Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Oct. 14.—In almost all peace-time government decisions economic results are a dominant motive. The Imperial conference among the dominions of the British Empire now being held at London is largely given up to questions of trade regulations. The delegate for Canada proposed an empire policy of protection good against the rest of the world, with preference among the different dominions.

The most important decision at the conference was made by Chancellor Snowden in announcing that the present government would not favor the adoption of such a policy. This came after the declaration favorable to the principle by Stanley Baldwin, leader of the Conservatives.

A counter-proposal has come from the Board of Trade, pledging Great Britain to purchase a certain percentage of her imports from the dominions. But in this there will be difficulties of allocation. Protection for a compact country like the United States is entirely different from applying the policy to a world empire.

The desire of trade to buy in the cheapest and sell in the highest market then makes all artificial restrictions exceedingly problematical. Each dominion would have to make some sacrifice. The decision of the British Cabinet will have a very important effect on world trade.

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WORCESTER, Mass., Oct. 15.—We have in this country a certain type of officeholder, fortunately not large, who are always out with square and compass seeking to find out what the political effect will be of every action they take. They do not need to make such elaborate investigations. Any one with a little experience can tell them in advance that the effect of action based on such motives will always be bad. All the predominant political opinion of the nation which is worth cultivating is never impressed by decisions made for effect. Those who compose that body want responsible officeholders to try to find out what is best for the welfare of the people and do that. They are moved by sincerity and integrity of purpose. Pretense does not appeal to them.

That is the reason why those who seek popularity so seldom find it, while those who follow an informed conscience so often are astonished by a wide public approval. The people know a sham even when they seem to be trying to fool themselves and they cannot help having a wholesome respect for a reality. The best political effect usually comes to those who disregard it.

Calvin Coolidge