Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., June 4.—The pulpit and the commencement platform frequently assert that our governmental and economic system is on trial. The inference is that it has failed.

When told that Christianity had failed Beecher said that it had never been tried. The same reply is applicable to criticism of our system. It has not been tried.

We live under a system of individual freedom and self-government where each individual is entitled to the rewards of his own foresight and industry and is charged with his own support. The only way to change this system is to restrict the freedom of the individual, let some one else govern him, give the rewards of his industry to others and make him support others. That system is slavery.

For two thousand years the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount have been preached. Because of ignorance and selfishness their teaching has not been fully accepted and adopted.

Our country has provided a system of government and economics. The same ignorance and selfishness have prevented its complete success. Our religious and social systems have not failed. They are sound. The failure lies in human imperfection. We need to grow in social and religious grace.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., June 5.—The proposed visit of Secretary Stimson to several countries in Europe reminds us that governments do not depend so much as formerly on the reports of diplomats, but are most disposed to take up important questions by direct personal contact between those in authority. The Chancellor of Germany is about to visit the Prime Minister of England, who in turn not long ago came here to confer with President Hoover. The Prime Minister of Canada paid this country a like compliment.

No way is so effective for finding out the difficulties and opinions of the other fellow and candidly disclosing to him your own as through a personal interview. Much can be said that would never be put in a diplomatic dispatch. That basis of good understanding which the world so much needs today is deficient because those in authority do not have a first hand knowledge of the people and conditions with which they are attempting to deal.

This method is easier for Europe where capitals are not far apart than it is for us. But our Secretary of State ought to go abroad each year to make personal acquaintances even if he has little requiring diplomatic adjustment.

CALVIN COOLIDGE