiter Zeitung was confiscated last March lest it should speak of events abominable to hear. It demanded an investigation in two horrible cases of murder of prisoners of war by their fellow-workmen in gas works in the Sixteenth Municipal District of Vienna, and accused the workmen of eating part of the bodies. I do not think this is sensation mongering or the fantastic invention of the mob. I knew a member of the Town Council appointed to inquire into the matter, and it was clear, he maintained, that at least two such instances of cannibalism occurred at the gas works, one at the end of December and the other last March. It was referred to in Parliament, but was hushed up in the press in Vienna itself.

#### Quarantine Against Bolshevism.

"The Austrian Government fears nothing more than the spread of Bolshevist ideas among these people, and it is a matter of common knowledge in Austria that all the Austrian prisoners returning from Russia are quarantined for three weeks at the frontier to make sure that they are politically clean and unlikely to infect their comrades at home with the leprosy of Bolshevism.

"I was present at Graz five weeks ago, on a journey through Styria, when food riots broke out there. The workmen in munition factories struck. They marched to the Town Hall and flung their loaves at the windows as a protest against the bad stuff that was in the bread, which was made of maize plentifully mixed with flour got from the bark of trees and ground into powder. Other workmen marched through the town, and with loaves smashed the windows of all cafés and shops and often plundered buildings and scattered their contents in the street. Similar outbreaks had taken place in other towns, and not a word of it do they dare put in the papers.

"The police afterward gathered up the loaves lying in the mud, and they were served out as an extra ration to the population.

"In Vienna there were whole weeks when the people got nothing but sauerkraut for the principal meal of the day, followed by other weeks when we had only pickled cucumbers and gherkins, and others again when we had nothing for dinner but those nauseous mangelwurzel, things they usually give only to cattle, together with a little maize bread. Sometimes, but at the cost of hours and hours of standing in queues, one would get a couple of pounds of potatoes in a week.

"My family and I have lived for weeks on hardly anything but some mushrooms which we gathered in a forest near the town.

#### Real Famine in the Country.

"People often faint in the streets from inanition. I tell you there is not only hunger, there is famine in Austria. The health of many of the people is so sunk that they can hardly stand, let alone work, and things are getting worse and worse every day.

"Even soldiers get insufficient food. They, too, are not only sick of the war, but also thoroughly apathetic. It is a common sight to see troops begging for bread and food from the inhabitants; and on railway journeys during the last six weeks I have seen soldiers, at stations where we stopped, imploring the people in the train to give them even peelings and remnants of food.

"Austria is shuddering at the prospect of the next three months. The people, as far as they dare whisper, jeer at Hindenburg's promise of smashing the English and French with a big offensive and getting a German peace.

"You have humbugged us too often already," they say, "with your U-boat promises, your Brest-Litovsk, and all the rest of it, and the only result of your beautiful U-boat war is that you brought America in as a new enemy."

"At first everybody in Austria made fun of President Wilson as a mere Don Quixote and pedant, but now they are changing their tune and are afraid America means business."

#### Saxons Eat Camels and Dogs.

Camel meat, dog meat, and horse meat are being eaten in Saxony by the poorer classes, according to the Berliner Tageblatt of April 7, a copy of which has been received here.

The camel meat is being sold in Zwickau and comes from the mohair camels of the Hagenback menagerie, which gave a show at Zwickau in March. The camels were sold to a butcher because of lack of fodder. The larger camels yielded from 300 to 400 pounds of meat.

Consumption of dog meat and horse meat has increased greatly and the price also has gone up. Dog meat sells for 2 marks 75 pfennigs a pound and horse meat at 1 mark 80 pfennigs.