

were Messrs. Krüger and Ahlmann : they refused to take the constitutional oath as members of the Diet, claiming that they only attended to indicate the unsettled position of North Sleswick and to demand the fulfilment of the promise granted them :

We are Danes, we wish to remain Danes, and as Danes we wish to be treated according to the provisions of international law.

This was their one and only election cry.

As time passed and the promise of reunion with Denmark became more and more a dead letter, a somewhat bitter quarrel broke out among the leaders of the movement. 'Oath-refusers' opposed 'oath-takers': the former were in favour of passive resistance to Prussian aggression : the latter desired the more active policy of taking part in parliamentary discussions in order to press the claims of the Sleswick Danes. Up to the death of Krüger (1881) the party of passive resistance prevailed—a circumstance which, as the event proved, was detrimental to the interests of the Danish population.

The North Sleswickers had discovered that the promise made at Prague was as worthless as that other promise, to respect all legitimate national characteristics, which King William of Prussia had given when he annexed the Duchy. Between 1864 and 1870 many a young Dane asked the question why he should be obliged to swear allegiance to the Prussian King and to serve in the Prussian Army, if the promise of a referendum was honestly meant. The Treaty of Vienna had granted the population the right of choosing, within that period, between Prussian and Danish nationality. Each individual should have been allowed to make, if he so wished, a public declaration that he desired to