NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 19.—Among the other sources of surplus now appears transportation. With the decline of trade the movement of passengers and freight has decreased about 25 per cent. The railroads have six hundred and fifty thousand idle freight cars.

This situation is aggravated by the motor bus and truck. The country has expended large amounts in the past twenty years for hard surfaced highways. This provides a free right of way for the commercial motor. With the present low cost of gasoline, even after paying the tax, with no regulation of rates and service, with some overloading and consequent injury to roads and bridges, this is a competition which the railroads charge is unfair. They want their competitors placed on an equal basis with themselves either by removing the restrictions on the railroads or placing similar restrictions on motors.

There is much force in this proposal. Both services might benefit by some division of long and short haul, heavy and light freight. The railroads are a public necessity. The government, in taking charge of them, has rendered them unable to protect themselves. Public welfare demands an equal chance for them in a fair field.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 20.—The voyage of President Hoover will direct public attention to the importance of our insular possessions. For the most part they came to us as the result of the Spanish War. In population they are about fourteen and one-half million people. The annual trade with them is more than five hundred and fifty millions of dollars. This is more than one-tenth of our population and more than one-twentieth of our foreign trade.

These islands all represent a great public duty that in the course of history has come to the United States to discharge. The people involved for the most part would not be able to make their own way in the world. They have had no experience in self-government except what has been brought to them under our direction. Without some help, without being attached to some country, they could neither repel foreign aggression nor maintain sufficient domestic order to insure any individual freedom. Our purpose is mainly to help them advance economically, intellectually and politically until such time as they can assume entire charge of their own affairs with safety to themselves and other nations. Our duty is plain even if it brings no thanks.

CALVIN COOLIDGE