

for some time yet. It is stated that at least 21,000,000 are engaged in active campaigning. This means that about 7,000,000 will lose their lives directly on account of the war. At the moderate estimate of \$1,000 for each life, this would mean a loss of \$7,000,000,000, or seven billion dollars.

To this must be added the large numbers who will be greatly impaired in health, or usefulness through loss of arms, legs, sight, or hearing.

Then there is enormous expenditure of money on pay for soldiers, their clothing, their food, their tents, their guns, and the ammunition required.

To this must be added the incalculable loss caused by the destruction of property. Bridges, roads, cities, churches, ships, chattels, have gone to dust and ruin.

Then, further, there is the neglect of legitimate business. No one can guess at what this loss amounts to.

All this because Germany was ready for war and wanted war. The Allies did not wish war, and this is clear to all because they were not prepared for war. But the Allies were free nations, and the elected to remain at any cost. They are paying the price for liberty, but they are going to secure the precious article.

DOMINION HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Michael Steele, M.P., for Perth, raised this question in the House of Commons at Ottawa quite recently. He spoke at some length in favour of the establishment of a Dominion Health Department. He pointed out the British North America Act left general health matters in the hands of the Federal Parliament; while matters, such as hospitals and charities, were placed under provincial control.

Dr. Steele pointed out that most of the countries in Europe had such a department, and that the United States had been gradually developing a national bureau of health since 1871. Canada had no such bureau. He referred to what had been done to control such diseases as typhus fever, smallpox, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, etc. This good work Canada as a nation should be aiding.

He then took up what the care of the insane cost, and mentioned that it now cost the United States \$32,000,000 a year for this purpose; and that much of the insanity existing was preventable. Then, again, infant mortality was capable of great reduction. One feeble-minded person might leave children that would cost the state very large sums of money.