

## CHAPTER V

### COLONIALISM A NATIONAL AND POLITICAL ISSUE

THE promoters of the colonial movement had won a significant victory in securing imperial protection for overseas trade. They lost no time in embarking upon a campaign for state-directed colonialism and a thorough-going policy of annexation. However, they were clever enough to remember the Chancellor's objection that state-directed colonialism could not be undertaken by the Government without a "deep-seated popular demand and approval." Bismarck's words furnished a cue as to how next to proceed; indeed they became a party slogan. It was, as Fabri said, "A difficult time in Germany to create a general and popular movement of public opinion in favor of colonies, which would overcome the party quarrels, . . . especially as the colonial party is lacking in political experience and individuality as well as in any influence or weight."<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the leaders devoted themselves to the task with diligence.

To achieve their purpose of making colonialism a political and national issue, the colonial partisans adopted three policies. They disseminated propaganda; they sought to create political influence for the colonial party in order to render it an important factor in party politics; and they exerted a special economic pressure upon the Government.

An idea of the efficacy and scope of the first part of their program may be obtained by a survey of the propagandist

<sup>1</sup> Fabri, *op. cit.*, p. 54.