NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Nov. 12.—Sometimes our country is
charged with giving too much thought to the material things of life.
The charge may appear more justified because in ordinary times the
rank and file of our people are in such comfortable circumstances—so
independent and well able to take care of themselves, that they make
no appeal to the humanitarian sentiments. But if any catastrophe
arises that is likely to cause real human suffering, at home or abroad,
our response to the need for relief is generous and instantaneous.

The economic effect of the unemployed can be overestimated. It
is the number at work, not the number out of work, that measures our
business prosperity. But the need for assisting those not able to find
work cannot be overestimated. The real human sympathy of all our
people in every station and locality now is being most effectively re-
vealed in the relief that is being provided through private charities
and local governments. It demonstrates not only our ample ability to
take care of each other, but the existence and power of a deep and
abiding community spirit. Our social system is not yet perfected, but
it is already the best and safest reliance in time of need that any
people ever enjoyed.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Nov. 19.—When prices are high the value
of the dollar is low. When prices fall the dollar rises. For that reason
it is apparent now how wise it has been to reduce the national debt.
It was done when the dollar was low and therefore more easy to get.
Now that it is higher it will be more difficult to pay the debt. It takes
more products to get the dollar.

Another advantage is the saving in interest. We have paid about
give-thirteenths of the national debt, which, with refunds at lower
rates, has reduced the yearly interest about a half billion dollars.
Otherwise the present decrease in revenues from declining trade would
force a heavy increase in taxes at a time when the country can least
afford to pay them.

Probably increased taxes can be avoided, but apparently debt reduc-
tion will be curtailed. Past governmental economies produced a surplus
which reduced our debt and taxes and makes it much more easy to
handle declining revenues. We may need some more old-fashioned
governmental economy. Certainly it is a time to save all public money
consistent with a policy of giving employment.