Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 13.—One of our most beneficial institutions is the town meeting. Each springtime sees it flourish all over rural New England, whence it spread to other parts of the nation. In this region it goes back to the cabin of the Mayflower, where before the final landing of the Pilgrims they adopted the compact which was the forerunner of our written constitutions. For more than twenty years the town meeting was the supreme legislative and judicial authority in the Plymouth colony.

No more effective instrument for demonstrating the principle of equality and liberty and teaching the art of self-government has been devised. When the people of a state who are qualified voters can meet together on a common footing in assemblies of moderate size and there, after due deliberation, choose their own magistrates, impose their own taxes and appropriate their own money; they have provided themselves with the firmest foundation of government and the best guaranties of liberty. Such gatherings afford the finest training in the practical elements of citizenship. By placing both the power and responsibility solely in their hands the town meeting demonstrates to the people that this is their country and their government.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 20.—February 22 marks the 186th birthday of George Washington. His stature has only increased with the years. His public life was characterized by complete unselfishness. Indifferent to his own fortunes, his only concern was for his country. He needed no pretense and no art. He was simply and naturally great.

From every avenue of approach we find a complete man. In all his actions he was precise, accurate, methodical. His diary extends from early youth to the day before his death. It would be difficult to show him mistaken on any important question. The personification of judgment and character, his yes yea and nay nay was a disquisition which had all the eloquence of Patrick Henry, all the political wisdom of John Adams, all the economic authority of Alexander Hamilton, and all the judicial fidelity of John Marshall.

He was the best business man of his day, the ablest general of his era, the wisest statesman of the world and the most exalted patriot of all time. His fellow countrymen look on him as a father and all humanity worships him as the incarnation of the spirit of ordered liberty.

CALVIN COOLIDGE