Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 26.—The coming season will test the ability and the disposition of agriculture to co-operate with the Farm Board. As a temporary expedient the board stepped in under the law which seemed to justify it and supported the price of wheat and cotton produced last year. Probably it prevented a real panic in wheat. But members of the board have constantly made it plain that they do not propose to continue a policy which is dangerous and unsound and, in the end, bound to fail.

Beginning months ago both the Secretary of Agriculture and the board gave constant warning that the sound solution of the surplus problem lay with the farmers themselves. Unless they solve it no one can provide a permanent solution for them.

The results of government action have emphasized that the only way to deal effectively and permanently with a surplus under present world conditions is to reduce acreage. The planting time is beginning. The farmer will have to decide whether he wants ten acres of production costing at the rate of $10 and selling at the rate of $15, or whether he wants twenty acres costing $20 and selling for $18. No government can make an oversupply profitable.

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Feb. 27.—In addition to the apparent escape of the Spanish people from the ravages of disorder and revolution, the encouraging news comes from Europe that there is a good prospect of a naval agreement between France and Italy. Nothing could be more reassuring to the real friends of Europe in this country than concrete actions demonstrating that the desire for peace through mutual good understandings and concessions is the predominant sentiment of the Continental people.

It is seldom that even an event of great importance can bring on war between nations unless the way has been prepared by a long series of disagreements over comparatively trifling incidents. If the little disputes are adjusted as they arise, a general condition of friendship exists between people of different countries so that they are immune from the contagion of the serious maladies of hostility.

These recent developments indicate clearly that in spite of some friction and some intemperate language the people of Europe have a strong underlying public opinion in favor of peaceable adjustment. That sentiment will produce more security than great squadrons and heavy battalions. Common sense is saving the day.

Calvin Coolidge