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GEORGIAN PRESS MEDIA AND THE EFFORTS MADE FOR THE PURITY OF THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

Georgian education and the purity of the Georgian language were the recurrent issues of the first two decades of the 20th century Georgian press. Kutaisi school teachers were among those people who revealed the reactionary course of the Tsarist Russia and its effort to eradicate Georgian language from schools and replace it with the Russian language. Newspapers provided broad coverage of the controversies taking place between the teachers and the educational board of the oblast authority. Georgian publicists did not spare most severe words in their assessment of some Russophiles intelligentsia and of so-called "kartveli kalebi", the majority of whom abused their native language. Such critical attitudes of Kutaisi press yielded its results. It made the intelligentsia think over the problem more seriously, which in its turn began to encourage the establishment of such public institutions that channeled their attention for the development of education on the national grounds and for the survival of the Georgian tongue as the language of instruction.