

How the Bois—the Famous Paris Park—Supports Itself.

It Costs \$142,000 to Maintain—But Restaurants, Race Courses, Clubs, Beautiful Villas—

Even Its Chairs—Bring Paris \$180,000 Each Year—Its Romantic History.

Municipal Council is unfamiliar with the history of their Bois, for they would certainly be unable to trace the plain origin of its name. When, however, the question was asked of changing such names as Gare, St. Lazare and Faubourg St. Germain, it was said that their religious significance, their absurdity, their unreasonableness, in the provinces, and the anti-clerical part have less sense of the ridiculous and less reason for being ridiculed, the Place de la Cathédrale, for instance, was changed to Place de la Révolution.

At the end of the eighteenth century

the first horse races took place in the Bois.

It was, however, soon afterward given back to the French.

Then came the Revolution, which nearly

destroyed it. The Convent of Longchamps was demolished, the Chateau of Madrid demolished, Bataille was sold, Rambouillet let to speculators.

The Bois, a thick wooded park, became the nests of bandits, and remained the name of Bois du Villeneuve.

However, even as late as 1860, the Bois was just ten times larger than the actual Bois in the eighteenth century.

Thus the Bois was destined to disappear.

It was the middle of the fifteenth century when Henry II had a wall with twelve monuments built around the forest.

If we believe Sainte Foy, he

conceived the idea of enclosing the Bois into a vast cemetery, traversed by a path terminating in the centre, where he

wished to erect a gigantic mausoleum.

Henry II died in 1547, and his son, Francis II, had a wall built around the Bois.

It was the first to suffer the consequences of two successive invasions put a stop to its prosperity.

The second was especially disastrous, as the Bois was

entirely destroyed.

The Bois was the scene of the new plan.

The Allies camped in the Bois, and when they left it, it hardly

survived.

When the troops had passed literally

all vegetation disappeared, and it

seems by merest chance that some oaks and maples standing between Armentières and Montreuil.

And so it was that in a few weeks

the Bois became a desolate waste.

After the battle of Bapaume, the Bois

was sold, and the Bois rapidly became

the scene of a series of rendezvous for the

especially popular under Charles X, and

stopped by the Emperor, who made

some remark about the beauty of the Bois.

The Bois is indeed worthy of Paris.

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