

DIED GAME

Interesting Details of the
British Operations in
East Africa

FANATIC ARABS

On March 14th the British Army
Captured Sokoto and Made a Prison-
er of the Emir—Five Hundred
British Soldiers Fought Six Thousand
and Mohammedans and Slaughtered
Them With Maxim and Rapid Fire
Guns—More Possessions for En-
gland.

London, May 12.—Colonial Secretary
Chamberlain announced in the house of
Commons today that as a result of the
British military operations in the Sokoto
and Kano districts ending with the
capture of the Emir of Kano, 100,000
square miles of territory had been added
to northern Nigeria and would be
administered by the government of that
territory.

Interesting details have been received
here of the capture of Sokoto March
14th by the British column commanded
by Colonel North. The engagement
lasted two and a half hours. The
British numbered about five hundred
men with four quick firing guns and
Maxims. The enemy's horse and foot
were estimated to number some six
thousand men, their rifles being
armed with modern rifles and using
smokeless powder. The British camped
during the night of March 13th one and
a half miles from Sokoto after a hard
march of one hundred miles from
Kaura with but little water and having
passed through a difficult country. At
daybreak, March 14th, the British
moved out in square formation towards
the valley in which Sokoto lies. Imme-
diately after the British appeared over
a ridge, the Fulanis charged with fa-
natical bravery unimpeded by a wither-
ing Maxim and rifle fire. They had no
proper leaders, but the isolated bands
continued to advance over heaps of
dead and dying, often only individuals
reaching within a yard of the square
where refusing quarter, they were shot
down while shouting "Allah," "Allah"
with their last breath. The main body
of the natives were finally routed, leav-
ing a remnant of about thirty chiefs
around the Emir's great white flag.
These chiefs were defiant to the last
and their corpses were found hedging
the standard when the British entered
the city, which consisted mostly of
thatched houses.

IN FAR AWAY MANILA

Doings of a Son of Wilmington in a
Distant Land.

The many friends in Wilmington of
Mr. Marcus Sternberger will be glad
to know that he is steadily progressing
in his new field in life in the Philip-
pines. Mr. Sternberger is in the service
of the government and is one of its
most valuable coast wise inspectors.
His father in this city, Mr. Joseph
Sternberger, is in receipt of a copy of
the Manila Cablenews, a daily ten page
American paper published in Manila,
which contains the following:

"There is smuggling going on off the
Island of Panay of many valuable
pieces, composed of silver. Collector of
Customs has been somewhat puzzled
as to the origin of the free entry of
this personal property.

"Mr. Shuster was seen by a Cable-
news representative, and stated that
he had not been officially informed of
any extended operations to avoid pay-
ment of customs duties. However, he
remarked that the Island of Panay has
always been a source of trouble to the
customs officials inasmuch as the geo-
graphical formation of the island gives
and almost free entry for goods deliv-
ered in the night time.

"Collector Shuster admits that the
coast of Panay affords facilities for this
kind of work. Mr. M. Sternberger left
on the coast guard boat Palawan yester-
day for Capiz to relieve Inspector
D. A. Jumper. Mr. Sternberger's
assignment is to the new station.
Collector Shuster informed a repre-
sentative of the Cablenews that there was
no particular case requiring his im-
mediate action. As stated, 'I have no of-
ficial information of any extensive
smuggling being done in Panay. There
has, and always will be, an attempt
to use the Southern Islands as basis to
bring in dutiable goods through the
small ports of the Archipelago as the
smugglers, whom once the goods are
once landed, can clear themselves in
Manila as having received them from
a coast point."

"The Sula was dispatched by Mr.
Shuster to patrol the coast of Panay
to offset any attempt on the part of
vessels headed towards Capiz and the
fact of the Sula being sent there and
the rapid transfer of Mr. Sternberger
gives some credence to the reported
smuggling taking place in that sec-
tion."

Manchuria Free to All Comers.

Paris, May 12.—The Russian charge
d'affaires, M. Plancon, has given reas-
urances regarding Manchuria. He has
issued an official notice that all Man-
churia is open to foreign travel and
add that passports are no longer neces-
sary.

There were 500 Russian soldiers at
Newchwang, who were removed about
the date fixed for the evacuation, and
the same number returned to New-
chwang. It appears that the Russian
force which returned to the Liao forts
merely used the forts as temporary
resting places, while journeying south-
ward to their station on the peninsula.
The United States consul at New-
chwang has arrived here to confer with
Minister Oonger.

RECKLESS JOURNALISM.

The Pennsylvania Libel Law Signed
by Governor Pennypacker—He
Speaks of a Cartoon Hit at Him,
and Says Newspaper Articles
Caused Three Presidents to be
Assassinated.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 12.—Governor
Pennypacker approved the Grady-
Salus libel bill today and at the same
time issued a long statement giving the
reasons for his action. The bill which
was in the governor's hands for more
than a month goes into effect immedi-
ately and repeals all laws or parts of
laws inconsistent with the new act.

The governor claims in his statement
that there is nothing in the terms of the
measure which prevents any news-
paper from making such com-
ments upon legislative measures or
upon the official acts of state, municipal,
county or public officers as are
proper information for the public or
are in the line of legitimate public dis-
cussion.

Continuing he says: "The bill in its
application is not confined to officials,
but affects as well, the citizen or busi-
ness man, whose conduct constitutes no
part of the right of the public to infor-
mation. The corporation officer who
has been falsely charged with crime,
the manufacturer who is falsely accus-
ed of being a drunken brawler; the woman
whose domestic griefs have been
unfeelingly paraded, or whose chastity
is improperly suspected, the student
who has been falsely accused of murder,
the clergyman who has been cruelly
maligned; the quiet citizen whose peace
of mind has been destroyed by the
publication of evil gossip; the merchant
whose credit has been affected by
groundless rumors, the sufferer from
reckless but not necessarily malicious
publications are given the right not to
prohibit publication, but to recover the
damages which they have sustained,
provided they prove negligence or lack
of care on the part of the publishing
newspapers. All of these are instances
of what has in fact recently occurred.
A mayor of our chief city has been
called a traitor, a senator of the United
States has been denounced as a yokel
with sudden brain, and within the last
quarter of a century two presidents of
the United States have been murdered
as in each instance the cause was
easily traceable to inflammatory and
careless newspaper utterances.

"A cartoon in a daily journal of May
2nd defines the question with entire
precision. An ugly little dwarf repre-
senting the governor of the common-
wealth, stands on a pedestal, and a
stool is subordinate to and placed along
side of a huge printing press with
wheels as large as those of an ox-
team and all are so arranged as to give
the idea that when the press starts the
stool and its occupant will be thrown
under the ground. Put into words the car-
toon asserts to the world that the press
is above the law and greater in
strength than the government. No self
respecting people will permit such an
attitude to be long maintained. In
England a century ago the offender
could have been drawn and quartered
and his head stuck upon a pole with-
out the gates. In America today this
is the kind of arrogance which 'Goth
before a fall.'"

The governor says if such abuse of
the privileges allowed to the press is to
go unpunished, if such tales are per-
mitted to be poured into the ears of
men and to be profitable, it is idle to
contend that reputable newspapers can
maintain their purity.

He also says that many years experience
on the bench has led him to the
conclusion that crimes are widely pro-
pagated not by the malice, but by the
recklessness of the press, and that in
certain classes of cases, among them
murder, the accused were at times ac-
quitted or convicted before they reached
the court room.

Governor Pennypacker says the repu-
table press need have no fear of the
operation of the law but that it will
have a repressive effect upon the
evil tendencies of modern journalism.

SHOOTING AT CHADBOURN

Two Farmers Fall Out and One
Shoots the Other.

Yesterday about noon at Chadbourn,
on the Wilmington, Columbia and Au-
gusta railroad, a serious shooting affair
occurred between two prominent farm-
ers of that section of the county, E. S.
Read and Chester Edmunds, and as a
result of the occurrence one of the par-
ticipants, Edmunds, is in the hospital
in this city dangerously wounded. He
was brought down early this morning
on the belated train from the south.

The shooting took place near the de-
pot in Chadbourn. Edmunds accosted
Read about killing some of his hogs,
which it was alleged Read had shot for
running in his fields. Read called Ed-
munds, so it is said, a liar and Ed-
munds returned the epithet, where-
upon the two clinched and a fight en-
sued. Read shot Edmunds in the back,
while they were clinched, the bullet,
of 22 calibre, entered between the left
shoulder blade and the spinal column
and broke two ribs in its progress.
At the time a brother of Edmunds's
was standing near by and hit Read.
After the shooting, with a coupling pin,
but notwithstanding Read managed to
escape on a train and got as far as
Whiteville, where he was arrested and
placed in jail.

The wounded man, under the care of
Dr. N. A. Thompson, of Whiteville,
and accompanied by his brother and
several friends, arrived in the city
about 1 o'clock this morning and was
taken direct to the James Walker Mem-
orial Hospital for treatment.

ASSAULTED WITH A BRICK

Small Negro Boy Hit a Small White
Boy.

A small negro boy, Arthur Walker,
was before Mayor Pro Tem W. H. Yopp
yesterday for hitting a small white boy,
Clarence Davis, in the head with a
rock. The injury was not serious,
though painful, but as a deadly weapon
had been used the defendant was bound
over to the next term of the superior
court in the sum of \$50. He failed to
give the bond and was sent to jail.

The assault happened yesterday morn-
ing on Sixth street, between Bladen
and Harnett, and was caused by a game
of street base ball, which the negro de-
sired to participate in and was not al-
lowed to do so by the white boy.

BUNCO GAME

Colombia's Ugly Tactics
With Regard to the
Panama Canal

WANTS A DIVIDE

Impression Created at Washington
That the Colombians by Their Op-
position to the Treaty With the
United States Are Endeavoring to
Squeeze the Owners of the Canal
Route for a Part of the \$40,000,000
to be Paid Them—The Nicaraguan
Canal Project to be Resumed.

Washington, May 12.—Dr. Thomas
Herran, Colombian charge d'affaires,
said today that he had not been advised
by his government that President
Marroquin had resigned, as reported
in dispatches from Panama. If it shall
appear shortly that the Colombian gov-
ernment is unwilling to consummate
the treaty, or is disposed to defer final
action beyond the "reasonable time"
mentioned in the Spooner act, the state
department will at once endeavor to re-
open negotiations with Nicaragua and
Costa Rica with a view to securing
control of the alternate route for a can-
nel through these countries. In fact,
Secretary Hay has already within the
week talked with Senor Corea, the Ni-
caraguan minister, and Senor Calvo, the
minister from Costa Rica. It is said
by parties to the negotiations that if
they are resumed it will be upon the
distinct understanding that the United
States government definitely abandons
the Panama route. So much ill feeling
was excited in Nicaragua and Costa
Rica by the dropping of the Nicaragua
route after the protocols had been
drawn looking to its acquisition, that
the resident ministers of the two
countries here are very loath to take up
the subject again without an express
agreement that they are not to be used
to club the Colombian government into
terms. The officials here, however,
feel very confident that it will not be
necessary to resort again to the Ni-
caraguan route, for they believe the pre-
sented difficulties in the Panama nego-
tiations are solely attributable to efforts
on the part of the Colombians to make
the most of the opportunity to induce
the Panama canal company to divide
with it some part of the \$40,000,000 to
be received by the company from the
United States.

AN ELASTIC CURRENCY.

At the Meeting of the Texas Bank-
ers Yesterday Ex-Secretary Guage
Advocated a Credit or Asset Cur-
rency.

Sherman, Texas, May 12.—The Texas
Bankers' Association met here today
and listened to the reading of a num-
ber of letters from prominent bankers
in other states.

One of the letters was from ex-Sec-
retary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage,
who discussed the question "Is the
Money Supply of the United States
Sufficient?" "I answer the ques-
tion," he said, "by expressing the very
grave doubt whether it is adequate
in volume, and a clear conviction that
it is not economical in character. The
provision for supply ought to have re-
ference to recurring needs, responding
in volume when occasions for use of
currency are the greatest and retiring
naturally as the requirements grow
less exacting." He argued for a credit
or asset currency, saying that he was
well aware that deep prejudice exists
against either, "but an honorable his-
tory of such a currency for a genera-
tion in several states, and a history
of several generations abroad, fully
justify the belief that with some rea-
sonable and just guards around it, we
can gain the advantage of an adequate
currency without any risk of disaster,
or the loss of a single dollar." He as-
serted that the following proposition
could be successfully supported:

1. Such a currency is required in the
interest of the whole country.
2. The protection of the note holder
against depreciation or loss may be
made entirely adequate.
3. There need be no dangerous credit
expansion through bank note issues if
reasonable limitation be imposed as to
volume, and a proper system of central
redemption provided.
4. Such a currency would go far to-
ward arresting the annually recurring
anxiety occasioned by the impairment
of reserves, called into temporary use,
as they are to serve as a medium of
circulation in the movements of crop
harvesting.

5. It would tend to steady the rates
of interest in the central cities, and
prevent the violent and costly pertur-
bations between "Money as a Drug"
and "Money impossible to borrow,"
and thus save the individual investors
the great losses now so frequently ex-
perienced by reason of fluctuations in
the money market.

6. It would be in the interest especial-
ly of the agricultural classes, affording
them as it would an adequate supply
of a safe circulating medium of ex-
change and payment, on terms more
favorable than they could otherwise
enjoy.

News Notes from Wilson.

(Special to The Messenger.)
Wilson, N. C., May 12.—Yesterday
was most fitly and appropriately ob-
served here as Memorial day. Judge
Connor made a most admirable address,
and was introduced by John W. Blount,
Esq. Our streets were thronged all the
day, and in the big procession there
were hundreds of old veterans.
Our superior court convened this
morning with that admirable jurist,
Judge Brown, presiding.

GREAT OVATION.

President Roosevelt's Reception at
San Francisco Yesterday—He Burned
\$115,280 Y. M. C. A. Building
Bonds and Joined in Singing
"Praise God From Whom All Bless-
ings Flow"—He Made a Speech for
the Tariff, Sound Money, and on
Elastic Currency.

San Francisco, May 12.—Heartier
greetings were never given a president
of the United than that offered today
by the city of San Francisco to Theod-
ore Roosevelt. Through miles and
miles of densely packed, cheering, pa-
triotically enthused humanity, the na-
tion's chief passed, bowing his ac-
knowledgements, evidently wearied by
maintaining an erect position in his
carriage, but buoyed up by the impres-
siveness of the demonstration. It was
a magnificent ovation.

When the presidential train, drawn
by a handsomely decorated locomotive
arrived, the president was welcomed
by Mayor Schmitz and M. H. de
Young, president of the citizens' re-
ception committee.

Mr. Roosevelt expressed his thanks
to each in a few words and was then
introduced to Admiral Rickford, of the
British Pacific squadron, who con-
veyed the good wishes of King Edward
and the arrival of the British fleet.
The ship of the squadron to assist in the
greeting was another instance of the
cordial relations existing between the
two nations. President Roosevelt said
he appreciated the evidence of friend-
ship and begged that his good wishes
be given to his majesty.

Before entering his carriage, Mr.
Roosevelt stepped up to the locomotive
and warmly shook hands with En-
gineer McNeill and Fireman Everly,
who had pulled safely from the south,
in the parade the line was
headed by a troop of colored cavalry,
this being the first instance in the west
where negro soldiers have held the
position of honor in a public procession.

Following the president came
United States troops from the local
posts, sailors and marines from the
warships in the harbor and at Mare
Island, regiments of the state militia,
and a number of semi-military organi-
zations.

A notable feature was the fancy
marching of the Cleveland Grays, who
came from Ohio to participate in the
California greeting.

After reviewing the parade the pres-
ident was escorted to the Y. M. C. A.
building where a throng had assem-
bled to participate in the burning of
mortgages and notes representing the
total indebtedness of \$115,280 upon the
property. The president, by request
touched a lighted match to the docu-
ments and the flames flicked up. The
papers he joined with the assemblage
in singing "Praise God From Whom All
Blessings Flow." The president made
a brief address.

The president was banqueted tonight
at the Palace Hotel by the citizens'
committee. In his speech at the ban-
quet he said:

"We have attained our present po-
sition of leadership in the international
business world, in a tariff policy which
I think our people as a whole have ac-
quiesced in, as essentially wise alike
from the standpoint of the manufac-
turer, the merchant, the farmer and
the wage worker. Doubtless as our
needs shift it will be necessary to re-
ply in its details this system, but it
meets these shifting needs, but it would
certainly seem from the standpoint of
our business interests, most unwise
to abandon the general policy of the
system, under which our success has
been so signal. In financial matters we
are to be congratulated upon having
definitely determined that our currency
system should rest upon a gold basis;
for to follow any other course would
have meant disaster so widespread
that it would be difficult to overesti-
mate. There is, however, unquestion-
able need of enacting further
financial legislation, so as to provide
for greater elasticity in our currency
system. So, in my judgment, the con-
gress that is to assemble next fall,
should take prompt and decisive ac-
tion upon pressing questions relating to banking
and currency."

BOLD NIGHT ROBBERY.

Night Watchman Knocked Down
and Robbed of His Watch and
Chain—Hope Mills Votes for Schools
—Beautiful Colonial Home.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Fayetteville, N. C., May 13.—Last
night J. W. Holly, watchman at the
Norfolk Lumber Mills in east Fayette-
ville, was knocked down and robbed
of a watch and chain. The robber then
rifled the money drawer of the com-
pany, but obtained little, as the cash
and other valuables had been removed
for the night. Holly knows his assail-
ant, and the police are after him today.

An alarm brought the fire depart-
ment out last night to a building on
Franklin street, owned by Ed. Evans,
and occupied by several tenants. Not
much damage was done to the prop-
erty, but the fire was evidently in-
cendiary, as oil was found poured over
the steps and other parts of the build-
ing.

The thriving towns of Hope Mills
Nos. 1 and 2, situated on Rockfish,
seven miles south of this city, voted
in favor of graded schools yesterday by
good majorities. At the first vote
was 93 for and 12 against; at the sec-
ond, 94 for and 8 against.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Holt have moved
into their new residence on Haymount,
and a lodge home cannot be built
elsewhere in North Carolina. The plan
of exterior architecture, colonial style,
has been carried out in every detail,
blending in one harmonious whole,
while the interior is a model of taste,
elegance and comfort, with high-pitch-
ed rooms, broad halls, exquisite til-
ings, manteling, wainscoting and stair-
ways. The wall frescoing is by An-
derson, the Swedish artist, whose work
on the interior of the First Presby-
terian church is so much admired. The
surrounding grounds fitly set off the
Holt home—a profusion of flowers and
grasses in front, with terraces, groves
and driveways extending to the creek
in the rear.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Williamson will
board for the summer at "Pine View,"
Mrs. J. B. Broadfoot's pleasant resort
on Haymount, pending the building of
their residence on the arsenal grounds,
overlooking the city.

The convention of the Episcopal
diocese of St. Andrews for North
and South Carolina will be held here
during the sessions of the Council of
the Diocese of East Carolina, begin-

ning on Wednesday, the 20th instant.
Many distinguished clerical and lay
delegates of the Brotherhood are ex-
pected, among them Bishop Capers, of
South Carolina, and Dr. Wood, of New
York.

A large crowd took part in the me-
morial exercises at Chicora, Confed-
erate cemetery, where Mr. E. R. Mc-
Kethan, of this city, introduced by Mr.
J. C. Clifford, of Harnett county, de-
livered a fine address.

Mr. A. A. McKethan, Jr., is rush-
ing work in the construction of the
plant of the new pine product com-
pany, situated in the southeastern out-
skirts of the city. The buildings,
which are near completion, are exten-
sive, and the machinery will be of the
very best in every department.

Mr. John K. Strange, who has been
with the Cape Fear Electric Power
Company, and the Fayetteville and
Wilmington Steamboat Company, has
taken a position at Jacksonville, Fla.,
with the Stevens-Merrill Company,
builders of the steamer "City of Fayette-
ville."

Mr. W. A. Phillips is now with the
Hope Mills Manufacturing Company
as storekeeper.

Mr. A. J. Marshall, of the Wilming-
ton bar, was here yesterday, repre-
senting Mrs. Alice Phillips, petitioner
for partition of real estate.

Col. T. C. James, of Wilmington, is
registered at the Hotel LaFayette to-
day.

The annual meeting of the stockhold-
ers of the Hope Mills Manufacturing Com-
pany takes place next Wednesday,
the 20th instant, in the offices of the
company at the town of Hope Mills.

State Senator Joseph A. Brown, of
Columbus county, who was a prominent
candidate for congress in the Fayette-
ville convention last August, was in the
city yesterday.

THE STRANDED SHIP.

The Immigrants on Board the Vera
Cruz III Have Arrived at New
Bern and Will be Inspected There.

Pitiful Story of Their Trip Across
the Sea.

Charlotte, N. C., May 12.—A special
to The Observer from New Bern, N. C.,
says:

The revenue cutter Boutwell, Cap-
tain Seplam, arrived here today at 1
o'clock with the 391 immigrants taken
from the wrecked barkentine, Vera
Cruz III. Upon arrival of the cutter
at the wharf she was boarded and
quarantined by Assistant Surgeon
Primrose, of the quarantine station of
the Port of New Bern. His report was
that the immigrants were in good con-
dition considering the hardships they
have experienced and that examination
showed that 90 per cent. of them had
had smallpox. The manifest of the
wrecked barkentine showed that 290
were signed for, but when they were
taken from the wreck 392 were found,
but one died after reaching shore, thus
leaving 101 more than the manifest
called for. Captain J. M. Fernandez
was in charge of the Vera Cruz and the
papers received at the custom house
here show that he left Brava, Cape
Verde, April 1. It is reported that he
has left for parts unknown, but this is
not confirmed. The immigrants are in
charge of the officers of the Boutwell
and are being cared for at the govern-
ment yards, where they will remain
until the immigrant inspector arrives.
The story they tell is quite pathetic.
When they left Brava they were each
allowed one biscuit with a little brown
sugar sprinkled on it a day, and when
their water ran low they were made to
put one bucket of fresh to two buckets
of sea-water for drinking purposes.
Thousands of people flocked down to
the yard to see the strangers and in the
afternoon they were moved to sell some
of the souvenirs that they brought over
with them.

SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING.

Norfolk, Va., May 12.—A message
from Hatters today states that the
barkentine Vera Cruz III which is
ashore at Ocracoke inlet, is in good
condition. Agent Seymour, of the Mer-
ritt Wrecking Company, stated tonight
that he had not yet heard from W. S.
Tooker, who was sent to the scene to
examine the vessel, but it was believed
that the vessel which is an old one,
would hardly be worth trying to float
since she is high and dry, and it would
require an extraordinary high tide to
get barkentine into her native element
again.

STRIKERS WERE ENJOINED.

Singular Case Being Heard Before
the United States Court of Appeals
at Richmond.

Richmond, Va., May 12.—In the Uni-
ted States circuit court of appeals here
today, Judges Goff, Simonton and Mor-
riss heard arguments on appeal of the
famous coal strike case, inaugurated
against the union miners in West Vir-
ginia, by the Chesapeake and Ohio coal
agency company, and various mine-
owning concerns.

On the 30th day of July, 1902, the
Chesapeake and Ohio Coal Agency
Company presented to Judge Keller its
bill of complaint, alleging among other
things that the defendants, J. W. Car-
roll, W. B. Wilson, John Mitchell, in
conjunction with others, were conspir-
ing together to interfere with the op-
erating and conducting of their coal
mines and coke plants. Judge Keller
issued a restraining order inhibiting
John Mitchell and all others associat-
ing or acting with him from in any
wise interfering with the management,
operation or conduct of mines by their
owners or those operating them, either
by menaces, threats or any character of
intimidation, used to prevent the em-
ployees from going to or from the mines
and coke plants, or from engaging in
the business of mining or laboring at
coke plants.

On January 30th 1903, Judge Keller
entered an order, upon motion of the
defendants, to dissolve the injunction
as to them, dismissing the bill as to
all others he made the temporary re-
straining order a permanent one.

The remaining hundred or more de-
fendants took an appeal from the de-
cree. And it is on their appeal that the
case comes up in the United States cir-
cuit court of appeals for hearing.

WASTED BY CIVIL WAR.

Gloomy and Deplorable Condition
of Affairs in Colombia—Depreciated
Currency Which Takes \$22,000 to
Buy an American Dollar.

Washington, May 13.—A gloomy pic-
ture of the terrible plight in which Co-
lombia finds itself, as the result of the
exhausting four years of rebellion is
contained in a communication which
has reached this city from a source of
unquestionable reliability.

These advices state that on March
1st last, the government gave notice
that it had stopped the issue of paper
money. Consequently the government
early in April was almost entirely with-
out funds. It had not enough to pay
running expenses, to say nothing of
foreign claims and demands. Not a
cent of interest had been paid on na-
tional debt since the war commenced
in 1898. The claims growing out of the
recent revolution were assuming tre-
mendous proportions and as there was
no other means of relief it was appar-
ent that the government again must
have recourse to the lithograph stones
and start the presses running again.

Moreover, it was the general opinion
that even the small measure of relief
which might follow the receipt of the
\$10,000,000 from the United on account
of the Panama canal could not be ob-
tained as it was not expected that con-
gress would ratify the treaty. At one
time last year exchange on New York
was 22,000 that is, it took 22,000 Colo-
mbian dollars were required to purchase
one dollar's worth of goods in the
United States. It was feared that the
rate would be even higher this summer,
for there was over one billion dollars
worth of this paper money. It was ex-
pected that five hundred million
more would be issued immediately
to pay war expenses. The correspon-
dent said the conditions in Colombia at
the beginning of April were compar-
able to those existing in France in 1796.

FALSE RUMOR.

Washington, May 13.—"I doubt very
much if President Marroquin has re-
signed as president of the Colombian
government," said Dr. Herran, the Co-
lombian charge d'affaires today. "I
always have been promptly advised by
cable of any cabinet changes, and es-
pecially when such changes affected
the office of president. Neither the
state department nor the legation
has received confirmation of the re-
ported resignation, therefore, it does
not seem reasonable."

Mr. Cronwell, counsel for the Pana-
ma canal company, discussed the canal
situation with Secretary Hay today.
His advice from the company agents
on the isthmus contradicted the story
printed yesterday to the effect that
President Marroquin had resigned. As
communicated to Secretary Hay they
were to the effect that the Marroquin
government is actually stronger now
owing to the resignation of General
Fernandez as minister of war. Fernan-
dez is said to have been a discordant
element in the cabinet, and the fact
that his strong personality could be
disposed of without causing any commo-
tion is considered an evidence of Mar-
roquin's power.

THE PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS.

They Are Still at New Bern—New
England Firm Denies That the
Wrecked Ship Was Consigned to
Them.

Washington, May 13.—The Treasury
department has received a dispatch
from New Bern, N. C., announcing the
arrival here of the immigrants taken
from the wrecked Portuguese barken-
tine Vera Cruz III. The immigration
officials who were sent to make the
inspections have not reached New Bern.
Blank manifests have been sent, as the
department assumes that the ship's
papers were lost with the vessel. A
telegram from Boston announces that
the firm at New Bedford to which the
ship was said to be consigned denies
that it is the consignee and declines all
responsibility for the vessel.

The department has cabled to the
United States consul at Brava, Cape
Verde Islands, for particulars of the
ship's destination