

Saint-Claude Supplies Briar Pipes to World

Jura Industry Owe Fame to Skilled Hands

Reputation for Quality Dates Back a Century; Export Trade Grows

Due to the hard winters in the Jura, the mountaineers, confined to their homes by the snow, have plenty of leisure to devote to various handicrafts. Most of them are skillful craftsmen who transmit their painstaking ability from generation to generation. Saint-Claude, for instance, is the capital of the tobacco-pipe industry. It owes its origin to the skill acquired by the mountaineers in carving images of saints in woodwork for the monks of Saint-Oyen.

Toward the middle of the eighteenth century, when France received her first pipe, from Germany, the craftsmen of Saint-Claude easily became acquainted with pipe-making. The first Saint-Claude pipes were roughly carved bowls of apple wood and stems of mountain ash. The pipes were made in the mountains, where the climate was so healthy, that the wood was so resistant to split. It was also extremely resistant to fire.

In France, briar suitable for pipes is only found on the Crimean War, that changed the local wood turners of Saint-Claude to the use of the root. Its pink tint, particularly when polished, which brought out the beauty of the wood was a factor in the choice. Also it was more easily turned than the wood and had less tendency to split. It was also extremely resistant to fire.

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World Center of Pipe Industry
Saint-Claude is the world center of the pipe industry. It receives orders and exports from all the most remote parts of the globe and maintains its reputation for quality. The pipe industry in Saint-Claude has held its own against any challenge in the category of French quality trades. There has been no decline in the demand for French pipe, and it remains by the source of its material and the traditional skill of its craftsmen.

Pipe Manufacture
Although the use of electric power is now extensively used in modern pipe-making, the essential operations are still performed in the workshop, while factories are used for the making of electrically operated, every pipe undergoes a series of operations, which are carried through the hands of thirty different specialists.

As already stated, an important percentage of pipes and smokers' requisites made in France find their way to the export trade. In 1947, for instance, the value of these exports amounted to 442,000,000 francs (\$7,700,000), against 328,000,000 francs (\$5,700,000) in 1946.

These exports were consigned to the following countries:

(in millions of francs)	(in millions of dollars)
Great Britain	122
Belgium	27
Belgium and Luxembourg	22
Switzerland	22
Canada	14
United States	14
Germany	8
France	4
Union of South Africa	3
Spain	3
Australia	2
Other countries	2
TOTAL	242

The list shows that most of the countries have increased their purchases in France. The increase in value from one year to the other is nearly \$1,000,000. In fact, it is stated that the figures might have been much larger, but for the shortage imposed on the trade by many countries. For one thing, many countries treat the pipe as a luxury article, and import licenses are sparingly granted.

In the United States, purchases of smokers' articles in France have risen from one year to the other. In 1947, for instance, the value was \$1,776,000 francs (\$31,600), against \$1,776,000 francs (\$31,600) in 1946. This increase is particularly important in themselves, especially in comparison with those of other countries.

French manufacturers attribute the narrowness of the American market to the high tariff. When tariff reductions came into effect, it was not reduced to the same proportion as that on gloves, for example. When the tariff on smokers' articles was reduced about 50 per cent, the duty on pipes cut only 20 per cent. Traders, however, continue to hope that the United States Administration will listen to their grievances.

Jura Town Pipes Spur Several Allied Industries

A number of small associated industries have developed in Saint-Claude around the production of briar pipes. Among them are plants making smoking bills, horn, cigar and cigarette holders, and lighters.

During the war, production began on office supplies, smoking accessories and advertising. Most of these are constructed of wood, in which the area abounds, and some are of ivory.

Poor in Soil, Rich in Craftsmanship



Below Saint-Claude's "Grand Port" lie over one hundred pipe establishments where 4,000 skilled carvers, turners and polishers fashion the world-famous "bryuere de Saint-Claude." In the background is the arid, unfertile, mountainous terrain that is characteristic of the region.

Hillside Town Is the Home of Famous Briar

Half Town's Population Works at Carving Trade Dating to 5th Century

The home of the internationally known briar pipes of Saint-Claude is a town of 8,865 inhabitants at the foot of Mont Joyard in the Jura Mountains. The Briere de Saint-Claude, the Tucson River here and the area later cut in roundabouts which are bolted before they are sent to Saint-Claude.

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Budapest

So it is difficult to tell how long Budapest's present elegance will last. The remnants of the middle class which make it possible are slowly being strangled economically. But it is conceivable that their Magyar insurance and love of pleasure with treasury. Budapest's Western look for a long time.

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Saint-Claude Briar Pipes Rank Among French Quality Goods

Painstaking Processes Are Result of 200 Years Of Craft's Evolution; Output Contributed 440 Million Francs to Export Total in '47



This briar (bryuere) pipe—for which Saint-Claude is a famous center among France's quality-goods industries—its importance to the French economy may be gauged from the 440,000,000-franc value of Saint-Claude's 1947 pipe exports.

Pipe City in the Jura Mountains

Half Town's Population Works at Carving Trade Dating to 5th Century

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It seems certain that the tobacco custom is indigenous to the Americas and was widely used by Indian tribes in various ways in North, South and Central America and in the West Indies long before Christopher Columbus set foot in the Western Hemisphere.



There is a general view of Saint-Claude, a city of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants in southeastern France where pipe artisans have made briar pipes for nearly 1,000 years.

Bid Worries U.S. Shipping

Foreign Shipping Sales Dollars

By carrying shipments in their own vessels, foreign countries are able to save some dollar exchange, shipping charges and other expenses. The "Wall Street Journal" recently reported an example of how foreign shipping could undercut American shipping. It said Italian ships will carry bulk coal from Atlantic ports to western Italy for \$8.50 a ton—\$1.45 under the minimum Italian bulk grain prices are quoted at \$10.75 a ton—or \$1.75 under commission rates.

Regarding costs, the American Merchant Marine Institute said a monthly plus overtime and board. It compared this with \$170 for Canadian seamen, \$112 for Greek; \$96 for English; \$74 for Norwegian and \$65 for Argentine.

Nationalism or patriotism is another factor in foreign competition. British, Dutch, French, Italian and other traders made a point of specifying what ship their cargoes must be transported in, say the American shipping source.

Meanwhile, in Washington, shipyard inquiries are working to sustain and up to March 1, 1944, the United States sold to foreign countries 916 cargo vessels which had been considered surplus. At the same time, most European countries either had

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