

the order of the day. It is true that Metternich had been overthrown and driven into exile, but his principles remained intact. German unity, though its earliest foundations were laid on a commercial base, could only be accomplished by the sword, and the men who were to wield it had not yet arrived.

In the year 1858 King Frederick William IV withdrew from public affairs owing to mental disorder, and handed over the reins to his brother Prince William. As in 1840, so now, the hopes of the nationalists revived. The prince regent summoned a moderately progressive ministry and inaugurated a corresponding policy. His chief care, however, was the army. This numbered at his accession some 130,000 men. But while the population of Prussia had increased from 12,000,000 (in 1814) to 18,000,000, the numbers of the army had remained almost stationary. Consequently the full number of recruits was not summoned to the colours, and, at the same time, their period of service in the active army had been reduced from three years to two. William therefore started by enforcing the universal obligation of service, which meant raising the full number of 63,000 recruits annually instead of only 40,000, and keeping them for the full three years. This brought up the numbers of the active army to nearly 200,000 men. By extending the period of service in the Reserve from two years to four he provided for an army of 440,000 men between the ages of 20 and 27, exclusive of the *Landwehr*.

In 1861 King Frederick William died and the prince regent became king as William I. Next year he summoned to his councils the man who was to accomplish the great task of founding the German Empire, Otto von Bismarck. His policy was concise and simple : Prussia was to rule Germany, and to obtain the leadership by force. Unity