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THE ENCLAVE BÜSINGEN

The German municipality of Büsingen lies as an enclave within the boundaries of the Swiss Canton of Schaffhausen and, as extraterritorial area, has no direct connection with the fatherland. This municipality extends over an area of 762.6 ha and on 1st January 1952 its inhabitants numbered 918. Whilst Singen, the nearest German town, is 14 km away, the distance to Schaffhausen is only 5 km. Consequently Büsingen would seem to appertain to its neighbour, Switzerland. The economic relationship with Schaffhausen on the one hand and the political dependence upon Germany on the other always strongly influenced the prosperity of the municipality.

Reviewing the history of Büsingen we find that its general progress in the course of the centuries was determined by the town of Schaffhausen. Even the final separation from the sovereignty of Schaffhausen (1723) did not succeed in loosening the economic ties to the town. Right up to the middle of the 19th century Schaffhausen used every possible means to regain the territory lost by its own fault.

Customs regulations exerted a decisive influence on the development of the municipality. The territorial isolation of the enclave hindered the exchange of goods with the fatherland. That this traffic became almost insignificant later on is attributable above all to the short distance from the economic centre of Schaffhausen.

At the end of the 19th century the question of the Swiss customs became the most vital problem for the inhabitants of the enclave; during the agrarian crisis of the eighties the Swiss customs regulations were considerably tightened.

By the Convention of 1895 (reduced Swiss duties for agricultural produce) the enclave was bound more closely to Switzerland. Despite these concessions the customs obstacle still weighed so heavily that the natural development of the agriculture was influenced unfavourably. The continually changing customs tariffs, harmonized with the prevailing international economic situation, combined with stricter customs regulations, compelled the farmers of Büsingen to adjust their production to a certain degree to the special customs conditions.

Only the Customs Union of 1947 (duty-free traffic with Switzerland) was able to create practically normal market conditions. The daily travel of workers to the town naturally played an important role for Büsingen, quasi-suburb of Schaffhausen, as from the beginning of the industrialisation (middle of the 19th century) the majority of the workmen of Büsingen earned their living in the nearby town. Owing to the political dependence upon Germany the certainty of the place of work was however threatened again and again. During the years of the crisis (1932/33) practically all inhabitants of Büsingen who worked in Switzerland were dismissed. Only after World War II conditions were normalised to the status quo, but the workmen of Büsingen are still at a disadvantage inasmuch as they need a permit for work in Switzerland.

The present situation of the enclave shows clearly that political and economic problems cannot be solved independently from one another. A complete economic union with Switzerland, as desired by the inhabitants of Büsingen, would meet an organic necessity. The close knotting of economic and political factors makes a solution extremely difficult to-day.

Nevertheless, the authorities of Büsingen are endeavouring to anchor by a German-Swiss treaty the interimistic economic union with Switzerland, reached by the French Army of Occupation.

LOFOTFISCHEREI UND HERINGFANG

WALTER ULRICH GUYAN

Mit 1 Abbildung

Immer wieder zieht der Norden Europas als Kampfraum zwischen Meer, Land und Polarge-
walten den Südländer an und fasziniert ihn durch seine landschaftliche Eigenart. Wie der Mensch
im Lauf der *Zeit* sich mit der Natur dieses Erdraums auseinandergesetzt hat, war bisher jedoch