

by these branches themselves, particularly when these branches furnish judge, jury, witnesses and prosecuting officers.

The spirit of the service is indicated in the original order for Boalt's deportation without a hearing. There would not have been even a court of inquiry had not Secretary of the Navy Daniels interposed his cable orders. Daniels is a newspaper man, has been one all his life and he knows what it means to publish unpleasant truths about the powers that be and sometimes suffering unpleasant consequences.

While running his North Carolina paper not many years ago, Daniels published the facts about a railroad and ended by calling it "A receivership steal." The judge who had appointed the receiver hauled Daniels before him, adjudged him in contempt of court, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$2,500. Daniels told the judge he would live and die in jail before he would pay a cent of it, and the judge never dared send him to jail, and the fine was never paid.

Daniels is the kind of man therefore to see the point of backing up a newspaper man whose only purpose is to tell the truth, even when it is unpleasant.

Since the publication of Boalt's charges other stories have been floating around which make congressmen even more anxious to have this investigation. For instance, there is a story in Washington attributed to Staff Photographer Weigle of the Chicago Tribune to the effect that a Mexican was summarily executed by the American forces following the taking of Vera Cruz on a charge that he had made an attack on an American woman.

The newspaper correspondents at Vera Cruz, according to this story, were permitted to witness the execution on condition that they should say nothing about the affair in their dispatches.

Senators and congressmen who

want an investigation do not particularly care for the arbitrary orders of Secretary Garrison in the matter of press censorship over news pertaining to the American occupation of Vera Cruz. In fact, Congressman Falconer's investigation calls on Garrison to advise the house whether or not this censorship is now in operation covering news of the testimony being given at the court of inquiry now being held on the battleship Texas at Vera Cruz.

Officials here do not understand why there should be any censorship at the present time. Censorship is a war measure. War never has been declared with Mexico and President Wilson has repeatedly asserted that the present status is not one of war.

Nevertheless, the cable office at Vera Cruz is understood to be under martial law, and every word of copy is subjected to the strictest censorship.

Correspondents cannot go to Vera Cruz to tell about things there unless they become to all intents and purposes members of the army and subject to military discipline. They are required to file a bond in the sum of \$2,000, binding their employers that they shall live up to every order of every petty officer entrusted with the censorship functions. The penalty is deportation and forfeiture of the bond.

It is the belief of members of congress that the boys in the navy and army are as good as boys elsewhere.

It is not assumed that our soldiers in either branch are any more brutal than civilians or than other soldiers. These acts, if they have taken place, illustrate how young men otherwise decent and humane, when excited by the blood lust of a first experience in killing their fellow-men in time of war, as they thought it was, become brutalized and commit acts which are disgraceful to the service, and which the laws of civilized warfare seek to curb and which discipline is supposed to check.