

population of North Sleswick is increasingly conscious of its Danish nationality. The elections of 1912 for the Reichstag showed an increase of about 2,000 in the Danish vote : and this in spite of the coercive measures employed by an ever-growing number of German officials, who compelled every functionary and many of the small tradesmen to vote as directed. In the Haderslev-Sönderborg district, the stronghold of the Danish influence, there were 11,736 Danish votes as against 5,340 polled by the Germans and the Socialists together. In the Aabenraa-Flensburg and Tönder-Husum divisions there were slight increases in the Danish minority. The elections of 1913 for the Prussian Diet showed an even more marked progress, especially in the southern districts of North Sleswick. In the Aabenraa division the Danish candidate was returned with a safe majority. In the towns many of the German inhabitants refused to vote for the German candidate, who was a local official, in order to show their disapproval of the treatment of their Danish neighbours by the police. The results of this election were a subject for rejoicings both in Sleswick and in Denmark ; the election was regarded as a trial of strength because it occurred just before the fiftieth anniversary of the separation of the Duchy from the mother-country. Many young Sleswickers, whose parents had supported the ' Schleswig-Holstein ' movement and the Prussian candidates, had now joined the camp of their Danish fellow countrymen. It was hoped that, in course of time, all the 16,000 Danish-speaking inhabitants of central Sleswick might follow the example. The present war has for the moment postponed the fulfilment of such hopes.

No less than 15,000 North Sleswickers of military age