

EKATERINE KAKHIDZE

NATIONAL-DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN KUTAISI

Georgian youth played a dominant role in the formation of national-democratic movement. Kutaisi holds a significant role in this matter. “Kutaisi has been a Georgian city, with quite intelligent youth, Georgian language, Georgian passion and thinking”.

On March 15, 1917 a national-democratic party conference, opened by Ioseb Otskheli, was held in Kutaisi theatre. The major topic of presentations dealt with Georgia’s independence. I. Otskheli urged the parties to unite; our country’s autonomy – political freedom should have been “a guiding star, offering comfort”.

The attending public discussed the disastrous implications of being under Russian protectorate and 116 years of colonial rule. They believed it was essential to gain national independence.

Our country’s vital issues, including Georgia’s autonomy, autocephaly and religious issues were discussed during the national-democratic party conference held in Kutaisi.