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U. S. GOVERNMENT GIVES
MORTALITY STATISTICS

Washington, Feb. 8.—The annual report on mortality in the United States, relating to the calendar year 1913, which is soon to be issued by Director Harris, of the bureau of the census, of the department of commerce, will show a death rate of 14.1 per 1,000 estimated population in the registration area of the United States, a slight increase as compared with the rate for 1912. The report was outlined by Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, formerly connected with the division of vital statistics, bureau of the census, and was prepared under the direction of Mr. Richard C. Lippin, of that division.

In May, 1914, the census bureau issued a preliminary statement relating to mortality in 1913, but the detailed report contains many features of interest not included in the preliminary announcement.

Total Deaths in Registration Area
The total number of deaths (ex-

clusive of stillbirths) in the registration area, which now contains about two-thirds of the population of the United States, was 890,848. The lowest rate ever shown in the bureau's reports was that for 1912, which was 13.9 per 1,000. There has been a marked, though not continuous, decline in the death rate since 1880, when it was 19.8 per 1,000, based on the deaths among 17 per cent of the country's population.

The registration area of the United States, as constituted for the year 1913, consists of 24 states (in one of which, North Carolina, the registration is restricted to municipalities which had 1,000 population or over in 1900), the District of Columbia, and 41 cities in nonregistration states. The states and cities making up this area are those whose registration of deaths has been accepted by the bureau of the census as being fairly complete (at least 90 per cent of the total number of deaths), and from which transcripts of the death certificates recorded under the state laws or municipal ordinances were received by the bureau of the census.

The estimated population of the registration area in 1913 was 63,298,718. It has grown from sixtenths of 1 per cent of the total land area of the United States in 1880 to 38.6 per cent in 1913, and the proportion of the population living in it has increased from 17 per cent in 1880 to 63.1 per cent in 1913.

Comparison With Foreign Countries.
Comparative figures for foreign countries are not available for 1913, but in 1912 only important countries or provinces having lower death rates than the United States were Norway (13.4 per 1,000), England and Wales (13.3), Denmark (13), the Province of Ontario (12.4), Holland (12.3), Australia (11.2), and New Zealand (8.9).

Death Rates of States.
Following are the death rates per 1,000 population in 1913 for the states included within the registration area: California, 14.5; Colorado, 11.15; Connecticut, 15; Indiana, 13.3; Kentucky, 13.3; Maine, 15.3; Maryland, 16.2; Massachusetts, 15; Michigan, 13.9; Minnesota, 10.4; Missouri, 12.5; Montana, 12; New Hampshire, 17.1; New Jersey, 14.3; New York, 15; North Carolina (figures relate only to municipalities having a population of 1,000 or over in 1900), 16.8; Ohio, 13.3; Pennsylvania, 14.6; Rhode Island, 15; Utah, 11; Vermont, 15.8; Virginia, 13.9; Washington, 8.5; Wisconsin, 11.5.

The lowest death rate shown by any registration state was that for Washington (8.5 per 1,000), while New Hampshire's rate (17.1), was the highest. The fact that the average age of Washington's population is much lower than that of New Hampshire's doubtless constitutes the chief reason for this difference; and a like explanation holds good in many similar cases.

Average at Death.
The average age at death for both sexes, from all causes combined, was 39.8; for males alone, 39.2; for females alone, 40.6. The corresponding averages for 1912 were 40.6, 39.9, and 41.4. The report cautions the reader not to confuse the average age at death with expectation of life as given in life tables.

Nearly 18 per cent of all deaths were of infants under 1 year of age, and more than 25 per cent were of children under 5 years. After the first five years of age deaths are most frequent among persons between 20 and 74, inclusive. This applies to both sexes combined and to women alone, the deaths among these groups forming 6.56 per cent and 6.88 per cent, respectively, of the corresponding totals. For men alone, however, the period of greatest mortality is between the age 65 and 69, inclusive, the deaths during this period constituting 6.4 per cent of the total for males.

Fewer Deaths From Tuberculosis.
The death rate from tuberculosis (all forms) declined from 149.5 per 100,000 population in 1912 to 147.6 in 1913. The rate from this cause shows a continuous, though irregular, decline from year to year since 1904.

GERMAN SUPPLY OF
FOOD IS LIMITLESSVon Bernstorff Says Country
Is Self Sustaining.

CONSULTS ABOUT WIRELESS

Kaiser's Ambassador to United States
Says Hospital Was Made Inside of
Fortress and That Attack by Zeppel-
in Followed—Is Only One Author-
ized to Speak For Germany Here.

Washington.—"Our crops are excellent, and our supply of food could last forever," said Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador. "Germany is absolutely self sustaining if she wants to be. We are reaping the results of a policy, condemned by certain persons, of keeping up our agriculture at any cost to the nation, so that the country would be able to sustain itself."

"But if the men are all gone to war how will the crops be gathered?"
"There are sufficient men to reap. We have so many people that we cannot put them all in the army. Germany has a male population of at least 80,000,000. As for our factories, I do not know how many of them are being kept open. There is now hardly any export trade, though goods still go to Italy, to Copenhagen and to Christiania. Some factories are undoubtedly closed, and their workmen have gone to the front. You see, we are at war, and it is likely that all the manufacturing that is being done is of materials that have to do with war necessities."

"I should like to make a statement," the ambassador said. "Nobody is authorized to speak for the German government over here except myself, and any statement that is not covered

by my name can be regarded as a fake."
"I have nothing new to say regarding the situation with respect to the wireless station at Tuckerton, N. J. I have been consulting with people to whom the station belongs and with lawyers about it, and the situation is still absolutely open. I am trying to get information as to the state of the matter."

The attack on Antwerp by a Zeppelin aircraft and the consequent partial destruction of a hospital were mentioned.
"As to whether a hospital in Antwerp has really been touched by bombs I know nothing," said Count Bernstorff. "But there is this to say," he added. "Antwerp is a fortress, made for the purpose of resisting attack. Fortresses have always been bombarded. If a hospital is touched that is deplorable, but it is absolutely the result of a hospital being inside a fortress."

An article quoted in one of the New York newspapers, from the pen of a German military writer and published some time ago in Europe, pointing out how easily it would be possible to invade and subdue the United States, was brought up.

"I never heard of that writer," said the ambassador. "I should not suppose his work would be of great value if he writes such a ridiculous thing."

"Americans have complained that automobiles have been seized," was suggested.
"In war every kind of private property becomes the property of the government. Most of my friends sold their automobiles to the government. No American's car was taken without a receipt being given, and the car or its equivalent will be returned. Why, in France automobiles have been taken. My daughter, the Countess Pourtales, has a little property in Savoy, near the frontier and not far from Geneva, and the French seized her car and gave her just three days to get out of the country. They gave my son, who was visiting her, just twenty-four hours to leave."

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