

THE CODE OF THE LAWS
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OF A GENERAL AND PERMANENT CHARACTER

IN FORCE

DECEMBER 7, 1925

AND APPENDIX WITH LAWS TO DECEMBER 6, 1926

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[WITH ANCILLARIES AND INDEX]

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CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE.....	v
TABLE OF TITLES AND CHAPTER HEADINGS.....	vii
TABLE OF TITLES AND CROSS REFERENCES.....	xi
TEXT OF STATUTES.....	1
PARALLEL REFERENCE TABLES.....	1707
I. Revised Statutes (1878).....	1709
II. Statutes at Large (Vols. 19-44).....	1715
III. United States Compiled Statutes, Annotated.....	1773
IV. Federal Statutes, Annotated.....	1779
TABLE OF STATUTES REPEALED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 7, 1925.....	1829
ORGANIC LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.....	1843
Declaration of Independence.....	1845
Articles of Confederation.....	1847
Ordinance of 1787: The Northwest Territorial Government.....	1851
Constitution of the United States and Amendments.....	1855
Index to the Constitution of the United States and Amendments.....	1863
APPENDIX: General and Permanent Laws of the First Session of the Sixty-ninth Congress.....	1875
INDEX.....	2127

P R E F A C E

This Code is the official restatement in convenient form of the general and permanent laws of the United States in force December 7, 1925, now scattered in 25 volumes—i. e., the Revised Statutes of 1878, and volumes 20 to 43, inclusive, of the Statutes at Large. No new law is enacted and no law repealed. It is *prima facie* the law. It is presumed to be the law. The presumption is rebuttable by production of prior unrepealed Acts of Congress at variance with the Code. Because of such possibility of error in the Code and of appeal to the Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large, a table of statutes repealed prior to December 7, 1925, is published herein together with the Articles of Confederation; The Declaration of Independence; Ordinance of 1787; the Constitution with amendments and index; tables of cross references to the Revised Statutes, the Statutes at Large, the United States Compiled Statutes, Annotated, of the West Publishing Co., and the Federal Statutes, Annotated, of the Edward Thompson Co.; an appendix with the general and permanent laws of the first session of the Sixty-ninth Congress; and finally an exhaustive index of the laws in the Code and appendix.

The first official codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States was made in 1874 and followed by a perfected edition in 1878. From 1897 to 1907 a commission was engaged in an effort to codify the great mass of accumulating legislation. The work of the commission involved an expenditure of over \$300,000, but was never carried to completion. More recently the task of codification was undertaken by the late Hon. Edward C. Little as chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Laws of the House of Representatives, who labored indefatigably from 1919 to the day of his death, June 24, 1924. The volumes which represented the result of his labors were embodied in bills which passed the House of Representatives in three successive Congresses unanimously but failed of action in the Senate.

The Code now set forth has resulted from the hearty cooperation of the Committee of the House of Representatives on the Revision of the Laws, and the Select Committee of the United States Senate consisting of Richard P. Ernst, chairman, George Wharton Pepper, and William Cabell Bruce. Under the auspices of the committees of the House and the Senate the actual work of assembling and classifying the mass of material has been done by the West Publishing Co. and the Edward Thompson Co. These two houses have subordinated their private interests to the public good and have produced a result which would have been impossible without them. Acknowledgment of valuable assistance is given to W. H. McClenon, of the Legislative Reference Division of the Library of Congress, and to the law officers and other representatives of the several departments, bureaus, and commissions of the Government. Appreciation is also expressed of the interest in the work taken by the Committee on the Revision of the Federal Statutes of the American Bar Association.

Scrutiny of this Code is invited. Constructive criticism is solicited. It is the ambition of the Committee on the Revision of the Laws of the House of Representatives gradually to perfect the Code by correcting errors, eliminating obsolete matter, and restating the law with logical completeness and with precision, brevity, and uniformity of expression.

Address criticisms to Chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Laws of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, *June 30, 1926.*

ROY G. FITZGERALD, *Chairman.*

TABLE OF TITLES AND CHAPTER HEADINGS

	TITLE 1.—GENERAL PROVISIONS	Page		TITLE 10.—ARMY	Page
Chap.			Chap.		
1.	Rules of Construction.....	1	1.	Composition, Organization, and Government of the Army Generally.....	169
2.	Acts and Resolutions of the Congress; Formalities of Enactment; Repeals; Sealing Instruments.....	2	2.	General Staff Corps.....	170
TITLE 2.—THE CONGRESS			3.	Adjutant General's Department.....	172
Chap.			4.	Inspector General's Department.....	172
1.	Election of Senators and Representatives.....	3	5.	Judge Advocate General's Department.....	172
2.	Organization of Congress.....	3	6.	Quartermaster Corps.....	172
3.	Compensation of Members.....	4	7.	Medical Department.....	173
4.	Officers and Employees of Senate and House of Representatives.....	5	8.	Finance Department.....	176
5.	Library of Congress.....	10	9.	Corps of Engineers.....	176
6.	Congressional Investigations.....	12	10.	Ordnance Department.....	177
7.	Contested Elections.....	12	11.	Signal Corps.....	177
8.	Federal Corrupt Practices.....	15	12.	Chemical Warfare Service.....	177
9.	Office of Legislative Counsel.....	17	13.	Chaplains.....	178
TITLE 3.—THE PRESIDENT			14.	Cavalry.....	178
Chap.			15.	Field Artillery.....	178
1.	Presidential Elections.....	19	16.	Coast Artillery Corps.....	178
2.	Office and Compensation of President.....	21	17.	Infantry.....	179
3.	White House Police.....	22	18.	Air Service.....	179
TITLE 4.—FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES			19.	Philippine Scouts.....	180
		25	20.	Reserve Forces.....	181
TITLE 5.—EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES			21.	Commissioned Officers.....	186
Chap.			22.	Warrant Officers.....	191
1.	Provisions Applicable to Departments and Officers Generally.....	27	23.	Enlisted Force.....	192
2.	Department of State.....	36	24.	Civilian Employees.....	194
3.	Department of War.....	38	25.	Pay and Allowances.....	194
4.	Department of Treasury.....	41	26.	Retirement.....	203
5.	Department of Justice.....	44	27.	Military Academy.....	207
6.	Post Office Department.....	48	28.	Service Schools, Post Schools, and Military Instruction in Educational Institutions.....	212
7.	Department of Navy.....	50	29.	Supplies, Stores, and Services.....	213
8.	Department of Interior.....	55	30.	Military Posts and Camps; Quarters and Barracks; Training Stations.....	218
9.	Department of Agriculture.....	56	31.	Transportation of Troops and Supplies; Army Transport Service.....	220
10.	Department of Commerce.....	60	32.	Uniform of Army.....	221
11.	Department of Labor.....	61	33.	Military Decorations and Badges.....	222
12.	Civil Service Commission and Classified Civil Service.....	62	34.	Desertion.....	224
13.	Classification of Civilian Positions.....	65	35.	United States Disciplinary Barracks.....	226
14.	Retirement of Civil Service Employees.....	71	36.	Articles of War.....	227
15.	Compensation for Injuries to Employees of United States.....	76	TITLE 11.—BANKRUPTCY		
TITLE 6.—OFFICIAL AND PENAL BONDS			Chap.		
		83	1.	Definitions.....	243
TITLE 7.—AGRICULTURE			2.	Creation of Courts of Bankruptcy and Their Jurisdiction.....	243
Chap.			3.	Bankrupt.....	244
1.	Grain Futures Act.....	87	4.	Courts and Procedure Therein.....	247
2.	Cotton Standards Act.....	90	5.	Officers, Their Duties and Compensation.....	249
3.	Grain Standards Act.....	91	6.	Creditors.....	252
4.	Naval Stores Act.....	93	7.	Estates.....	254
5.	Importation of Adulterated Seeds Act.....	95	TITLE 12.—BANKS AND BANKING		
6.	Insecticides Act.....	95	Chap.		
7.	Insect Pests Generally.....	98	1.	The Comptroller of the Currency.....	257
8.	Nursery Stock and Other Plants and Plant Products.....	98	2.	National Banks.....	258
9.	Packers and Stockyards.....	101	3.	Federal Reserve System.....	273
10.	Warehouses.....	107	4.	Taxation.....	289
11.	Honeybees.....	110	5.	Crimes and Offenses.....	291
12.	Associations of Producers of Agricultural Products.....	111	6.	Foreign Banking.....	292
13.	Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges.....	111	7.	Federal Farm Loans.....	296
14.	Agricultural Experiment Stations.....	115	8.	Federal Intermediate Credit Banks.....	315
15.	Bureau of Animal Industry.....	117	9.	National Agricultural Credit Corporations.....	319
16.	Bureau of Dairying.....	117	TITLE 13.—CENSUS		
17.	Miscellaneous Matters.....	118	Chap.		
TITLE 8.—ALIENS AND CITIZENSHIP			1.	Bureau of the Census.....	329
Chap.			2.	The Decennial Census.....	329
1.	Citizenship.....	121	3.	Collection of Statistics.....	334
2.	Elective Franchise.....	123	TITLE 14.—COAST GUARD		
3.	Civil Rights.....	123	Chap.		
4.	Freedmen.....	125	1.	General Provisions.....	339
5.	Alien Ownership of Land.....	125	2.	Coast Guard Cutters.....	342
6.	Immigration.....	127	3.	Coast Guard Stations.....	343
7.	Exclusion of Chinese.....	150	4.	Pay and Allowances.....	345
8.	The Cooly Trade.....	155	5.	Offenses of Officers and Enlisted Men.....	346
9.	Naturalization.....	156	6.	Retirement and Disability; Allowance to Dependents.....	347
TITLE 9.—ARBITRATION			7.	Medals and Honors.....	348
		167	8.	Temporary Personnel.....	349

TITLE 15.—COMMERCE AND TRADE		Page	TITLE 21.—FOOD AND DRUGS		Page
Chap.			Chap.		
1.	Monopolies and Combinations in Restraint of Trade.....	351	1.	Adulterated or Misbranded Foods or Drugs.....	621
2.	Federal Trade Commission; Promotion of Export Trade and Prevention of Unfair Methods of Competition.....	356	2.	Teas.....	625
3.	Trade-Marks.....	362	3.	Filled Milk.....	626
4.	China Trade Act.....	367	4.	Animals, Meat, and Meat and Dairy Products.....	627
5.	The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	370	5.	Viruses, Serums, Toxins, Antitoxins, and Analogous Products.....	634
6.	Weights and Measures and Standard Time.....	374	6.	Narcotic Drugs.....	635
7.	The Bureau of Standards.....	378	7.	Practice of Pharmacy and Sale of Poisons in Consular Districts in China.....	637
8.	Falsely Stamped Gold or Silver or Goods Manufactured Therefrom.....	379	TITLE 22.—FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERCOURSE		
9.	The Weather Bureau.....	381	Chap.		
10.	War Finance Corporation.....	381	1.	Diplomatic and Consular Service Generally.....	641
TITLE 16.—CONSERVATION			2.	Consular Courts.....	651
Chap.			3.	United States Court for China.....	655
1.	The National Parks, Military Parks, and Monuments.....	387	4.	Passports.....	657
2.	The National Forests.....	418	5.	Preservation of Friendly Foreign Relations Generally.....	658
3.	Forest Protection; Forest Service; Reforestation.....	426	6.	Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Officers.....	660
4.	Protection of Timber, and Depredations.....	428	7.	International Bureaus, Congresses, etc.....	661
5.	Protection of Fur Seals and Other Fur-Bearing Animals.....	431	TITLE 23.—HIGHWAYS		
6.	Game and Bird Preserves; Protection.....	434	Chap.		
7.	Protection of Migratory Game and Insectivorous Birds.....	436	1.	Federal Highway Act.....	665
8.	Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge.....	437	2.	Miscellaneous Provisions.....	668
9.	The Bureau of Fisheries.....	438	TITLE 24.—HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND CEMETERIES		
10.	Northern Pacific Halibut Fishery.....	439	Chap.		
11.	Regulation of Landing, Curing, and Sale of Sponges Taken from Gulf of Mexico and Florida.....	440	1.	Navy Hospitals, Naval Home, Army and Navy Hospital, and Hospital Relief for Seamen and Others.....	671
12.	Water Power.....	440	2.	The Soldiers' Home.....	673
TITLE 17.—COPYRIGHTS.....			3.	The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.....	674
TITLE 18.—CRIMINAL CODE AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE			4.	St. Elizabeths Hospital.....	679
Part 1.—Crimes			5.	The Columbia Institution for the Deaf.....	684
Chap.			6.	The Freedmen's Hospital.....	686
1.	Offenses Against Existence of Government.....	459	7.	National Cemeteries.....	686
2.	Offenses Against Neutrality.....	460	TITLE 25.—INDIANS		
3.	Offenses Against Elective Franchise and Civil Rights of Citizens.....	462	Chap.		
4.	Offenses Against Operations of Government.....	463	1.	Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	689
5.	Offenses Relating to Official Duties.....	471	2.	Officers of Indian Affairs.....	690
6.	Offenses Against Public Justice.....	476	3.	Agreements with Indians.....	693
7.	Offenses Against Currency, Coinage, etc.....	478	4.	Performance by United States of Obligations to Indians.....	694
8.	Offenses Against Postal Service.....	483	5.	Protection of Indians.....	700
9.	Offenses Against Foreign and Interstate Commerce.....	490	6.	Government of Indian Country and Reservations.....	703
10.	Slave Trade and Peonage.....	495	7.	Education of Indians.....	706
11.	Offenses Within Admiralty, Maritime, and Territorial Jurisdiction of United States.....	498	8.	Rights of Way Through Indian Lands.....	708
12.	Piracy and Other Offenses Upon Seas.....	499	9.	Allotment of Indian Lands.....	711
13.	Certain Offenses in Territories.....	502	10.	Descent and Distribution; Heirs of Allottee.....	715
14.	Saving Provisions.....	503	11.	Irrigation of Allotted Lands.....	716
Part 2.—Criminal Procedure			12.	Lease, Sale, or Surrender of Allotted or Unallotted Lands.....	717
15.	General Provisions.....	503	13.	Ceded Indian Lands.....	720
16.	Limitations.....	506	TITLE 26.—INTERNAL REVENUE		
17.	Arrest, Bail, and Commitment.....	506	Chap.		
18.	Search Warrant.....	508	1.	The Commissioner of Internal Revenue.....	723
19.	Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures.....	509	2.	Officers of Internal Revenue.....	723
20.	Extradition.....	510	3.	Assessments and Collections.....	729
21.	Writs of Error.....	512	4.	Special Taxes.....	738
Part 3.—Prisoners and Their Treatment			5.	Distilled Spirits, Wines, and Denatured Alcohol.....	744
22.	General Provisions.....	512	6.	Fermented Liquors.....	773
23.	United States Prisons in General.....	516	7.	Oleomargarine, Adulterated Butter, and Process or Renovated Butter.....	776
24.	Leavenworth (Kans.) Penitentiary.....	517	8.	Filled Cheese.....	780
25.	Atlanta (Ga.) Penitentiary.....	518	9.	Mixed Flour.....	781
26.	Federal Industrial Institution for Women.....	519	10.	White Phosphorus Matches.....	783
27.	United States Industrial Reformatory.....	520	11.	Opium, Coca Leaves, and Compounds; Manufactures, and So Forth, Thereof.....	784
TITLE 19.—CUSTOMS DUTIES			12.	Opium For Smoking.....	787
Chap.			13.	Cotton Futures.....	788
1.	Collection Districts, Ports, and Officers.....	523	14.	Tobacco and Snuff.....	791
2.	The Tariff Commission.....	528	15.	Cigars and Cigarettes.....	798
3.	The Tariff and Related Provisions.....	531	16.	Tax on Admissions and Dues.....	802
TITLE 20.—EDUCATION			17.	Excise Taxes.....	803
Chap.			18.	Stamp Taxes on Specific Objects.....	805
1.	The Office of Education.....	609	19.	Income Tax.....	808
2.	Vocational Education.....	609	20.	Estate and Gift Tax.....	834
3.	Smithsonian Institution (and National Museum).....	612	21.	Provisions Common to Several Objects of Taxation.....	841
4.	National Zoological Park.....	614	22.	Board of Tax Appeals.....	846
5.	Government Collections and Institutions for Research, and Material for Educational Institutions.....	615	23.	Administrative and General Provisions.....	848
6.	American Printing House for the Blind.....	615	TITLE 27.—INTOXICATING LIQUORS		
7.	Instruction as to Nature and Effect of Alcoholic Drinks and Narcotics.....	616	Chap.		
8.	Howard University.....	616	1.	General Provisions.....	853
9.	National Training School for Boys.....	616	2.	Prohibition of Intoxicating Beverages.....	853
10.	National Training School for Girls.....	618	3.	Industrial Alcohol.....	861

TABLE OF TITLES AND CROSS REFERENCES UNDER WHICH THE STATUTES CONTAINED IN THIS CODE ARE CLASSIFIED

[Italics indicate cross references]

	Page		Page		Page
GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	1	Canal Zone.....	327	District Attorneys.....	608
THE CONGRESS.....	3	Capital.....	327	District Courts.....	608
THE PRESIDENT.....	19	Capitol.....	327	District of Columbia.....	608
FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES.....	25	Carriers.....	327	Documents.....	608
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.....	27	Cemeteries.....	327	Drainage.....	608
OFFICIAL AND PENAL BONDS.....	83	CENSUS.....	329	Drugs.....	608
Adjusted Compensation for World War Veterans.....	85	Chemical Warfare Service.....	338	EDUCATION.....	609
Admiralty Suits Against United States.....	85	Children's Bureau.....	338	Elections.....	619
Adulteration.....	85	China Trade Act.....	338	Electoral Vote.....	619
Agricultural Credit Corporations.....	85	Chinese Exclusion.....	338	Embargo.....	619
AGRICULTURE.....	87	Circuit Courts of Appeals.....	338	Embassies.....	620
Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges.....	119	Citizenship.....	338	Employers' Liability Act.....	620
Air Mail.....	119	Civilian Military Training Camps.....	338	Enemy Aliens.....	620
Alaska.....	119	Civil Rights.....	338	Epidemic Diseases.....	620
Alcoholism.....	119	Civil Service Commission.....	338	Espionage.....	620
Alien Enemies.....	119	Claims.....	338	Estate Tax.....	620
ALIENS AND CITIZENSHIP.....	121	Classified Civil Service.....	338	Evidence.....	620
Ambassadors.....	166	Clearance and Entry of Vessels.....	338	Excess Taxes.....	620
American Legion.....	166	Clerks of Courts.....	338	Excises.....	620
American National Red Cross.....	166	Coast and Geodetic Survey.....	338	Executions.....	620
American Printing House for the Blind.....	166	COAST GUARD.....	339	Executive Mansion.....	620
American War Mothers.....	166	Coins and Coinage.....	350	Expatriation.....	620
Anchorage Regulations.....	166	Collisions.....	350	Experiment Stations.....	620
Animals.....	166	Columbia Institution for the Deaf.....	350	Exports.....	620
Antitrust Laws.....	166	Combinations in Restraint of Trade.....	350	Extradition.....	620
Apportionment.....	166	COMMERCE AND TRADE.....	351	Farm Loan Act.....	620
Appropriations.....	166	Commerce Department.....	385	Federal Corrupt Practices Act.....	620
ARBITRATION.....	167	Commission on Industrial Relations.....	385	Federal Highway Act.....	620
Arid Lands.....	168	Commissioner of Pensions.....	386	Federal Intermediate Credit Banks.....	620
Armories and Arsenals.....	168	Common Carriers.....	386	Federal Reserve Banks.....	620
ARMY.....	169	Compensation for Injuries.....	386	Federal Trade Commission.....	620
Army and Navy Hospitals.....	241	Comptroller of the Currency.....	386	Federal Water Power Act.....	620
Articles of War.....	241	Comptroller of the Treasury.....	386	Fine Arts Commission.....	620
Assay Offices.....	241	Congress.....	386	Fines.....	620
Asylums.....	241	Congressional Record.....	386	Fish and Game.....	620
Attorney General.....	241	CONSERVATION.....	387	Fishing Voyages.....	620
Audit System.....	241	Consular Courts.....	448	FOOD AND DRUGS.....	621
Bail and Recognizance.....	241	Consuls and Consular Officers.....	448	Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	639
BANKRUPTCY.....	243	Contract Labor.....	448	Foreign Mail Service.....	639
BANKS AND BANKING.....	257	Cooly Trade.....	448	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERCOURSE.....	641
Bees.....	326	COPYRIGHTS.....	449	Foreign Service.....	662
Belleau Wood Memorial Association.....	326	Corrupt Practices Act.....	456	Forests.....	662
Bills of Lading.....	326	Costs.....	456	Forfeitures.....	662
Birds.....	326	Cotton Futures Act.....	456	Fortifications.....	662
Boiler Inspection.....	326	Cotton Standards.....	456	Freedmen.....	662
Bonded Warehouses.....	326	Council of National Defense.....	456	Freedmen's Hospital and Asylum.....	662
Bonds.....	326	Court of Claims.....	457	Fur-Bearing Animals.....	662
Bonus.....	326	Court of Customs Appeals.....	457	Game Animals and Birds.....	662
Bounty Lands.....	326	Courts.....	457	Garnishment.....	662
Boy Scouts of America.....	326	Courts of Inquiry.....	457	General Accounting Office.....	662
Brands and Marks.....	326	Courts-Martial.....	457	General Land Office.....	663
Budget.....	326	Credit Banks.....	457	Geodetic Survey.....	663
Buildings.....	326	Credit Corporations (Agricultural).....	457	Geological Survey.....	663
Bureau of Dairying.....	326	Cuban Independence.....	457	Gift Tax.....	663
Bureau of Engraving and Printing.....	326	Currency.....	457	Government Buildings.....	663
Bureau of Fisheries.....	326	CRIMINAL CODE AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.....	459	Government Officers and Employees.....	663
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	327	CUSTOMS DUTIES.....	523	Government Printing Office.....	663
Bureau of Immigration.....	327	Dairies.....	608	Grain Futures.....	663
Bureau of Insular Affairs.....	327	Dams.....	608	Grain Standards.....	663
Bureau of Labor Statistics.....	327	Death on High Seas by Wrongful Act.....	608	Grand Army of the Republic.....	663
Bureau of Mines.....	327	Departments of Government.....	608	Guano Islands.....	663
Bureau of Navigation.....	327	Deportation.....	608	Habeas Corpus.....	663
Bureau of Standards.....	327	Depositions.....	608	Hawaii.....	663
Bureau of the Mint.....	327	Derelicts.....	608	Helium Gases.....	663
Canals.....	327	Desert Lands.....	608	HIGHWAYS.....	665
		Diplomatic Officers.....	608	Holidays.....	670
		Disciplinary Barracks.....	608	Homesteads.....	670
		Diseases.....	608	Homing Pigeons.....	670
		Distinguished Service Medals and Crosses.....	608	HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND CEMETERIES.....	671

TITLE 39.—THE POSTAL SERVICE—Continued		Page
Chap. 12.	Contracts for Carrying the Mails	1260
13.	Air Mail	1264
14.	Carrying the Mail	1264
15.	Railway Service	1266
16.	Railway Mail Officers and Employees	1271
17.	Foreign Mail Service	1274
18.	Post-Office Inspectors	1276
19.	The Money-Order System	1277
20.	Postal-Savings Depositories	1280
21.	Accounts and Revenues	1283
22.	Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to the Postal Service	1284

TITLE 40.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS		Page
Chap. 1.	Public Buildings, Grounds, Parks, and Wharves in District of Columbia	1287
2.	Capitol Building and Grounds	1297
3.	Public Buildings and Works Generally	1301
4.	The Public Property	1305
5.	Hours of Labor on Public Works	1307

TITLE 41.—PUBLIC CONTRACTS

TITLE 42.—THE PUBLIC HEALTH

TITLE 42.—THE PUBLIC HEALTH		Page
Chap. 1.	The Public Health Service	1313
2.	Sanitation and Quarantine	1316
3.	Leprosy	1321
4.	Viruses, Serums, Toxins, Antitoxins, etc.	1322
5.	Maternity and Infancy Welfare and Hygiene	1322
6.	The Children's Bureau	1324

TITLE 43.—PUBLIC LANDS

TITLE 43.—PUBLIC LANDS		Page
Chap. 1.	General Land Office	1325
2.	Geological Survey	1326
3.	Supervisor of Surveys and Deputy Surveyors	1328
4.	Registers	1329
5.	Land Districts	1332
6.	Withdrawal from Settlement, Location, Sale, or Entry	1333
7.	Homesteads	1334
8.	Timber and Stone Lands	1350
9.	Desert-Land Entries	1351
10.	Underground-Water Reclamation Grants	1353
11.	Discovery, Development, and Marking of Water Holes, etc., by Government	1355
12.	Reclamation and Irrigation of Lands by Federal Government	1355
13.	Federal Lands Included in State Irrigation Districts	1371
14.	Grants of Desert Lands to States for Reclamation (The Carey Act)	1373
15.	Appropriation of Waters; Reservoir Sites	1374
16.	Sale and Disposal of the Public Lands	1375
17.	Reservation and Sale of Town Sites on the Public Lands	1377
18.	Survey of Public Lands	1379
19.	Boundary Lands	1382
20.	Reservations and Grants to States for Public Purposes	1386
21.	Grants in Aid of Railroads and Wagon Roads	1390
22.	Rights of Way and Other Easements in Public Lands	1395
23.	Grants of Swamp and Overflowed Lands	1399
24.	Drainage under State Laws	1402
25.	Unlawful Inclosures or Occupancy; Obstructing Settlement or Transit	1404
26.	Abandoned Military Reservations	1405
27.	Public Lands in Oklahoma	1407
28.	Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to the Public Lands	1410

TITLE 44.—PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS

TITLE 44.—PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS		Page
Chap. 1.	Joint Committee on Printing; General Powers; Contracts	1415
2.	Government Printing Office	1416
3.	Superintendent of Documents; Distribution of Documents in General	1419
4.	Printing and Binding Generally	1421
5.	Congressional Printing in General	1422
6.	Congressional Record, Bills, and Laws	1426
7.	Executive and Departmental Printing in General	1429
8.	Particular Reports and Documents	1431
9.	Advertisements	1435

TITLE 45.—RAILROADS

TITLE 45.—RAILROADS		Page
Chap. 1.	Safety Appliances and Equipment on Railroad Engines and Cars, and Protection of Employees and Travelers	1437
2.	Liability for Injuries to Employees	1442
3.	Hours of Service of Employees	1443

TITLE 45.—RAILROADS—Continued		Page
Chap. 4.	Care of Animals in Transit	1444
5.	Government-Aided Railroads	1444
6.	Mediation, Conciliation, and Arbitration in Controversies Between Carriers and Employees	1447
7.	Adjustment Boards and Labor Boards	1449

TITLE 46.—SHIPPING

TITLE 46.—SHIPPING		Page
Chap. 1.	Bureau of Navigation	1455
2.	Registry and Recording	1455
3.	Clearance and Entry	1465
4.	Tonnage Duties	1467
5.	Discriminating Duties and Reciprocal Privileges	1469
6.	Regulations as to Vessels Carrying Steerage Passengers	1470
7.	Transportation of Explosives or Dangerous Substances on Passenger Vessels	1473
8.	Limitation of Vessel Owner's Liability	1474
9.	Log Books	1475
10.	Regulation of Pilots and Pilotage	1476
11.	Officers and Crews of Vessels	1476
12.	Regulation of Vessels in Domestic Commerce	1479
13.	Passports and Papers of Vessels Engaged in Foreign Commerce	1488
14.	Inspection of Steam Vessels	1488
15.	Transportation of Passengers and Merchandise by Steam Vessels	1497
16.	Regulation of Motor Boats	1508
17.	Regulation of Fisheries	1509
18.	Merchant Seamen	1510
19.	Wrecks and Salvage	1526
20.	Suits in Admiralty by or against Vessels or Cargoes of United States	1527
21.	Death on the High Seas by Wrongful Act	1528
22.	Suits in Admiralty against United States for Damages Caused by or for Towage or Salvage Services	1529
23.	Shipping Act	1529
24.	Merchant Marine Act	1536
25.	Ship Mortgage Act	1543
26.	Provisions Supplementary to Navigation Laws and the Ship Mortgage Act	1546

TITLE 47.—TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES, AND RADIO-TELEGRAPHS

TITLE 47.—TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES, AND RADIO-TELEGRAPHS		Page
Chap. 1.	Telegraphs	1549
2.	Submarine Cables	1550
3.	Radiotelegraphs	1552

TITLE 48.—TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

TITLE 48.—TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS		Page
Chap. 1.	The Bureau of Insular Affairs	1557
2.	Alaska	1557
3.	Hawaii	1598
4.	Porto Rico	1614
5.	The Philippine Islands	1625
6.	Canal Zone	1637
7.	The Virgin Islands	1643
8.	Guano Islands	1644
9.	Guam, Samoa, and Swains Island; Miscellaneous Provisions	1644
10.	Territorial Provisions of a General Nature	1644

TITLE 49.—TRANSPORTATION

TITLE 49.—TRANSPORTATION		Page
Chap. 1.	"Interstate Commerce Act"	1649
2.	Legislation Supplementary to "Interstate Commerce Act"	1673
3.	Termination of Federal Control	1676
4.	Bills of Lading	1680
5.	Inland Waterways Transportation	1684

TITLE 50.—WAR

TITLE 50.—WAR		Page
Chap. 1.	Council of National Defense	1689
2.	Board of Ordnance and Fortification	1689
3.	Alien Enemies	1690
4.	Espionage	1690
5.	Arsenals, Armories, Arms, and War Material Generally	1692
6.	Willful Destruction, and So Forth, of War Material	1695
7.	Interference with Homing Pigeons Owned by United States	1696
8.	Explosives; Manufacture, Distribution, Storage, Use, and Possession Regulated	1696
9.	Aircraft	1698
10.	Helium Gas	1698
11.	Acquisition of and Expenditures on Land for National-Defense Purposes	1699
12.	Vessels in Territorial Waters of United States	1700
13.	Insurrection	1701

TABLE OF TITLES AND CROSS REFERENCES UNDER WHICH THE STATUTES CONTAINED IN THIS CODE ARE CLASSIFIED

[Italics indicate cross references]

	Page		Page		Page
GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	1	Canal Zone.....	327	District Attorneys.....	608
THE CONGRESS.....	3	Capital.....	327	District Courts.....	608
THE PRESIDENT.....	19	Capitol.....	327	District of Columbia.....	608
FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES.....	25	Carriers.....	327	Documents.....	608
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.....	27	Cemeteries.....	327	Drainage.....	608
OFFICIAL AND PENAL BONDS.....	83	CENSUS.....	329	Drugs.....	608
Adjusted Compensation for World War Veterans.....	85	Chemical Warfare Service.....	338	EDUCATION.....	609
Admiralty Suits Against United States.....	85	Children's Bureau.....	338	Elections.....	619
Adulteration.....	85	China Trade Act.....	338	Electoral Vote.....	619
Agricultural Credit Corporations.....	85	Chinese Exclusion.....	338	Embargo.....	619
AGRICULTURE.....	87	Circuit Courts of Appeals.....	338	Embassies.....	620
Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges.....	119	Citizenship.....	338	Employers' Liability Act.....	620
Air Mail.....	119	Civilian Military Training Camps.....	338	Enemy Aliens.....	620
Alaska.....	119	Civil Rights.....	338	Epidemic Diseases.....	620
Alcoholism.....	119	Civil Service Commission.....	338	Espionage.....	620
Alien Enemies.....	119	Claims.....	338	Estate Tax.....	620
ALIENS AND CITIZENSHIP.....	121	Classified Civil Service.....	338	Evidence.....	620
Ambassadors.....	166	Clearance and Entry of Vessels.....	338	Excess Taxes.....	620
American Legion.....	166	Clerks of Courts.....	338	Excises.....	620
American National Red Cross.....	166	Coast and Geodetic Survey.....	338	Executions.....	620
American Printing House for the Blind.....	166	COAST GUARD.....	339	Executive Mansion.....	620
American War Mothers.....	166	Coins and Coinage.....	350	Expatriation.....	620
Anchorage Regulations.....	166	Collisions.....	350	Experiment Stations.....	620
Animals.....	166	Columbia Institution for the Deaf.....	350	Exports.....	620
Antitrust Laws.....	166	Combinations in Restraint of Trade.....	350	Extradition.....	620
Apportionment.....	166	COMMERCE AND TRADE.....	351	Farm Loan Act.....	620
Appropriations.....	166	Commerce Department.....	385	Federal Corrupt Practices Act.....	620
ARBITRATION.....	167	Commission on Industrial Relations.....	385	Federal Highway Act.....	620
Arid Lands.....	168	Commissioner of Pensions.....	386	Federal Intermediate Credit Banks.....	620
Armories and Arsenals.....	168	Common Carriers.....	386	Federal Reserve Banks.....	620
ARMY.....	169	Compensation for Injuries.....	386	Federal Trade Commission.....	620
Army and Navy Hospitals.....	241	Comptroller of the Currency.....	386	Federal Water Power Act.....	620
Articles of War.....	241	Comptroller of the Treasury.....	386	Fine Arts Commission.....	620
Assay Offices.....	241	Congress.....	386	Fines.....	620
Asylums.....	241	Congressional Record.....	386	Fish and Game.....	620
Attorney General.....	241	CONSERVATION.....	387	Fishing Voyages.....	620
Audit System.....	241	Consular Courts.....	448	FOOD AND DRUGS.....	621
Bail and Recognizance.....	241	Consuls and Consular Officers.....	448	Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	639
BANKRUPTCY.....	243	Contract Labor.....	448	Foreign Mail Service.....	639
BANKS AND BANKING.....	257	Cooly Trade.....	448	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTER-COURSE.....	641
Bees.....	326	COPYRIGHTS.....	449	Foreign Service.....	662
Belleau Wood Memorial Association.....	326	Corrupt Practices Act.....	456	Forests.....	662
Bills of Lading.....	326	Costs.....	456	Forfeitures.....	662
Birds.....	326	Cotton Futures Act.....	456	Fortifications.....	662
Boiler Inspection.....	326	Cotton Standards.....	456	Freedmen.....	662
Bonded Warehouses.....	326	Council of National Defense.....	456	Freedmen's Hospital and Asylum.....	662
Bonds.....	326	Court of Claims.....	457	Fur-Bearing Animals.....	662
Bonus.....	326	Court of Customs Appeals.....	457	Game Animals and Birds.....	662
Bounty Lands.....	326	Courts.....	457	Garnishment.....	662
Boy Scouts of America.....	326	Courts of Inquiry.....	457	General Accounting Office.....	662
Brands and Marks.....	326	Courts-Martial.....	457	General Land Office.....	663
Budget.....	326	Credit Banks.....	457	Geodetic Survey.....	663
Buildings.....	326	Credit Corporations (Agricultural).....	457	Geological Survey.....	663
Bureau of Dairying.....	326	Cuban Independence.....	457	Gift Tax.....	663
Bureau of Engraving and Printing.....	326	Currency.....	457	Government Buildings.....	663
Bureau of Fisheries.....	326	CRIMINAL CODE AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.....	459	Government Officers and Employees.....	663
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	327	CUSTOMS DUTIES.....	523	Government Printing Office.....	663
Bureau of Immigration.....	327	Dairies.....	608	Grain Futures.....	663
Bureau of Insular Affairs.....	327	Dams.....	608	Grain Standards.....	663
Bureau of Labor Statistics.....	327	Death on High Seas by Wrongful Act.....	608	Grand Army of the Republic.....	663
Bureau of Mines.....	327	Departments of Government.....	608	Guano Islands.....	663
Bureau of Navigation.....	327	Deportation.....	608	Habeas Corpus.....	663
Bureau of Standards.....	327	Depositions.....	608	Hawaii.....	663
Bureau of the Mint.....	327	Derelicts.....	608	Helium Gases.....	663
Canals.....	327	Desert Lands.....	608	HIGHWAYS.....	665
		Diplomatic Officers.....	608	Holidays.....	670
		Disciplinary Barracks.....	608	Homesteads.....	670
		Diseases.....	608	Homing Pigeons.....	670
		Distinguished Service Medals and Crosses.....	608	HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND CEMETERIES.....	671

	Page		Page		Page
House of Representatives.....	688	National Trade Unions.....	1046	Safety Appliances.....	1453
Howard University.....	688	National Training Schools.....	1046	St. Elizabeths Hospital.....	1453
Hydrographic Office.....	688	National Zoological Park.....	1046	Salvage.....	1453
Immigration.....	688	Naturalization.....	1046	Sanitation.....	1453
Imports and Exports.....	688	Nautical Almanac Office.....	1046	Seal of United States.....	1453
Income Tax.....	688	Naval Academy.....	1046	Seamen.....	1453
INDIANS.....	689	Naval Auxiliary.....	1046	Seat of Government.....	1453
Industrial Alcohol.....	721	Naval Home.....	1046	Secretaries (Cabinet).....	1453
Industrial Conditions.....	721	Naval Observatory.....	1046	Seeds.....	1453
Industrial Peace Foundation.....	721	Naval Stores.....	1046	Senate.....	1453
Industrial Reformatory.....	721	NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS.....	1047	Ship Mortgage Act.....	1453
Infancy and Maternity Hygiene.....	427	NAVY.....	1099	SHIPPING.....	1455
Insane Hospitals.....	721	Navy Department.....	1162	Shipping Board.....	1546
Insect Pests.....	721	Near East Relief.....	1162	Smithsonian Institution.....	1546
Insular Possessions.....	721	Neutrality.....	1162	Snuff.....	1546
Insurrection.....	721	Northern Pacific Halibut Fishery.....	1162	Social Hygiene.....	1547
Interior Department.....	721	Officers Reserve Corps.....	1162	Sodium Lands.....	1547
Intermediate Credit Banks.....	721	Oil and Gas Lands.....	1163	Soldiers' Home.....	1547
INTERNAL REVENUE.....	723	Oleomargarine.....	1163	Sponge Fisheries.....	1547
International Conferences.....	851	Opium.....	1163	Stamp Taxes.....	1547
Interstate Commerce Commission.....	851	Ordinance.....	1163	Standards.....	1547
Interstate Transportation.....	851	Overflowed Lands.....	1163	Standard Time.....	1547
INTOXICATING LIQUORS.....	853	Pacific Railroads.....	1163	State Department.....	1547
Inventions.....	862	Packers and Stockyards Act.....	1163	States.....	1547
Investigations.....	862	Panama Canal.....	1163	Statistics.....	1547
Irrigation.....	862	Parks.....	1163	Steerage Passengers.....	1547
Isthmian Canal.....	862	Passports.....	1163	Stockyards.....	1547
Judges.....	862	PATENTS.....	1165	Stone Lands.....	1547
Judgments.....	862	PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES AND OBSERV- ANCES.....	1175	Storage.....	1547
JUDICIAL CODE AND JUDICIARY.....	863	PAY AND ALLOWANCES (ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD, COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE).....	1185	Submarine Cables.....	1547
LABOR.....	947	Penal Bonds.....	1190	Supreme Court.....	1547
Land Districts.....	950	Penal Laws.....	1190	Surveyors.....	1547
Land Grant Railroads.....	950	Penalties.....	1190	Swamp Lands.....	1547
Land Office.....	950	PENSIONS, BONUSSES, AND VETERANS' RELIEF.....	1191	Tariff Law.....	1547
Legal Tender.....	950	Philippine Islands.....	1234	Tea.....	1547
Legations.....	950	Philippine Scouts.....	1234	TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES, AND RA- DIOTELEGRAPHS.....	1549
Leprosy.....	950	Phosphate Lands.....	1234	TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSES- SIONS.....	1557
Library of Congress.....	950	Pilots and Pilotage.....	1234	Timber.....	1648
Lights and Buoys.....	950	Pipe Lines.....	1234	Timber Lands.....	1648
Limitation of Liability.....	950	Poisons.....	1234	Tonnage Duties.....	1648
Literary Property.....	950	Pollution of Coastal Navigable Waters.....	1234	Town Sites.....	1648
Log Books.....	950	Population.....	1234	Trade.....	1648
Mail Service.....	951	Porto Rico.....	1234	Trade-Marks.....	1648
Marine Biological Station.....	951	Postal Savings.....	1234	Trade-Unions.....	1648
Marine Corps.....	951	POSTAL SERVICE.....	1235	Training Schools.....	1648
Maritime Transactions.....	951	Printing.....	1286	TRANSPORTATION.....	1649
Marks and Brands.....	951	Prisons and Prisoners.....	1286	Transportation of Troops and Supplies.....	1686
Masters of Vessels.....	951	Prize.....	1286	Treasurer of the United States.....	1686
Maternity Hygiene.....	951	Probation System.....	1286	Treasury Department.....	1686
Mechanical Colleges.....	951	Prohibition.....	1286	Treaties with Indians.....	1686
Medals of Honor.....	951	PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS.....	1287	Unfair Competition.....	1686
Members of Congress.....	951	PUBLIC CONTRACTS.....	1287	Uniform.....	1686
Merchant Marine Act.....	951	Public Debt.....	1311	United States Blind Veterans of the World War.....	1686
Migratory Bird Law.....	951	PUBLIC HEALTH.....	1312	United States Commissioners.....	1687
Military Academy.....	951	Public Health Service.....	1324	United States Court for China.....	1687
Military Courts.....	951	PUBLIC LANDS.....	1325	United States Disciplinary Barracks.....	1687
Military Decorations and Badges.....	951	Public Money.....	1413	United States Industrial Reformatory.....	1687
Military Parks.....	951	Public Parks.....	1413	United States Marshals.....	1687
Military Posts.....	951	PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS.....	1415	United States Shipping Board.....	1687
Military Reservations.....	951	Quarantine.....	1436	Vessels.....	1687
Military Training Camps.....	951	Radio Communication.....	1436	Veterans' Relief.....	1687
Militia.....	951	Railroad Land Grants.....	1436	Virgin Islands.....	1687
MINERAL LANDS AND MINING.....	953	RAILROADS.....	1437	Vocational Education.....	1687
Ministers.....	973	Railway Mail Service.....	1452	Vocational Rehabilitation.....	1687
Mints and Assay Offices.....	973	Rebellion.....	1452	Volstead Act.....	1687
Mississippi River Commission.....	973	Reclamation of Arid and Desert Lands.....	1452	Wagon Road Land Grants.....	1687
Mobilization of Industries.....	973	Recognizance.....	1452	WAR Coders.....	1689
Money Orders.....	973	Red Cross.....	1452	War Department.....	1704
MONEY AND FINANCE.....	975	Register of Treasury.....	1452	Warehouses.....	1704
Monopolies.....	1030	Relief of Internationals of Foreign Govern- ments.....	1452	War Profits and Excess-Profits Tax.....	1704
Mortgages of Vessels.....	1030	Repatriation.....	1452	War Revenue.....	1704
Motor Boats.....	1030	Research Work.....	1452	Water Power.....	1704
Munitions Plants.....	1030	Reservations.....	1452	Waters and Water Courses.....	1704
Narcotics.....	1030	Reserve Banks.....	1452	Weather Bureau.....	1704
National Agricultural Credit Corporations.....	1030	Restraint of Trade.....	1452	Weights and Measures.....	1704
National Banks.....	1031	Returns office.....	1452	White House.....	1704
National Budget and Audit System.....	1031	Revenue.....	1452	White House Police.....	1705
National Cemeteries.....	1031	River and Harbor Improvement.....	1453	White Phosphorus Matches.....	1705
National Defense.....	1031	Roads.....	1453	White Slave Traffic.....	1705
National Forests.....	1031			Witnesses.....	1705
NATIONAL GUARD.....	1033			Women's Bureau.....	1705
National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.....	1046			World War Veterans' Relief.....	1705
National Museum.....	1046			Wrecks.....	1705
National Park.....	1046			Zoological Park.....	1705
National Prohibition.....	1046				