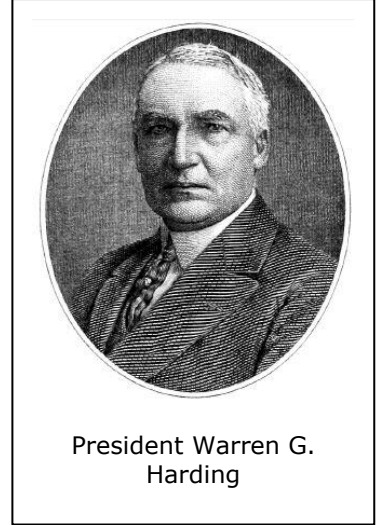


Sixty-Seventh Congress

March 4, 1921 – March 4, 1923

Administration of Warren G. Harding

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Historical Background

In 1919, the Senate rejected Wilson's League of Nations, and the following year the Nation bid farewell to reform as it elected Warren G. Harding on his promise to return to "normalcy." Taking office in March 1921, Harding was to serve only two-and-a-half years as President, before dying of a heart attack at San Francisco, August 2, 1923.

Harding's brief tenure as President was marked by increased tariffs and decreasing immigration. The First Immigration Quota Act of May 1921 restricted the immigration for any nationality to 3 percent of the persons of that nationality living in the United States in 1910. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff of September 1922 revived high protective tariffs.

These acts, and numerous others approved by Congress during this a period, were at least in part aimed at fighting the postwar depression which took its toll upon the entire national economy, causing banks to foreclose on thousands of mortgages, closing stores and factories, and extending unemployment throughout many parts of the country. Acting in the interest of the farm States, Congressmen from rural areas banded together to create the "Farm Bloc," representing agricultural interests and working for farm relief legislation. Farm Bloc activity (with which President Harding acted in full cooperation) produced passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Grain Futures Trading Act, the Capper-Volstead Co-operative Marketing Act, and the Agricultural Credits Act.

The 67th Congress also enacted legislation to see to the issues impacting the large numbers of war veterans. The Veterans' Bureau Act, enacted June 1921, created the eponymous Bureau, responsible directly to the President. The Veterans' Bureau was responsible for assuming the administration of all manner of veterans' relief. The Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, enacted

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (302 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (59 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (131 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (37 seats)
Other Parties: Independent Republican (1 seat), Socialist (1 seat)	Other Parties: None
Speaker of the House: Frederick H. Gillett	Majority Leader: Henry Cabot Lodge

the same month, created a Budget Bureau within the Treasury Department to carry out independent audits of government accounts and oversee budget reform. Also enacted that November was the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act, which appropriated funds to the states for developing programs to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of mothers and their children. And the Married Women's Citizenship Act, enacted in September 1922, granted citizenship to married women irrespective of the citizenship status of their husbands.

Meanwhile, the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments met in Washington from November 12th, 1921 through February 6th, 1922, for the purpose of adjusting the international problems of the Pacific Ocean and Eastern Asia in accordance with a schedule of limitations of naval armaments. This conference produced nine treaties, the most important of which were the Four-Power Treaty, The Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty, and the Nine-Power Treaty. These treaties were subsequently approved by the Senate in March 1922.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#), Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

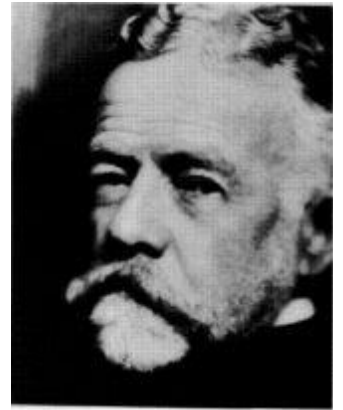
War or Peace?

Washington Naval Conference

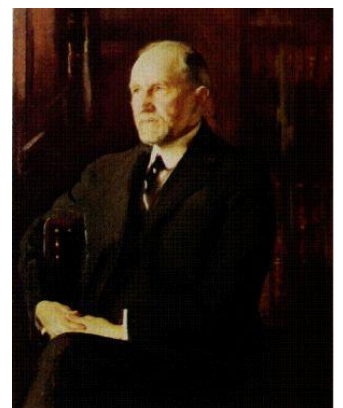
President Harding's time in office was focused on peace, with the United States coming out of World War I. In an April 1921 joint session, he called for a conference where nations could prevent aggression despite advocating against the United States joining the League of Nations. On July 2, 1921, he signed a joint congressional resolution that officially declared an end to war with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

From November 12, 1921 - February 6, 1922, the United States, Japan, China, France, Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Portugal participated in the Washington Naval Conference to address areas affected by the war. The participants of the conference signed a series of arms limitation agreements, most notably the Four-Power and Five-Power Treaties. The Four-Power Treaty maintained all current holdings of countries in the Pacific and was signed by the United States, Britain, France and Japan. The Five-Power Treaty created tonnage and construction limits on battleships and aircraft carriers, and created a tonnage ratio of 5:5:3:1.75:1.75 between Britain, United States, Japan, Italy and France on current naval fleet sizes.

Meanwhile, in late-1922 the defeat of the counterrevolutionary White Army by the communist/Bolshevik Red Army signaled the end of the brutal and protracted Russian Civil War. Plenipotentiary delegations from the constituent Soviet republics—Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, and



Senate Majority Leader
Henry Cabot Lodge



Speaker of the House
Frederick H. Gillett

Transcaucasia—convened a conference in Moscow on December 28 to plot the course of the nascent revolutionary socialist state. On December 30, the delegations approved the Treaty on the Creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the Declaration of the Creation of the USSR, formally establishing the Soviet Union. This event would have profound historical implications, including the wholesale recasting of the global balance of power between a liberal, democratic West and a Soviet-dominated, communist East, that would continue well past the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.

Also that year, the nascent League of Nations approved the further postwar division of colonial spoils, approving the division of the former German protectorate of Togoland in West Africa into the mandates of British Togoland, comprising the present state of Ghana, and French Togoland, comprising the present state of Togo. The League also approved the British mandate in Palestine, comprising territory that would become the present state of Israel, as well as those portions of Transjordan now generally referred to as the Palestinian Territories. The League, originally conceived as an international body designed to prevent war ensure political self-determination, thereby gave its imprimatur to a policy that continued the imperialist system that preceded the war in all but name. For many this called into question the legitimacy of the international body and likely contributed to its demise.

Sources:

Committee of Conference. House. [Peace with Germany and Austria-Hungary](#). June 28, 1921. 67th Congress, 1st Session, H.r.p.237. ProQuest Congressional, 7920 H.r.p.237

Committee on Naval Affairs. House. [Authorizing the President to Scrap Certain Vessels in Conformity with the Provisions of the Treaty To Limit Naval Armaments](#). Apr. 4, 1922. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, HN 67-B.81. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1922-NAH-0017

Economic Trends and Conditions

When President Harding assumed office in 1921, he faced a recession and on advice from Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon, he cut taxes. The Revenue Act of 1921 decreased corporate tax rates from 65% to 50%, and decreased personal income taxes from 73% to 58% for top earners. The act also repealed the excess profits taxes that were enacted during the war.

President Harding also helped to implement the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, which established a formal budgeting process and created the Bureau of the Budget. Harding's appointee to run the newly formed Bureau of the Budget, Charles Dawes, was able to reduce federal spending by 25% his first year in office and another 25% the following year.

The protection of the agricultural industry and the American farmer were major priorities for President Harding. This commitment was demonstrated in a number of new laws, including the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act, which increased tariffs to the highest in the United States history. Rates on

agricultural raw materials were raised from 38% to 49% and the rates were raised from 31% to 34% on other commodities. Congress also enacted the Co-operative Marketing Associations Act in February 1922, which authorized the organization of agricultural cooperatives and exempted them from Anti-Trust regulations. Finally, the Agricultural Credits Act of 1923, enacted at the close of the 67th Congress, authorized the creation of Intermediate Credit Banks for each Federal Reserve District, with authority to make loans against farmers' land, crops, livestock, and equipment.

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Harding, Warren. [Address of the President of the United States to the Congress](#). Committee of the Whole House, House, Dec. 6, 1921. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.135. ProQuest Congressional, 8105 H.doc.135

Major Treaties

Four-Power Pacific Treaty. Abrogated the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 and provided that the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan would respect each other's insular possessions in the Pacific. Concluded Dec. 13, 1921. Approved by the Senate Mar. 24, 1922. ([43 Stat. 1646](#))

Nine-Power Treaty. Expressed agreement between the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, and China to respect the "sovereignty, the independence, and the territorial, and administrative integrity" of China and to maintain the principle of the open door. Concluded Feb. 6, 1922. Approved by the Senate Mar. 30, 1922. ([44 Stat. 2113](#))

Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty. Provided that no new capital ships (defined as craft in excess of 10,000 tons with guns larger than 8-inch) would be built by the signatories during the next ten years, and established a capital ship ratio of 5 each for the United States and Great Britain, 3 for Japan, and 1.6 for France and Italy. Concluded Feb. 6, 1922. Approved by the Senate Mar. 29, 1922. ([43 Stat. 1655](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Truax v. Corrigan, held that a pro-union law in Arizona that would not allow state courts to grant injunctions against picketers was unconstitutional, in that the picketers were violating the plaintiff's right of property and also were denying free access to the place of business, 257 U.S. 312 (1921)

Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co., ruled that the 1919 Child Labor Tax Law, which forced a tax of ten percent on profits of companies that employed children, was unconstitutional as it was a penalty to these types of companies, 259 U.S. 20 (1922)

Federal Baseball Club v. National League, concluded that baseball leagues were not considered interstate trade or commerce because baseball games are not considered acts of trade or commerce, as defined under the Sherman Antitrust Act, 259 U.S. 200 (1922)

Ozawa v. United States, concluded that Japanese-born Takao Ozawa was not allowed to file for citizenship, under the Naturalization Act of 1922, which allowed people of white and African descent to file, after Ozawa had challenged the law by filing as a white male, 260 U.S. 178 (1922)

Sources:

Subcommittee No. 3. [Habeas Corpus](#), Committee on the Judiciary. House, Jun. 7, 24, 1955. 84th Congress, 1st Session, Committee on the Judiciary Serial No. 6 (Y4.J89/1:84/6). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1955-HJH-0008

Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly Legislation. [Subjecting Professional Baseball Clubs to the Antitrust Laws](#). Senate. Mar. 18, Apr. 8, May 25, 1954. 83rd Congress, 2nd Session, 83 S1101-2 (Y4.J89/2:B29). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1954-SJS-0013

Trevor, John B. [Japanese Exclusion a Study of the Policy and the Law](#), Committee on Immigration and Naturalization. House. Jan. 8, 1925. 68th Congress, 2nd Session, H.doc.600. ProQuest Congressional, 8427 H.doc.600

1921 Events

- **Feb. 27:** The International Working Union of Socialist Parties is formed in Vienna
- **Mar. 17:** Lenin proclaims his 'New Economic Politics'
- **Mar. 18:** The Second Peace of Riga ends the Polish-Soviet War; a permanent border is established between the Polish and Soviet states
- **Apr. 27:** [World War I - The Allies of World War I reparations commission announce that Germany has to pay 132 billion gold marks \(\\$33 trillion\) in annual installments of 2.5 billion; Germany would make its final payment on Oct.3, 2010](#)
- **May 14:** Mussolini's Fascists obtain 29 parliamentary seats in Italy
- **May 19:** [Congress passes Emergency Immigration Act, sharply curbing immigration and setting national quotas](#)
- **May 31:** *Tulsa race riot* – After a group of Black residents of Tulsa arrived at the police station where a young Black shoe shine boy was

held on suspicion of assaulting a young White woman, a mob of White residents stormed the affluent Black neighborhood of Greenwood, destroying 35 blocks in the district, including many Black-owned businesses, resulting in a large number of deaths, estimated at 39 in 1921, and at 100-300 after an investigation in 2001

- **June 21:** International Hydrographic Bureau established as an agency of the League of Nations; continues in this form until April 19, 1946
- **July 2:** *World War I* - [President Harding signs a joint congressional resolution declaring an end to America's state of war with Germany and Austria-Hungary](#)
- **July 29:** *Weimar Republic* - Adolf Hitler becomes leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party
- **Aug. 5:** The first radio baseball game is broadcast; Harold Arlin announces the Pirates-Phillies game from Forbes Field over Westinghouse KDKA, in Pittsburgh
- **Sept. 8:** Sixteen-year-old Margaret Gorman wins the Atlantic City Pageant's Golden Mermaid trophy; pageant officials later dub her the first Miss America
- **Oct. 13:** The Treaty of Kars is signed between the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Soviet Socialist Republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (Sakartvelo), establishing the boundaries between Turkey and the states of the south Caucasus
- **Nov. 1:** [Conference on the Limitation of Armament held in Washington, D.C., begins. Taking place in the aftermath of World War I, the conference focused on issues of arms control and demilitarization, as well as overseas interests in the Pacific Ocean and East Asia. The conference included delegates from the United States, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, China, Belgium, Portugal, and the Netherlands](#)
- **Nov. 7:** Hungary passes a law invalidating the Habsburg Royal line of succession
- **Nov. 11:** [During an Armistice Day, President Harding dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery](#)
- **Dec. 13:** [In the Four Power Treaty on Insular Possessions, Japan, the U.S., United Kingdom, and France agree to recognize the status quo in the Pacific](#)
- **Dec. 21:** Supreme Court rules labor injunctions and picketing unconstitutional in *Truax v. Corrigan*

1922 Events

- **Feb. 6:** [Nine-Power Treaty agreement signed between the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, and China](#)
- **Feb. 8:** President Harding introduces the first radio in the White House
- **Mar. 20:** The *USS Langley* is commissioned as the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier

- **Mar. 29:** Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty approved in Senate, limiting the construction of new capital ships
- **Apr. 7:** [The U.S. Secretary of the Interior leases Teapot Dome oil reserves in Wyoming, later dubbed the "Teapot Dome scandal"](#)
- **May 30:** [The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.](#)
- **June 22:** Irish Republican Army agents assassinate British Army field marshal Sir Henry Wilson in London; the assassins are later sentenced to death
- **June 26:** *Weimar Republic* - [Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution is invoked to deal with deteriorating economic conditions in the Weimar Republic, Germany](#)
- **July 20:** [German protectorate of Togoland is divided into the League of Nations mandates of French Togoland and British Togoland](#)
- **Aug. 2:** Typhoon hits Shantou, China, killing more than 5,000 people
- **Sept. 11:** Mandate of Palestine is approved by the Council of the League of Nations
- **Sept. 21:** [President Harding signs a join resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine](#)
- **Sept. 28:** [Benito Mussolini marches on Rome with fascist party](#)
- **Oct. 3:** Rebecca L. Felton becomes the first female U.S. senator, when Georgia's governor gives her a temporary appointment, pending an election to replace Senator Thomas Watson, who had died suddenly
- **Oct. 26:** [The Italian government resigns under pressure from the Fascist party lead by Mussolini. Mussolini takes control of the government two days later](#)
- **Nov. 1:** Ottoman Empire is abolished and its last sultan Mehmed VI, abdicates
- **Nov. 4:** [Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt, opening the tomb and beginning excavation on Nov. 26](#)
- **Nov. 30:** *Weimar Republic* - Hitler speaks to a crowd of 50K National-Socialist in Munich
- **Dec. 30:** The Soviet Union is officially formed when plenipotentiary delegates from the Russia SFSR, Byelorussia SSR, Ukraine SSR, and Transcaucasia SFSR (comprising the 21st century republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia) approved the Treaty on the Creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the Declaration of the Creation of the USSR at a conference in Moscow.

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Coolidge, Calvin. [Rights in Togoland. Message from the President](#). Senate, Dec. 12, 1923. 68th Congress, 1st Session, 68-1-9 (Y1.68/1:1). ProQuest Congressional, SED-68-1-9

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Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, Senate. [Leases upon Naval Oil Reserves. Vol. 1](#). GPO, Oct. 22-27, 29 - Nov. 2, 30 - Dec. 1, 3-5, 1923. 67th Congress, 4th Session, 68th Congress, 1st Session, S221-0 (Y4.P96/1:N22/v.1). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1923-PLV-0002

["Death of Takashi Hara, Prime Minister of Japan."](#) Congressional Record, 67th Congress, 2nd Session (Dec. 10, 1921) Vol. 62, p. 213. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1921-1210

Dillingham, William Paul. [Emergency immigration legislation](#). Committee on Immigration, Senate. Apr. 28, 1921, 67th Congress, 1st Session, S.rp.17. ProQuest Congressional, 7918 S.rp.17

Fish, Hamilton. [National home for the Jewish people in Palestine](#). Committee on Foreign Affairs, House. May 31, 1922. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, H.rp.1038. ProQuest Congressional, 7957 H.rp.1038

[Four Powers Supplementary Agreement](#). Senate, Mar. 27, 1921. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, Exec.Doc.O, 67-2 (Y1.67/2:0). ProQuest Congressional, SED-67-2-4

Griffith, Ernest S. [Fascism in Action: A Documented Study and Analysis of Fascism in Europe](#). LRS, Jan. 1, 1947. 80th Congress, 1st Session, House Doc. 80-401. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1947-LRS-0003

Harding, Warren G. [Conference on the Limitation of Armament \[...\]](#). Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate, Feb. 3, 1922. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, S.doc.126. ProQuest Congressional, 7975 S.doc.126

[Lincoln Memorial. Washington \[on monument planning, location, and design, \[...\]\] and chronology of construction work](#). Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. Jan. 1, 1927. PB1.2 Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital General Publications (PB1.2:L63) ProQuest Congressional, PB1.2-1

Madden, Martin Barnaby. [Providing for the burial of an unknown American soldier in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, Arlington, Va., on Armistice Day](#). Committee on Appropriations. House. Oct. 12, 1921. 67th Congress, 1st Session, H.rp.404. ProQuest Congressional, 7921 H.rp.404

[Nine Powers Treaty on China](#). Senate, Mar. 30, 1922. 67th Congress, 2nd Session, Exec.Doc.P, 67-2 (Y1.67/2:P). ProQuest Congressional, SED-67-2-5

["Peace with Germany--Conference Report."](#) Congressional Record, 67th Congress, 1st Session (July 1, 1921) Vol. 61, p. 3276. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1921-0701

["Treaty of Peace with Germany."](#) Congressional Record, 67th Congress, 1st Session (Sept. 26, 1921) Vol. 61, pp. 5791-5802. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1921-0926

Major Acts

Emergency Immigration Act. Established a policy whereby the number of aliens of any nationality to be admitted yearly under immigration laws should be limited to 3 percent of the number of persons of that nationality listed in the 1910 census, provided that not more than 20 percent of any nationality admissible during any one year should be admitted during any single month, and set a total limit of 357,803 immigrants per year. Approved May 19, 1921. ([42 Stat. 5, Chap. 8; PL67-5](#))

Budget and Accounting Act, 1921. Created a Budget Bureau in the Treasury Department, with a director appointed by the President, to formulate and oversee budget expenditures. Also established a General Accounting Office, under the Comptroller General of the U. S., for carrying out an independent audit of Government accounts. Approved June 10, 1921. ([42 Stat. 20, Chap. 18; PL67-13](#))

Veterans' Bureau Act. Established the Veterans' Bureau as an independent agency, directly responsible to the President, for assuming the administration of all form of veterans' relief. Approved Aug. 9, 1921. ([42 Stat. 147-157; PL67-47](#))

Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921. Prohibited unfair and discriminatory practices, the manipulation and control of prices, of other devices creating a monopoly and acting in restraint of trade, relative to the sale of livestock, livestock products, poultry, and dairy products. Approved Aug. 15, 1921. ([42 Stat. 159, Chap. 64; PL67-51](#))

Future Trading Act. Designed to regulate all contract markets authorized to sell grain for future delivery, in order to prevent market manipulation and monopoly practices. Discouraged speculative transactions by levying a prohibitive tax on grain sold for future delivery except by owners or certain authorized contract markets. Approved Aug. 24, 1921. ([42 Stat. 187, Chap. 86; PL67-66](#)) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in *Hill v. Wallace*, 259 U.S. 44 (1922), and in *Trusler v. Crooks*, 269 U.S. 475 (1926).

Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act. Extended Federal aid to State programs looking to promote the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. Authorized an annual appropriation of 1 million for a period of five years. Approved Nov. 23, 1921. ([42 Stat. 224, Chap. 135; PL67-97](#))

Co-operative Marketing Associations Act. Authorized agricultural associations and cooperatives, and exempted them under anti-trust laws to allow cooperative buying and selling by farmers. Approved Feb. 18, 1922. ([42 Stat. 388, Chap. 57; PL67-146](#))

Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act. Raised rates on agricultural raw materials from 38 percent to 49 percent and on other commodities from 31 percent to 34 percent. Special protection was given to sugar and textile interests. Under the Act, The President was authorized to change individual tariff rates on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission (established in 1916), but such changes were limited to 50 percent of the congressional rates. Approved Sept. 21, 1922. ([42 Stat. 858, Chap. 356; PL67-318](#))

Married Women's Citizenship Act. Granted married women U.S. citizenship independent of their husbands' status. Provided that women would no longer lose their citizenship if they married aliens or gain citizenship by marriage to an American citizen. Approved Sept. 22, 1922. ([42 Stat 1021, Chap. 411; PL67-346](#))

Agricultural Credits Act of 1923. Authorized the creation of 12 Intermediate Credit banks, one for each Federal Reserve Bank District, each having ¹⁰⁰capital of \$5 million subscribed by the Government, and authorized to make loans (ranging from 6 months to 3 years) on land, farmer's crops, livestock, personal notes, and equipment. Also provided for creation of agricultural credit corporations by private interests. Approved Mar. 4, 1923. ([42 Stat. 1454, Chap. 252; PL67-503](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#), Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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