

Comment by the Editor

JUSTICE

Thomas Jefferson believed that "justice is instinct and innate, that the moral sense is as much a part of our constitution as that of feeling, seeing, or hearing". Of the truth of this statement there are many proofs. It is the very essence of sportsmanship. Righteousness, being a tenet of religion, is as universal as divine influence. Without a highly developed ethical sense in the rank and file of common folks, political democracy could not endure, for the principal end of civil society is justice. To "establish justice", reads the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

Nowhere has the hypothesis of inherent rectitude been more clearly demonstrated than among American pioneers. It was from such people that Theodore Roosevelt learned the doctrine of the "square deal".

Whether the rough and ready settlers' love of justice was born of a natural yearning for the right or, as a skeptic suggests, was "nothing more than the fear of suffering injustice" is immaterial. The fact remains that before established law and government were formally extended to these people they had already formulated and administered rules of

conduct for the maintenance of justice among themselves. They required strict observance of their extralegal regulations in the name of common fairness.

It is one thing to be beyond the law and quite another to be above it. The squatters lacked legal protection, but they were law-abiding. While they may have been contemptuous of mere legality, they had great respect for equity and authority. They would have agreed heartily with William Penn that "justice is the insurance which we have on our lives and property; to which may be added, and obedience is the premium which we pay for it."

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