

for another election immediately. It was stated that the Liberals would be prepared to give the Labour Government a free hand, "so long as their executive efforts should be confined to practical politics", the Mail says. The Mail, which for weeks now has consistently devoted its main editorials to beseeching Mr. Asquith to keep the Socialists out of power, brings up a resolution passed at a socialist conference last year, affirming that the time had arrived when the State "should provide all persons genuinely out of work through incapacity, arising out of sickness, accidents, old age, blindness or failure to secure employment, with an adequate income to sustain life". This, according to the Mail, would constitute pensions for all and would cost not merely millions, but tens of millions, or even hundreds of millions of pounds. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in his speech last night, in referring to pensions, however, mentioned old age pensions, and he did not elaborate his party's intentions regarding them. Whatever he might eventually do, it is almost certain that this initial effort would be confined merely to the abolition of the injustices existing in connection with the old age pensions, under the provisions of which old people are docked a portion of their pensions if they earn a few shillings a week by such poor work as needlework or chopping wood. Every member of Parliament genuinely sympathizes with this aspiration.

New York, Jan. 9th.—Australia, regarded as the United States most formidable challenger today filed its official entry in the 1924 Davis Cup tennis contest. The Antipodeans who captured the American competition and defeated France for the right to challenge this country last year, expect to send another strong team into the lists.

London, Jan. 10th.—An Admiralty message says the British submarine L 24 has been lost off Portland in a collision. It is feared the entire crew perished.

London, Jan. 10th.—Unusually severe storms, accompanied by intense cold and heavy snow are sweeping Europe this winter. Off the coasts of Spain and France the disturbances have proved a serious menace to shipping, while in the North Sea and in Scandinavian waters the ice floes are so heavy that navigation in many places is difficult.

Paris, Jan. 10th.—The tidal wave that ravaged the Atlantic coast of France yesterday is believed to have been of volcanic origin, since it was accompanied in many places by a slight earthquake.

Paris, Jan. 10th.—A tidal wave and storms yesterday wrought havoc along the French Atlantic coast, from Finisterre to the Basque country. A number of lives were lost and immense material damage resulted. Reports from Biarritz, Quimper, Saint Malo, Paramé, La Rochelle and Les Sables D'Olonne, on the Bay of Biscay, indicate that all these

places were hard hit by the elements. Despatches from St. Nazaire say that numerous small boats were thrown against the walls of the embankments and destroyed. At Les Sables D'Olonne a number of vessels were torn from their anchorages. One of them, a fishing boat, was sunk and its crew of six men perished.

Colonge, Jan. 10th.—The River Maine is completely frozen near the bridge at Mayence and the ice is of such thickness that traffic can cross it, a circumstance never before known within the life time of the proverbial oldest inhabitant.

Areona, Italy, Jan. 10th.—In consequence of the torrential rains many houses in the village of Mendolfo are becoming unsafe, while frequent earth shocks add to the distress of the population and increase the damage to property. Even the hospital is in danger of collapse. The Government is sending assistance.

Bergamo, Italy, Jan. 10th.—Snow a foot deep covers this city, blocking the tram lines, some villages in the province of Bergamo being reported entirely buried as a result of the heavy storms.

London, Jan. 10th.—The assassination of Herr Hertz, President of the autonomous Government of the Rhenish Palatinate, is reported in a Berlin despatch to the Daily Mail. According to this despatch, President Hertz was dining in a restaurant at Speyer when wounded. A Mayence despatch describing the assassination, says that three men entered the restaurant and shouted "hands up". Almost immediately they opened fire with automatic pistols, mortally wounding President Hertz and also another man. The assassins escaped and the police and occupation authorities have ordered a thorough search of the town. The crime is attributed to a German Nationalist organization.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 10th.—A small pox epidemic is raging in Hong Kong and Kowloon and has claimed hundreds of victims, according to advices received here from the "Yokohama Maru" in bound from the Orient to Seattle. People are dying in the streets, hospitals are filled with dying and thousands afflicted to lesser degree, are the details told by the passengers and crew of the "Yokohama Maru" who landed yesterday. Vigorous vaccination campaign has resulted in 230,687 persons receiving injections. A distressing feature is the high mortality amongst infants.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10th.
Flour, (hard winter clears \$4.90.
" hard winter straights \$5.50
Meal, Kilndried per 100 pounds \$2.20
New Season's Pork per barrel \$37.00.
Heavy Mess Pork per brl. \$16.00
Sugar—Crystals maximum per 100 lbs. \$6 28

Melasses Sugar 89 maximum 5.25.
Cotton, Middling, Upland, at Liverpool per lb. 19 35-100d.

Exchange, New York and London, 60 days' sight \$4.26

Exchange New York and London, sight \$4.28 1/4

LONDON, Jan. 10th.

Sugar, Demerara Crystals, nominal per cwt. 67s. 0d.—70s. 0d.

" Muscavado nominal per cwt. 48s. 48s. 0d.—51s. 0d.

" White Java's cif United Kingdom 30s. 9d nominal.

Demerara Rum per gal. nominal.

Trinidad Cocoa, good middling red per cwt. 50s. 0d

Cotton, good medium West Indian Sea Island at Liverpool, per lb. 24d. nominal.

Bank of England Rate of Discount per 4

Consols 45.

Three percent, Rentes in Paris Feb. 58.10.

OLD BAD CHECK GAME IS GIVEN NEW TWIST.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—At least a score of loop merchants, according to Detectives Noonan and Trant, are grateful for the arrest of a bright youth who signs "Douglas Langford" when he writes checks, though he says his real name is Thomas Crittenden.

"His game," said Trant, "was new. First he deposited \$50 in a savings bank and wrote '7' in front of the '50,' so it looked as if he had a balance of \$750. Then he bought a fire insurance policy on the house at 7115 Langley av., where he used to live, though he never owned the property.

"With the bankbook and the policy in his pocket he went out to do his Christmas shopping, carrying a number of bundles. Everywhere he went he would suddenly remember some little gift that he still must buy and then discover that he had spent all his cash.

"Would they mind cashing a check? Invariably the bankbook and the insurance policy were accepted as ample evidence that he was a substantial business man.

"Only he tried it once too often. News of him had reached a department store ahead of him. So when he called there he was cordially invited to wait. Noonan and I got him."

Another alleged paper of bad checks was brought back to Chicago from New York yesterday. He gave the name of Edward Aaron and said he was a nephew of E. A. Aaron, rich South Water street commission merchant.

He is accused of passing bad checks aggregating about \$10,000. One of the victims was A Lipman, jeweller, 28 North Dearborn street, who says he lost \$2,400.—Boston American Dec. 31st.

"I've just kicked that young man of yours into the middle of next week."

"Oh, now careless of you father. We had arranged to get married on Monday.