

La Granda Briere People Are Race Apart

The Strange Peat Bogs of France Is Not a Hospitable Origin

La Baule, France, Nov. 16—Not one-half of 1 per cent of the thousands who every summer spend their vacations on the "Cote d'Amour," the "Love Coast," have ever heard of La Grande Briere, and far fewer have ever visited it. Yet there it stands, only a few miles inland from La Baule and at the very back door of St. Nazaire, one of the most curious and unexpected sights a traveler ever saw.

It is not a hospitable region, and its people extend no welcome to strangers. They have for centuries lived strictly among themselves, resenting any kind of intrusion. The fact that you are an American will not, however, aggravate your case; anybody who does not belong to La Briere is a foreigner, and every foreigner is, by definition, an enemy.

The region, some twenty square miles in extent, is a vast peat bog, flooded every winter by the overflow of the Loire estuary. It is traversed by innumerable canals along which the natives, the Brierons, pole their diminutive boats. There are roads, and good ones, built on solid rock-bedded causeways by a paternal government, but they are little used by the inhabitants. The Brieron is a water animal. I first heard of La Briere some years ago through a newspaper account of a revolt that took place there. I have forgotten what the revolt was about—it concerned, I think, the question of giving some "foreigners" a concession to extract peat from the bogs—but the natives, I remember, demonstrated their resentment by destroying buildings, bridges and other public works. The guilty were never caught, but the French Government slapped a stiff fine on the Briere region as a whole. The fine, however, was never collected, and probably never will be.

Defends Ancient Rights

What interested me was the knowledge that there was a rural community in France ready to defend its ancient rights by force, and I determined to go and see what kind of a region it might be that was defended with such ardor, and what sort of people lived there.

The landscape is one of desolation, even if, as on the day I first saw it, the sky is cloudless. The dark turf absorbs the sunlight, giving mid-afternoon a twilight quality. Even the stagnant pools and the canals cast dark reflections, like those of a mirror from which most of the quicksilver has worn away. Reeds and canebrake are the chief vegetation, except where, here and there, one finds a small pasture close cropped by sheep. I could not help remembering those lines of Coleridge's describing the fabulous land of Kubla Khan:

A savage place! As holy and enchanted.

As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted
By woman, waiting for her demon lover!

The people are as dark and strange as their country. They love on "islands," patches of solid land in the midst of the bog, each "island" just big enough to accommodate a small village. But they are such villages as one finds nowhere else, the houses huddling close together and seeming to cry to the intruder, as at Alice's tea party, "No room! No room!" Unquestionably each village has its butcher shop, its grocery, its haberdashery and its estaminet, but no merchant hangs out a shop sign. The natives of the village know where he lives and go there when they want his wares; as for outsiders, their custom is not solicited.

Suffers Internal Divisions.

Moreover, although La Briere presents a united front to the world outside, it has its internal jealousies and divisions. Among the Brierons there is little communion, except among those of the same "island." Each "island" has its chief, the head of the recognized "first family", and the chiefs consult when it is a case of common defense against the common enemy, usually the tax collector. But a boy of the "island" of Fedrun does not play marbles with a boy from Revin; a housewife from Mayun does not exchange gossip with a neighbor from Camerun. Each "island" keeps to itself, minds its own business and insists that the others mind theirs.

There have been feuds between the "islands" that have continued for generations with all the bitterness and stubbornness of a clan feud in Kentucky. Usually the start of such a feud is a love affair between two young people from different "islands." Such an affair, if it ends in marriage, is regarded often by both sides as a deep disgrace. It is an insult to the village to marry outside its limits, as if the "home" girls were not good enough!

Of late years this rigidity has shown signs of wearing out, largely because of inexorable economic pressure. La Briere is not rich. Its chief wealth is in the peat, and in older times almost every house in St. Nazaire was heated by the "brown coal" of La Briere. The demand has fallen off, and, to give everybody an equal chance to supply it, the Government has forbidden harvesting peat except for nine days in August.

Few Other Industries.

The Brierons have some other industries by which many make a precarious living. Basket-weaving is one

NEWSPAPER HAS LIQUOR PLEDGE

Independence, Kansas, Nov. 17—The Independence Reporter, confronted with an occasional request that it keep out of print the name of a resident who had drunk too heavily and been arrested, has solved the matter in a unique way.

The Reporter agrees to the request, but it demands that a pledge of future sobriety be signed. In a small town where everyone knows his neighbors, the chronicling of police court news has its peculiar embarrassments and Charles Spencer, editor, reports the plan has worked well.

When it is a case of a first offender, Spencer agrees to withhold the story from print if the individual will sign a pledge in which he agrees to do his best to keep away from liquor in the future, and in which he agrees to the right of the paper to publish the fact if he "breaks over" again.

There have been more than 100 signers of the pledge, according to Spencer, and only three have broken it.

"Unfortunately," added Spencer "one of the three was a rather important advertiser."

The pledge follows:

"The undersigned, having been arrested for drunkenness and fined in the police court of Independence, wishes to have no mention made of the incident in the Daily Reporter.

"In case no mention is made of this incident we promise to do our best to leave liquor alone, and in event we do not and we get into police court again for reason of 'breaking over', then the Reporter has our consent in advance to publish a news story concerning the same, as well as to mention the particulars of the case which caused us to sign this pledge and likewise the fact that we signed it."

Peggy Hopkins Joyce on the way to Cannes, where she is going to write a novel, told a story.

"A pretty girl", she said, "sat reading in a Pullman car when a fresh young fellow bent over her and said: 'I beg your pardon, but I think I have met you somewhere before'.

"The girl looked up long enough to say:

"No, I think not. I have been there several times but only to pass through."

the material coming from the willows that border the canals. At Camerun there are a few families that still find a market for their beehives, made of rushes and straw. Fedrun has built up a trade in eels, which it raises and fattens by the thousands. The French gourmet esteems highly the tender eels of Fedrun, when artfully prepared with a wine sauce.

Another table delicacy produced here is mutton—there is nothing finer than the delicate salty flesh of these animals fattened in the briny marshes. Game, too, is abundant, and it is not much of a secret that a good many Brierons live largely by poaching.

But more and more the young Brierons are having to emigrate, or at any rate to bicycle in every day to St. Nazaire to work in the factories or shipyards. Their fathers and grandfathers look with sad misgivings on this sort of desertion of the native land. No good, they feel, can come of mingling with the people of the busy city, who have no traditions and no respect for the traditions of others. A boy goes to St. Nazaire to work, and before you know it he is in love with some flighty city girl who would sneer at a thatched cottage and an honest life in the honest peat bogs of La Grande Briere.

The whole of La Briere can be visited by motor in an hour or two, and such a visit will leave an indelible impression. No guide is necessary, nor is any to be had. One might seek all day in St. Nazaire for anyone who had ever had the curiosity to visit that strange land in the back garden of the busy port.

If one is making a day of it Guerande is the place to lunch and, of an entirely different sort, is another astonishing sight. Everybody has heard of Carcassone, and many people have traveled half around the world to see it. Guerande is almost as fine an example of a medieval walled town as Carcassone, yet is comparatively unknown. Its ramparts, built in 1431, the year Joan of Arc was burned at Rouen, are almost intact, ten of the eleven towers and the four original gates being still standing.

New Brunswick Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the application of The New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited, praying that this Board may approve of a proposed further issue of Fifty-two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty Shares of the capital stock of the said Company for the purposes mentioned in their Petition, will be heard on Wednesday, the TWENTY-EIGHTH day of NOV., 1934, at Ten-thirty o'clock in the forenoon in the Board Room, in the Provincial Building, in the City of Saint John, when and where all parties interested may attend and be heard.

The Petition of the Company is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Board, in the City of Saint John, where the same may be inspected.

Dated at the City of Saint John this seventh day of November, A.D. 1934.

By the Board,

(Signed) G. EARLE LOGAN,
Secretary.

Part of Queen Mary's wedding present to Princess Marina is a sapphire and diamond brooch. It is of striking design, with the sapphire set in the center and surrounded by a double row of diamond.

SHERIFF'S SALE

The following property will be sold at Public Auction in front of the County Court House, FREDERICTON, N. B., at TWELVE O'CLOCK NOON on the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY of NOVEMBER, 1934, for Parish and County Taxes; Road Taxes and School Taxes, with cost,—

John H. Slipp Property,
Parish of Douglas

"ALL and singular that certain piece or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the Parish of Douglas, and County of York, and Province of New Brunswick, bounded as follows: Fronting on the north line road, so-called, a distance of seventy-four rods, bounded on the northwest by land owned by George Gilmore; on the northeast by land owned by George Evans, and on the southeast by land owned by George Gilmore, known as the Currie lot, and containing one hundred and twenty-five (125) acres, more or less, being the one-half of that tract of land known as the Armour Block, recently occupied jointly by John and George Gilmore. And being the same premises mortgaged by us to the said John H. Slipp, the mortgage dated December 14th, 1909, and this deed being given to convey all our interest in said premises, and all our right redeem from said mortgage."

Account of the John H. Slipp Property, in the Parish of Douglas, N. B.

Year	Taxes	Resident Roads	School Taxes
1930	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$...
1931	1.66	1.00	...
1932	1.75	1.00	4.50
1933	2.03	1.00	3.37
1934	2.25	1.00	2.40

\$9.19 \$5.00 \$10.27

Total Parish and County \$ 9.19

Total Road Taxes 5.00

Total School Taxes 10.27

TOTAL \$24.46

Dated this 23rd day of October, 1934.

(Sgd.) ROY W. SMITH,

High Sheriff, York County, N.B.

SHERIFF'S SALE

The following property will be sold at Public Auction in front of the County Court House, FREDERICTON, N. B., at TWELVE O'CLOCK NOON on the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY of NOVEMBER, 1934, for Parish and County Taxes; Road Taxes and School Taxes, with cost,—

Thomas Wilson Estate,
Parish of Douglas, N. B.

"ALL that lot piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Parish of Douglas in the County of York aforesaid numbered and described as lot number nineteen containing by estimation Two Hundred acres more or less and bounded as follows, that is to say, Beginning at a marked Birch standing on the north-eastern angle of the lot number Eighteen, thence running by the magnetic needle north eighty-eight degrees and thirty minutes west seventy-four chains of four poles each along the Northern boundary line of the said lot to a marked Hemlock tree standing on the southeastern angle of a lot of land surveyed for Humphrey Sisson, thence North one degree and thirty minutes East Thirty chains, thence South Eighty-eight degrees thirty minutes East Seventy-four chains and thence South one degree and thirty Minutes West Thirty chains to the place of beginning."

Account of the Thomas Wilson Estate, Parish of Douglas, N.B.

Year	Taxes	Resident Roads	School Taxes
1931	\$ 3.20	\$1.60	\$...
1932	3.40	1.60	7.20
1933	3.24	1.60	5.40
1934	3.60	1.60	4.80

\$13.44 \$6.40 \$17.40

Total Parish and County \$13.44

Total Non-Resident Roads 6.40

Total School Taxes 17.40

TOTAL \$37.24

Dated this 23rd day of October, 1934.

(Sgd.) ROY W. SMITH,

High Sheriff, York County, N.B.

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Alonso Staples, York Street.
S. Keetch, grocer, Charlotte-York Sts.
J. E. Saunders, 199 Northumberland Street.

DOWN-TOWN:

Crowley's Cigar Store, Queen St.
Royal Cigar Store, Queen street.
Hawthorne's Cigar Store, Queen St.
A. E. Eardley, Grocer, St. John and Brunswick Streets.
H. C. Jewett, cor. Charlotte & Regent.
VanWart Grocery, Cor. Charlotte and St. John Streets.
C. C. Wood, Grocer, University Ave.
O'Neil's Bakery, Regent Street.
John F. Timmins, Grocery, King St.

Devon, N. B.

Claude J. MacDonald, South Devon.
J. R. Monteith, North Devon.
J. K. Morrison, North Devon.
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Millions have found that Aspirin eases even a bad headache, neuritis or rheumatic pain often in a few minutes!

In the stomach as in the glass here, an Aspirin tablet starts to dissolve, or disintegrate, almost the instant it touches moisture. It begins "taking hold" of your pain

practically as soon as you swallow it. Equally important, Aspirin is safe. For scientific tests show this: Aspirin does not harm the heart.

Remember these two points: Aspirin Speed and Aspirin Safety. And, see that you get ASPIRIN. It is made in Canada, and all druggists have it. Look for the name Bayer in the form of a cross on every Aspirin tablet.

Get tin of 12 tablets or economical bottle of 24 or 100 at any druggist's.

Why Aspirin Works So Fast

Drop an Aspirin tablet in a glass of water. Note that BEFORE it touches the bottom, it is disintegrating.

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An Aspirin tablet starts to disintegrate and go to work.

What happens in these glasses happens in your stomach—ASPIRIN tablets start "taking hold" of pain a few minutes after taking.

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ASPIRIN IS THE TRADE MARK OF THE BAYER COMPANY, LIMITED