

The number of births has fallen by 300,000. The number of deaths in Germany during the same period has been more than a million over the normal. The enormous mortality among the children and civil population is the direct result of maladministration of foodstuffs in favor of land owners.

During the coming year Germany will have 7,025,000 inhabitants less than if that empire had been at peace. In Austria-Hungary the conditions are still worse. The population will have decreased 11 per cent.

On the other hand, the conditions of life in Great Britain, thanks to a discriminating liberality, are better than before the war. During the same period, notwithstanding the losses of Great Britain on all the battle fronts, the population will have increased.

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#### ONTARIO STATISTICS.

The October returns by undertakers to the Provincial Board of Health show that at least 3,383 people died of Spanish influenza during that period. Even this high figure is admittedly under the mark since many undertakers fail to comply with the regulations and report all deaths. The effect of influenza and pneumonia on the death rate in Ontario is shown by a comparison with the normal rate from all causes of 12.8 per thousand. The epidemic jumped the November rate to 27.2 per thousand of population.

Smallpox has been averaging 45 cases a month this year, but during October the number dropped to 6. There was less diphtheria during the month, but it was of a more virulent form than usual. Scarlet fever, measles and typhoid increased. There was a further reduction in the cases of venereal disease reported, the month's total being 253 compared with 367 in September.

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#### A FEDERAL HEALTH BUREAU.

A bureau of public health is shortly to be organized by the Federal Government and placed under the jurisdiction of Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization. It is likely that the bureau will be under the charge of a competent medical doctor, with a staff of medical men and scientists under him. It is likely that a national laboratory will be also instituted in connection with the bureau along the lines of the National Laboratory in Washington for research and other medical work.

The project of having a separate Federal department of public health has for several years been urged upon the Government in Parlia-