

means universally. Wherever they could do so, the Germans substituted their own language for Polish, even in the teaching of religion. It happened that in Wrzesnia (in German, Wreschen) certain children 'refused to pay any attention to religious instruction imparted in the German language'. They said simply, 'We are Poles, not Germans, and do not wish to know anything about the German religion'. Some twenty of them, therefore, were 'detained, and, on their still proving obdurate', fourteen of their number received 'corporal punishment'.¹ Speaking of this incident in the Landtag, the Prussian Minister of Public Instruction said: 'the teacher had merely enforced a pedagogic principle, the excellence of which had been proved for two thousand years.'² But the barbarous Poles could not perceive the excellence of the principle nor the superiority of a German to a Polish prayer. The punishment inflicted on the children 'led to a great uproar among the parents and friends of the children, some of whom succeeded in forcing their way into the school, while the punishment was being administered, and were only expelled by the aid of the police'.³ A physician, Dr. Krzyzagorski, certified that the children's fingers were so swollen that they could not close their hands.⁴ 'For the violence then displayed, and for opprobrious and seditious language towards the inspector and the other school authorities,' twenty-five persons were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment⁵—one of them, a mother of five children to two and a half years.

¹ *The Times*, November 20, 1901, p. 5, cols. d, e.

² *Ibid.*, January 14, 1902, p. 3, col. e.

³ *Ibid.*, November 20, 1901, p. 5, col. e.

⁴ Buzek, p. 467.

⁵ *The Times*, November 20, 1901, p. 5, col. e.