

"SILENT CAL"—THE MAN



Illuminating Side-Lights on the Character of Our Thirtieth President

Silent Cal! I'm Cal, all right, but I'm not silent by a long shot.—President Calvin Coolidge.

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

ALVIN COOLIDGE, thirtieth president of the United States, entered the White House to face grave and diverse problems, both national and international. There are factions in the President's political party; "leadership has been unhorsed and ambitious malcontents are struggling for the stirrup." The Sixty-eighth congress, which meets in December, will contain many new and untried men of radical views.

What wonder then that all the world is interested in knowing all about the man elevated by the working of fate into the most important position on earth—as the presidency of the United States unquestionably is. Calvin Coolidge emerges from the comparative obscurity of the vice presidency into a fiercer limelight than ever beat upon any throne. His character and his personal and public record are under the X-ray. Thousands of keen and analytical minds are weighing his every recorded word in the hope of guessing his possible and probable action in public issues at home and abroad.

This article is intended to be informative and nothing else. There is no purpose to try to guess the political policies of Calvin Coolidge. The writer holds no brief for or against Calvin Coolidge either as a man or as a possible candidate for the presidency in 1924 or for or against the President's political party. It is prepared solely with the view of throwing light upon the personality of Calvin Coolidge.

As to the photographs: No. 1 is Calvin Coolidge's latest "close-up."
No. 2 shows him enjoying his vacation on the ancestral farm, where he took the oath of president. "Hard work never worried Cal," says his father.

No. 3 is a snapshot showing the President taking an early morning hike in Washington for exercise.

No. 4 shows a family group at the farm: Left to right, John C. Coolidge, the father; Mrs. Calvin Coolidge; Calvin Coolidge; Calvin Coolidge, Jr., the younger son.

No. 5 is Calvin Coolidge in his senior year, class of '05, at Amherst. He was graduated B. A. cum laude and won an essay competition open to students of all colleges.

No. 6 shows the President and Mrs. Coolidge at evening looking at the hollyhocks in the farm garden of old-fashioned flowers.

One thing that makes the American people eager for every revelation concerning the life and career and personality of Calvin Coolidge is the fact that he is a new type of man in the White House to the present generation of Americans—a New Englander of native stock. It is sixty-six years since New England has had a man in the White House and almost one hundred years since a citizen of Massachusetts has held the office of president. Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire was president, 1853-1857. John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, the second president, was president 1825-1829.

Calvin Coolidge is by lineage, birth and upbringing a New Englander of New Englanders—a simple Vermont Yankee. And he's proud of it. He said in 1920 to a large gathering of his neighbors:

Vermont is my birthplace. Here one gets close to nature; in the mountains, in the brooks, the waters of which hurry to the sea; in the lakes, shining like silver in their green setting; in the fields, tilled not by machinery, but by the brain and hand of man. My folks are happy and contented. They belong to themselves, live within their income, and fear no man.

New England, of course, believes implicitly in the New England type. It also hails the President as a fine sample of the type. The Boston Post, a Democratic newspaper, speaks for New England when it says:

Calvin Coolidge cannot fail. He embodies not alone all the hopes of New England, but her very life blood. He is the inheritor of all the splendor and all the magnificence of service that New England has given to America.

So New England elects to stand or fall with Calvin Coolidge as a cautious, discreet, thrifty, tight-mouthed, God-fearing, efficient Down-East Yankee.

The Coolidges certainly go back to the beginning of things in New England. The first American Coolidge came over about 1630 in the first flight of the Puritans and settled in Watertown, Mass. In 1780, John Coolidge, the President's great-grandfather, after service in the Revolution, moved to Plymouth, Vt. He hired out occasionally to his neighbors—and he left a farm to each of his five children!

Each succeeding generation of these Plymouth Yankee farmers seems to have run true to type. Calvin Coolidge's grandfather was justice of the peace, constable, selectman and town agent and attended all the political state and county conventions. John Calvin Coolidge, the President's father, hale and hearty at seventy-eight—the President says he has been the most formative influence in his life—owns the farm where his great-grandfather settled. He was tax collector and constable for thirty-eight years. He was justice of the peace. He served five sessions in the legislature, two in the senate. He kept store, ran the shop when the blacksmith left town, could pull a tooth, was road commissioner, settled estates, taught in the Sunday school and usually looks after the seating of the people at funerals. The President's great-grandfather was without schooling; his grandfather went to the district school; his father went to the academy at Ludlow; the President himself is a lawyer and a college graduate.

"Coolidge luck" has become proverbial. He started out by being born on the Fourth of July. He has been in public office almost continuously since 1890. He has never met defeat at the polls. He won a wife who is a genuine helpmeet. He has two fine sons. A police strike in 1919 made him famous over night. There are ambitious politicians who would give millions for the popular appeal of the setting in which he took the oath of office—the parlor of the old homestead; the old-fashioned kerosene lamp; the gathered neighbors outside in the darkness; the father, a notary public, reading the constitutional oath to the son; the son, with raised hand, repeating the oath and adding "So help me God!"

Several things evidently must be taken into consideration in connection with the "Coolidge luck" and the President's political career to date. Politics with Calvin Coolidge has been a profession. Here is his creed, stated publicly:

Politics is not an end, but a means. It is not a product, but a process. It is the art of government. Like other values it has its counterfeit. . . . It is the process of action in public affairs.

Calvin Coolidge knows politics more thoroughly than the average man knows the multiplication table; he has learned the game from the bottom up. He has been ably tutored. His opponents say that when the occasion demands "expert chauffeuring of the steam roller" Coolidge is a good man at the wheel. He has had powerful and devoted friends back of him. And the record

seems to show pretty conclusively that Coolidge has made good in every position he has held. In reading his speeches and writings one finds often the words "duty" and "service"—they bulk large in his political creed.

In politics Calvin Coolidge has always been a party man—"regular." He believes in the party system. He said, when governor of Massachusetts:

We have a government of parties. We must recognize party. A man ought to be loyal to those who have been loyal to him.

President Coolidge, it is everywhere agreed, is taciturn and reticent. His friends say he was born tight-mouthed; those who have opposed him add that he has also cultivated it as a political asset.

Here is a sample of Coolidge brevity: When he made his inaugural address as president of the state senate the second time he said just this and no more:

Honorable senators—My sincerest thanks I offer you. Conserve the firm foundations of our institutions. Do your work with the spirit of a soldier in the public service. Be loyal to the commonwealth and to yourselves. And be brief. Above all things—be brief.

Yet Coolidge can talk when he feels like it and the occasion warrants speech. Intimates say he can pound the desk and say "D—n." They also say that when he does read the riot act his language is blistering. He has made many notable public speeches.

Certainly he fooled the newspaper correspondents at Washington. Coolidge, as vice president, was singularly unobtrusive. Edward G. Lowry in his book, "Washington Close-Ups," described him as "a politician who does not, who will not, who seemingly cannot talk." And this came to be the view generally accepted by the newspaper correspondents at the capital.

Practically the first official act of the President upon his arrival in Washington was to receive the newspaper men—132 men and 5 women. He subtly gave the impression that he was anxious to establish personal relations with them. He also showed unmistakably that he was master of the situation. He opened the interview with a short speech. Study of the President's words shows both speech and answers to be concise, clear and admirable. The result was that this body of exacting, generally cynical and frequently unappreciative newspaper people repaid him with a hearty round of applause.

Coolidge, contrary to report, is not at all lacking in a sense of humor; his own brand is very dry. He is, of course, thrifty.

Analysis of Coolidge's record shows that he has often been able to make men of divergent interests work together and has retained the good will of both sides. Competent observers among the Washington correspondents say that most of his many and various callers since he became President have gone away in a friendly spirit, though the man in the White House had said little and promised nothing. "Everybody's Friend" they call him, half in compliment, half in jest.

Coolidge has a few intimates who insist that he is much warmer inside than his exterior indicates—and give various facts in evidence. But even these intimates, though they may call him "Cal," don't slap him on the back when they say it.

Calvin Coolidge has imagination and ideals and a militant spirit of service; read his "Have Faith in Massachusetts" if you doubt. His Puritan (not Pilgrim) forefathers "fell first upon their knees and then upon the aborigines." Spirituality and practicality both bulk large in the character of the man who settled New England and in that strange blend which has produced the Down-East Yankee who is thirtieth President of the United States of America.

Pretty Things that are made at Home

RIBBON sashes and girdles are among the pretty things that we have always with us and that women make for themselves. They are varied with the changing seasons so that there is always something new to report about them. Just now they are given to extra ornamental front pieces of ribbon, beads or other decorative mediums made separately and tacked over the grille at the front. A pretty example appears in the picture and it fastening and a bow or rosette of the ribbon placed at each side of the band. There is a certain uncertainty in the lines of the new fall coats, but it serves to give an added flip to the fashion, and perhaps is a blessing in disguise, since it will prevent the repetition of models and materials where all coats follow the same style influence. The straight-line coat is undoubtedly the basic style of the season, but since



Ribbon Sashes Are Popular

can be very effectively developed by using plain satin ribbon for the sash and narrow, metal-edged ribbon, in rocco effects, for the latticework and small flowers that make the ornament.

Wide ribbons, lavishly used in bows and loops to simulate the old-fashioned bustle effect, have been used to introduce a new style note into pretty draped afternoon frocks this fall. They vary the almost universal straight-line silhouette in a pleasing way.

The new season brought in many well as wide widths. The narrowest widths are used on dainty bonnet or breakfast sacques made of light silks. The ribbons are made into tiny flat bows and set on in rows. If one cares its introduction coats with tiers and circular skirt effects have appeared, and already have established themselves as graceful additions to the mode. There is a vast difference between an "addition to" and a "departure from" the fashion, and in this case the advent of the more ornate line has not affected the good style of the perfectly plain coat.

Shown in the illustration are characteristic models of both kinds. The coat at the left is a sports affair, made of camel's hair in a huge plaid pattern, the collar is of gray fox and fastens closely about the neck. The coat is entirely innocent of buttons or clasps, the only fastening being a narrow tie of the material. The sleeves are of a



Coats Show New Lines

to be extravagant the sacque may be covered with chiffon in the two colors that appear in the ribbon.

There are some narrow ribbons with one scalloped edge and a drawing along the straight edge. It is very easy to simulate flowers of many sorts with this kind of ribbon. These same ribbons are used with stamped patterns made for embroidery floss instead of regular embroidery. Little baskets, outlined with narrow old-gold ribbon, are filled with flowers made of the scalloped ribbon. This makes a lovely adornment for cushions, bedspreads, table scarfs and the like. This scalloped ribbon is also used for covering small fans shaped like palm-leaf fans. The ribbon is put on in rows.

Ribbon headbands for little girls on dress-up occasions appear to rival just now the popular hair bows. The bands are drawn about the head and fasten under the hair at the back. Snap fasteners or hooks and eyes are used for modified kimono pattern, with deep cuffs. The model pictured at the right is essentially a dress coat. Collar and cuffs are ornamented with rows of velvet ribbon loops. The long lapel and irregular tiers on the skirt are used to modify the straight line of the mode. A huge buckle of white-and-black gaiter provides the fastening.

Julie Bottomley

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Pink Roses. A hat of very fine black Milan has a cluster of pink roses placed at the right side. A veil of very fine black lace softens the cloche brim.