COOLIDGE: Who He Is: What He Has Done

A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FRIEND OF WORKERS

What an awe-inspiring experience is that of a President of the United States, particularly a President who is a non-partisan President. His friends sing his praises in superlative terms; his enemies cast him as a hero in exaggerated, sometimes even fantastic, terms. The President is an influential and important political leader, revered by his supporters and feared by his adversaries.

Simple and Humble, Able to Determine with Solid and Frugal, Worker and Friend of Workers

His beginnings

A history of Calvin Coolidge, properly begun, should begin at least 200 years or more before the present time. As a history of the United States must reach back to the seventeenth century for its actual beginnings.

The first Coolidge in America settled at Watertown, Mass., in 1635. That was 294 years ago. Calvin Coolidge, a direct descendant, was born 242 years later on a Vermont farm, July 4, 1872.

The Coolidges have filled the New England soil for nearly 300 years. A New England farmer may seldom attain great wealth, but he enjoys independence now because he was willing to work and die for his benefits when his ancestors were dependent. Calvin Coolidge, therefore, is to be envied the heritage of these three centuries of hard work and rugged opportunities.

Born in poverty, he learned the arts of a farmer, a carpenter, and a mill owner. He was not only a good management among the ordinary political activists, a legend has been built around him in which he is presented as cold, aloof, unresponsive, unsympathetic.

Probably, as a healthy, active, hard-working President, who works earlier than the average laborer, who has greater demands upon his time and patience than the man "over-worked" business man in America, and who stays on the job longer hours than he expects his secretary to do to devote his day. Mr. Coolidge may either smile or frown at the contests of politics, but they do not disturb his day.

Regardless of personal feelings, however, and of the personal motivations of the individual, the following summary of his career, given in dispassionate form, affords an accurate account of his associations and activities.

His activities in the Legislature gave him a State-wide reputation for leadership. He was elected Lieutenant-Governor and then twice re-elected to that position. Then the people of Massachusetts, having seen his faithful and intelligent service in various lesser positions, elected him Governor.

THE BOSTON POLICE STRIKE

It was during the latter part of his first term as Governor that the Boston police, after submitting certain demands that were refused, went on strike, leaving the city and its population subject to the reigns of lawlessness and violence elements of the common enemy.

Coolidge issued the following proclamation to the people of Massachusetts on September 31, 1919:

"The entire State Guard of Massachusetts has been called out. Under the Constitution the Governor is the commander-in-chief thereof by authority of which the police of the city may be moved. I hereby direct that the police of the city may be moved. I hereby direct that the police in obedience to such orders as shall be made of them by the Governor and in accordance with the Constitution of the State, to obey such orders as shall be made of them by the Governor and in accordance with the Constitution of the State."