NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Nov. 20.—The report that a group of fifty prominent persons are to be called together to consider what remedy can be provided to relieve trade and industry in some of our large cities of the burden of what is called racketeering is welcome news. The last annual convention of the American Federation of Labor denounced this evil and most commendably resolved to take action against any of it that came in contact with their organization. Otherwise there has been little of a concerted movement for suppression.

In effect, a super government is undertaking to grant privileges and immunities, usually for a payment of money, under threat of penalties to be suffered if the demands are refused. While this form of corruption is peculiarly abhorrent to a free people, the ordinary individual is practically helpless against it. To refuse submission means to jeopardize his business if not his bodily safety. Only an aroused, insistent and united public, with the help of the police power, will be able to cope with the situation. A public ventilation of the menace and energetic action by all agencies charged with suppressing crime are clearly needed. Failure to provide security means weakness in our government.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Nov. 21.—Nearly every day the current news reports some item that indicates how great this country is and how great are its resources. We are sometimes criticized for putting too much emphasis on size. It is true that quality is often more important than quantity. But greatness in nearly every direction indicates power, and power is capacity for making progress and doing good.

Recently it was announced that the banks were about to pay $612,000,000 to the Christmas clubs which make regular saving deposits during the year in order to provide funds for the needs of the holiday season. This great sum is more impressive because it is so representative of the earnings and savings of the people. It would pay many times over the national debt at the end of the Revolutionary War.

The beneficial effect that will be secured from putting a large proportion of this money into circulation is important. It will be used for cash purchases. If its owners will buy merchandise currently produced which in the future will require replacement the present needs of business and of the unemployed will be best served. The reserve power of the people, of which this is a good example, always helps to relieve any situation.

CALVIN COOLIDGE