

without saying that they give a most distorted version of the history of Denmark and of Sleswick. 'If the children do not understand German, they must be treated and taught like deaf-mutes'; such is the rule that has been prescribed by a Prussian educational authority.

Any lingering hopes of a more liberal system, to say nothing of a fulfilment of the promises of 1866, soon disappeared under the rule of the new Kaiser. Nothing could be blunter than the speech, delivered at Frankfort-on-Oder two months after his accession, in which he declared that he would see eighteen army-corps and forty-two million inhabitants dead on the battle-field rather than surrender a single stone of what Germany had conquered. Of the same significance was the inspired remark in the *Cologne Gazette* that the separation of Sleswick from Germany could only be imagined as happening after a war disastrous to Germany. The Pan-German movement found a fertile field for its operations among the North Sleswickers.

A new governor-general, Von Köller, was imported from Alsace-Lorraine in 1898. A more 'active' and less scrupulous host of new officials willingly executed the Draconian instructions which he issued in the five years of his governorship. About a thousand expulsions were carried out, without the slightest attempt to prove that the victims had broken Prussian laws and regulations. Many a man who had been born and bred in Sleswick suddenly found himself subjected to the disabilities of an 'optant'. Danish farm-hands were expelled, as a means of putting pressure upon their employers, or were ordered to seek employment with 'loyal' farmers. The campaign was even extended to cover the children of 'optants', who, in accordance