Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 12.—The results of the recent European naval agreement were mostly political. In that field they are important. The great powers finally have reached a definite basis for all naval construction. That is the outstanding fact. After years of effort, competition has been limited and perhaps ended. That is an achievement of the first rank. The agreement has not been accomplished without considerable sacrifice of principle. It does not in terms provide for a reduction, but for an increase of naval armaments. This may be only a concession to national sentiment. Perhaps the additional tonnage will not be constructed.

For the sake of establishing the principle of limitation and ending competition, probably it would be wise for our own government to concur in the agreement if necessary to make it effective. If France increases her submarine fleet we have the same right to build destroyers as an offset. But the policy has been reversed. The five powers all have adopted the course charted in the Washington treaty. They will be in better condition to make further progress in the 1932 conference.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 13.—There is no need for hasty judgment on the progressive's conference held in Washington. Many sincere people attended. Their assumption that they are better than any of the political parties will do no harm. Apparently they have an ambitious program. They seek to guide all other public officers. Their official members have not always shown great capacity for co-operation. If they now learn to co-operate with each other they later may be able better to co-operate with other members of the Congress.

The conference has accomplished little by naked criticism. Every one knows that the government is not perfect. Almost every one suspects that it will not be made perfect for some time. Yet we all want to see it improved. We all desire progress, prosperity and an even better distribution of the rewards of industry, although in these we now surpass the world. Very few now believe that these things can be secured by more extravagance, more loaning, more politics, or more government.

The discussion may prove helpful. A reduction of vague ideas to specific proposals usually shows whether they are sound. The formation of a constructive common-sense program for perfecting the country will not be found easy.

CALVIN COOLIDGE